Graduate Assistant Policy Handbook

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Salisbury UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

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I. FORWARD

Purpose

Graduate Assistants (GAs) are, first and foremost, graduate students pursuing an education. The opportunity to work closely with faculty and undergraduate students in teaching, research, or administrative environments is an integral part of that education. The University is committed to ensuring that graduate assistant assignments are productive, enhance student qualifications, meet funding support and workload goals, and are consistent with the educational objectives of the student and his or her program.

Salisbury University supports graduate students by:

Advancing the student's graduate education through practicum-based experiences, including the development and application of teaching, research and other skills, while also advancing the mission of the institution.

Providing financial support, including stipends and tuition assistance, to aid degree-seeking students enrolled in SU masters programs and appointed as graduate assistants in the pursuit of their graduate degrees.

This handbook is intended to provide information regarding graduate assistantships at Salisbury University and follows guidelines and procedures set forth by the University System of Maryland Policy on Graduate Assistantships.

Equal Opportunity Statement

Salisbury University (SU) has a strong institutional commitment to diversity and equal employment and educational opportunities for its faculty, staff and students. To that end, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or other legally protected characteristics. The University adheres to the EEO/AA policies set forth by federal and Maryland laws.

SU values diversity among our students, faculty and staff and believes that interactions with those holding various perspectives, backgrounds and beliefs contribute to a well-rounded educational experience and promotes personal and professional development. Therefore, the University is committed to providing qualified individuals access to all academic and employment programs, benefits and activities on the basis of demonstrated ability, performance and merit without regard to personal factors that are irrelevant to the program involved.

The University's equal opportunity policy is essential to its institutional mission and applies to all academic programs administered by the University, its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic programs. It applies to all employment decisions, including among others those affecting hiring, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertisement of vacancies, layoff and termination, compensation and benefits, and

selection for training. Consistent with its obligations under the law, it also extends to the maintenance of affirmative action programs for minorities, women, persons with disabilities and veterans.

SU assigns a high priority to the implementation of its equal opportunity policy, and the University is committed to assuring compliance with all laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and educational programs. The Office of Institutional Equity is responsible for the campus-wide administration and implementation of equal opportunity policies and affirmative action programs. Members of the University community are encouraged to contact the Associate Vice President of Institutional Equity for questions, complaints or concerns about these matters:

Office of Institutional Equity
equity@salisbury.edu
www.salisbury.edu/equity

Non-Discrimination

Salisbury University's policies, programs, and activities comply with federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and veteran status. If you wish to request ADA accommodation, please telephone 410-543-6087 or send an email to disabilitysupport@salisbury.edu .

Sexual Harassment

Salisbury University is committed to creating a safe and welcoming campus environment. The University established this sexual harassment policy to prohibit sexual harassment, to establish a complaint procedure to investigate allegations of sexual harassment, and to provide for appropriate discipline for persons who violate this policy.

Information

Available GA positions will be posted on the Graduate School website as they become available. Student should apply directly to the hiring supervisor as listed in the job posting.

Every effort has been made to make this a comprehensive reference for Graduate Assistants. Any questions or requests for clarification should be forwarded to the Graduate School.

The Graduate School
Holloway Hall 267
410-548-5395
jlscott@salisbury.edu

II. TYPES OF ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate Assistant or "GA" is the common title used at the university level. Within that classification, Salisbury University has three types of assistantships available. Each graduate assistant should be placed into one of these categories. On occasion, graduate assistants may have appointments in more than one category.

Graduate Assistant – Teaching (TA)

Teaching Assistants work closely within a department to assist in the delivery of academic information. Departments develop their own hiring criteria. It is expected that all TAs will meet Salisbury University's English Language proficiency requirements. The specific duties vary across disciplines and departments but generally involve the following:

a) Assuming teaching responsibility for a laboratory or discussion session of a course.
b) Assisting a faculty member in the grading, advising, and preparation of materials for a course(s).
c) Assisting in general departmental administrative duties, such as advising, help sessions, presentations, workshops, etc.
d) Coaching in Athletics.

