

## **Goal of the MS-PhD Program**

The MS-PhD program prepares scientists to advance nursing practice and education through research and scholarly activity and teaching. Rigorous research training is offered for persons contemplating careers in academia or in health agencies, especially individuals anticipating careers in designing, planning and implementing research. The College of Nursing offers an opportunity for qualified students to receive graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships. Each assistantship will include full tuition waivers. Graduate teaching assistantships may involve clinical, live classroom or online classroom teaching. Research assistantships include work with the Research Center staff or with an individual faculty member or a research residency in a health care setting.

## **Criteria for Funded Assistantships for the MS to PhD Program**

1. MS-PhD students must be enrolled as a full time student (9-12 credits in spring and fall, and 6 credits in the summer semester) and follow the designated program plan.
2. Students will be eligible for an assistantship for up to 4 years of study while working on their required coursework in the MS-PhD Program.
3. Assistantships typically end during the dissertation phase of the program.
4. Working a minimum of 10 hours per week is required for an assistantship. Pending available assignments, students may work additional hours, however for the first year, students are advised to work 10 hours per week.
5. Depending on funding availability and the student's level of teaching and research experience, the hourly wage ranges from \$16-\$20 per hour. The approximate annual salary will be:
  - \$8,352-\$16,704 based upon 10-20 hrs (@ \$16/hr) per week
  - \$10,440-\$20,880 based upon 10-20 hrs (@ \$20/hr) per week
6. Students will be hired as a GTA and can progress to a GRA, if they meet the criteria.
7. If students work as a GRA, they are expected to participate on a research team as part of their required graduate research assistantship.
8. A program goal is to have students paid on research grants by the end of their third year.

9. GTAs must apply for an assistantship when accepted into the program, which is generally at the end of March each year. Notification of acceptance will occur after March of each year. Students may also apply annually before the beginning of the fall semester. Application documents are available at:  
<http://health.usf.edu/nocms/nursing/pdfs/GAOutlinApp.pdf>
10. GTAs are expected to report work activities. Activity logs may be used, if deemed applicable.
11. GTAs will be evaluated on their assigned work activities by the appropriate Program Director.
12. GTAs are eligible for health insurance benefits.
13. Each GTA shall be credited with five (5) days of paid leave per semester appointment. Such paid leave shall be used in increments of not less than one (1) day, and shall not be cumulative. (For example, a GTA scheduled to work six (6) hours on Monday and three (3) hours on Tuesday, who is unable to perform assigned duties on these days for any of the reasons described below, would be charged with two (2) days of leave, regardless of the number of work hours scheduled.) Leave can be used when:
  - a. GTA is disabled or otherwise unable to perform because of injury, illness, jury duty, required U.S. military service, or when unable to perform because the GTA's presence is required elsewhere because of injury, illness, or death in the immediate family. Immediate family shall consist of mother, father, spouse, sister, brother, child, a person in a legal dependent relationship with the GTA, or other relative living in the GTA's household.
  - b. Taking examinations for professional licensing related to the degree or qualifying examinations as required by the University.
  - c. Traveling to conferences or other events for professional development.