Financial Support

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (TA)

Admitted, well-qualified MS applicants are commonly offered a Teaching Assistantship (TA) position with a stipend between $14,000 and $16,250 the first year ($7,000 for fall semester and $7,000 for spring semester). An additional $2,250 for a summer session is also possible.

Graduate Research Assistantship (RA)

After their first year, MS students pursuing a Master’s Degree with-Thesis may take the opportunity to transition from the TA position to a Research Assistantship (RA) position with a faculty member who will mentor their research and guide their thesis writing and development as the student progresses toward earning their Master’s Degree. Students pursuing a non-thesis Master’s Degree may have the opportunity to continue as a TA for an additional year.

Master’s Merit Awards (MMA)

Merit-Based Award for New Master’s Students

New MS students are eligible for a Master’s Merit Award from the Graduate School (1) if they have been awarded a Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship position through the department and (2) if they have an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, and (3) if they enroll in 6 or more credit hours for the semester. The MMA benefit package pays $4,000 per year for two years for residents or $8,000 per year for two years for non-residents, toward costs to attend.

$$$ Tell me how the money works! $$$

Master’s Merit Award funds are deposited directly into your UNC Charlotte student account each semester and are credited toward amounts owed such as tuition, health insurance, and student fees.

MS students pursuing a degree with-Thesis who transition to an RA are eligible to have their full tuition, health insurance, and student fees paid for by the grant that pays their RA stipend! For more information, talk to your thesis advisor.

Graduate Assistantship (TA or RA) stipend money is not deposited into your UNC Charlotte student account. Rather, it is paid as a salary to the student throughout the semester, typically as a direct deposit into a bank account, for students to spend however they wish. Most students use this money for their living expenses while they are earning their Master’s Degree.