Graduate Assistant – Research (RA)

Research Assistants may work in a large variety of settings with the common thread of collecting, analyzing or supporting research data. Data support can be for faculty or departments. The specific duties vary according to the nature of the research but generally involve the following:

a) Assist with design of research components.
b) Assist with research and data gathering.
c) Assist with non-instructional laboratory activities
d) Provide data input and reports.

Graduate Assistant – Administrative (GA)

Perform administrative support functions in an office setting. There is a wide range of duties including the following examples:

a) Assist with program development and assessment.
b) Recruitment functions.
c) Planning and participating in special events.
d) Providing guidance to undergraduate organizations.
e) Assist with public relations.
f) General administrative support functions.

III. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an assistantship, students:

1. Must be matriculated into a degree-seeking graduate program.
2. Must maintain minimum credit requirements (see Appointments).
3. Maintain good standing (3.0 cumulative GPA) in a graduate degree program at Salisbury University. A graduate assistant with a GPA lower than 3.0 will be notified by the Graduate School that they are on administrative probation and must meet the same requirements for academic probation to retain their assistantship.
4. International students must possess necessary visa and other documents required for U.S. employment.
5. Students who have met all requirements for graduation and/or who graduate are no longer eligible. Students who graduate in either the December or May Commencement may continue to work until the end of their contract date, at the request of their supervisor and based on need.
6. Graduate students who are full-time employees of Salisbury University or another University System of Maryland (USM) Institution are not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Length

The length of appointment may be for a single term or academic year. Twelve-month contracts may be used in certain circumstances assuming all enrollment requirements can be met.

Time Commitment

Full-time Graduate Assistants are required to work 20 hours per week. Students must be enrolled in at least 6 credits.*

Part-time Graduate Assistants are required to work 10 hours per week. Students must be enrolled in at least 3 credits.*

Enrollment hours are verified by the Graduate School each semester.

* Students seeking financial aid must meet established enrollment requirements. Master's students must be enrolled in at least five hours to receive half-time aid. To be considered for full-time financial aid students must be enrolled in nine credits.

Doctoral students must be enrolled in at least 3 hours to receive half-time aid. To be considered for full-time financial aid students must be enrolled in six credits.

Time Restraints

Fall and Spring Semesters

a) Students may not exceed 25 hours per week in totality for all campus jobs.
b) Domestic students who wish to hold a position on campus beyond their graduate assistantship (20 hours for full-time, 10 hours for part-time), may work additional hours equaling 25 hours per week (5 hours for full-time, 15 hours for part-time). These additional hours will be covered by an hourly contract and students will be required to record those hours on a timesheet.
c) International students may not exceed 20 hours per week in totality for all campus jobs.

Winter Semester

a) Employment during the winter semester will be paid on an hourly student contract and must follow the rules and policies outlined for student employment by the Office of Human Resources.
b) Students should not exceed 40 hours per week in totality for all campus jobs.
c) If students do work over 40 hours in a pay week (Thu-Wed), the student must be paid overtime. Supervisors are not permitted to move time worked in a paid status or adjust time worked in a paid status to another payroll period to avoid overtime payments.

Summer Semester

a) Employment during the summer semester will be paid on an hourly student contract and must follow the rules and policies outlined for student employment by the Office of Human Resources.
b) Students should not exceed 40 hours per week in totality for all campus jobs.
c) If students do work over 40 hours in a pay week (Thu-Wed), the student must be paid overtime. Supervisors are not permitted to move time worked in a paid status or adjust time worked in a paid status to another payroll period to avoid overtime payments.

Although the university requires GAs to meet all employment and academic requirements, students are not prohibited from seeking additional employment at a place of employment not in affiliation with SU or another State or USM institution.

Appointment Letters/Contracts

Departments may issue correspondence and offers to candidates which outline appointment information. This document does not replace the official contract. Work schedules are determined by the department need and job duties (i.e. scheduled class/lab times) and should be discussed during hiring process.

Students should be provided the following information:

a) Length of appointment;

b) Starting and ending dates of the appointment, including the dates during which the graduate assistant is expected to be on campus to perform the duties of the assistantship;
c) Weekly Time Commitment;
d) Job Duties and Basic Responsibilities;
e) Stipend Amount and Tuition Waivers;
f) Hiring Department and Supervisor Information;
g) Availability of Graduate Assistant Handbook;
h) Any special requirements related to leave, scheduling or other terms (breaks, weather emergencies);
i) Contact information to obtain additional information regarding the GA appointment

To the extent feasible, graduate assistants shall be given a written description of their teaching, research, or other assignments, duties and responsibilities at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester. However, departments retain the flexibility to adjust assignments as necessary due to loss of funding, course enrollment fluctuations, or other unanticipated events, even after the semester has begun.

Graduate Assistant Contracts are now completed online through WorkDay.

All other necessary paperwork should be completed and submitted to the appropriate departments (See Appendix A) four weeks prior to the start date to ensure all departments have sufficient processing time.

No GA may begin working until all paperwork has been submitted to the Graduate School.

Renewal of Appointment

Students may be re-appointed to assistantships for successive terms, but renewal is not automatic or guaranteed. Factors entering into a decision to reappoint a graduate assistant may include:

a) Satisfactory academic performance and progress toward degree;
b) Satisfactory performance of assigned assistantship responsibilities and duties;
c) Availability of funds;
d) Departmental or institutional limits on the number of years for which an assistantship may be held; and
e) Specific departmental needs, constraints and policies, including efforts to allow a large number of qualified students to benefit from assistantships.

Except under justifiable circumstances, graduate assistants whose appointments are not be renewed will be informed at least 60 days in advance of the estimated start date of new contract term.

a) Circumstances which may justify fewer than 60 days notice include, but are not limited to, uncertainty in departmental funding and course enrollments.

b) Nothing in this section shall prevent a department or unit from making an appointment to a graduate assistant on short noticed based on changed circumstances in class enrollments, the availability of resources, or other factors.

Termination of Appointment

A student may terminate their assistantship at any time by providing 30 days written notice to the Department Chair, Graduate Program Director and the Graduate School. Students who terminate their assistantship prior to their start date should alert their Supervisor and the Graduate School immediately.

The reporting supervisor may also terminate an appointment for various reasons including:

a) Absenteeism
b) Inferior work performance
c) Poor academic performance
d) Conduct code violation
e) Revocation of visa status for international students

In cases of unsatisfactory work performance, all instances should be documented by supervisor.

Supervisor must provide written notice of termination to the student. A Notice of Separation should be completed and submitted to the Graduate School.

In all cases where an appointment is terminated prior to the end of a term in which the student is registered, whether termination is by the student or the supervisor, the waiver of tuition for that term may be cancelled or pro-rated.

Students who plan to leave Salisbury University will be asked to return all materials and property prior to leaving campus. Items to include, but not limited to:

Parking Permit
GullCard
Property Keys
Laptop
Other items determined by supervisor and/or the Graduate School.

V. BENEFITS

Stipend

Full-time GAs - The current minimum stipend is $4,635 per fall and spring semesters.
Part-time GAs - The current minimum stipend is $2,317.50 per fall and spring semesters.

Departments may opt to pay more based on job duties and departmental budget allowance.

Tuition Waivers

Full-time GAs - Earn a guaranteed tuition waiver of nine (9) credit hours (paid at standard, in-state rate) per fall and spring semesters.

Part-time GAs - Earn a guaranteed tuition waiver of (4.5) credit hours (paid at standard, in-state rate) per fall and spring semesters.

Students are eligible for a tuition waiver (paid at the standard in-state rate) in the semester in which employment begins. To receive a waiver during winter or summer sessions, student must have been employed in the preceding semester and not have exceeded their 18 guaranteed credits.

Tuition benefits are budgeted at the standard in-state rate. For those students admitted to programs with a differential or flat rate, you may be responsible for paying the difference between your program's rate and the standard in-state rate. Please discuss this with your supervisor prior to accepting position.

Tuition is waived only for graduate courses applicable toward degree requirements. No waiver may be used for undergraduate credits **unless** they are required for a degree program. To use a waiver for an undergraduate course, a student must submit a letter from their Graduate Program Director which confirms the necessity of the undergraduate course for graduate degree completion.

Waivers cannot be applied to courses taken for audit.

Any unused portion of the waiver expires at the end of the academic year and may not be carried over to the next year. GAs will not be compensated for unused credit hours.

Waivers paid out of state funds do **NOT** cover university fees. **Graduate Assistants are responsible for all academic fees and tuition beyond the waiver allotment**. These must be paid by the due date or a late fee will be assessed.

IF a tuition waiver is being paid by a grant or sponsored program, the budget supervisor may opt to also pay their GAs mandatory fees. This should be discussed between the student and supervisor during the hiring process.

If a GA is entering their final semester and needs to enroll in less than six credits, they must complete a waiver for a Change of Enrollment Status.

Tuition Rates

Graduate Assistants receive tuition at the in-state rate. This, combined with applicable tuition waivers, may affect existing financial aid packages. If an assistantship is terminated or not

renewed, aid packages will need to be reevaluated. Graduate Assistants are responsible for reporting this information to the Financial Aid Office in a timely manner.

Graduate Assistants are billed at the standard, in-state tuition rate during their appointment, including any credits taken over and above the guaranteed 18 waived credits. This does not affect official residency status which was decided upon admission. Therefore, if an appointment is terminated or not renewed, the student will be charged in accordance to their residency status for all future credits. For questions relative to Residency, please contact the Residency Office.

Payroll

Payroll is issued bi-weekly and follows the Contractual Payroll Schedule. As a condition of employment, all employees are required to use direct deposit. Due to processing, it takes an average of four weeks to receive your first payment. For questions relative to payments and direct deposit, please contact the Payroll Office.

Taxation

For Graduate Assistants performing teaching or research activities, the related tuition waiver will not be subject to taxation. For Graduate Assistants performing administrative functions, the related tuition waiver will be subject to taxation and withholding. The amount of the taxable tuition waiver will be reported on a W-2 form. Salisbury University staff are not authorized to advise you on taxation issues. Please consult a tax advisor for further information.

FICA

FICA is not withheld from GA payroll. For more information, please contact the Office of Human Resources, 410-543-6083.

Parking

Salisbury University recognizes the importance of graduate assistants and makes every effort to guarantee main campus parking (green permits) to accommodate various work schedules. However, parking remains at a premium. To help us accommodate you, it is imperative that graduate assistants register for main campus parking when the purchasing system becomes available for the semester in which you are to begin your contract. We cannot guarantee green parking to those who register late. Please visit https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/administration-and-finance-offices/financial-services/accounts-receivable-cashiers-office/parking-services/ for sale dates. In certain cases, Teaching Assistants may be eligible for a red permit based on their class and office hours. For any other questions please contact Parking Services at 410-543-6338.

Health Insurance

GAs are not eligible for health insurance benefits.

Salisbury University has compiled insurance information for students who may experience a change in their health insurance needs which can be found in Student Health Services. Plans vary, according to the coverage they provide, price, deductibles and other variables pertinent to selecting an adequate plan, so be sure to check with your insurance company and home state to become familiar with laws regulating coverage.

There are also resources on line. Parents and students are encouraged to research companies they are familiar with. Many have student plans or extensions of coverage if the student was previously insured under a family plan. If you have questions once you have reviewed available resources, please feel free to contact Student Health Services, 410-543-6262.

Leave

12-month grant-funded Graduate Assistants: Shall be granted 20 hours of paid leave in addition to any institutional holidays or other days that the institution is closed. This leave must be scheduled at a time that does not conflict with the job duties of the position and must be approved in advance by the supervisor. Requests for paid time away from duty must be approved by the graduate assistant's supervisor and department chair or unit head, with consideration given to the personal needs of the graduate assistant for such leave.

Semester Graduate Assistants: Salisbury University recognizes that students may experience serious medical issues, the death of a loved one, or other significant and unexpected life events during the course of an academic term. The Student Emergency Absence Policy aims to minimize the impact of serious life events upon students' academic progress. These events can also affect work schedules.

Students shall receive excused absences based on the following justifiable circumstances:

- Bereavement, including travel related to bereavement;
- Serious, contagious, infectious or extended illness of the student or the student's loved on or dependent;
- Serious medical or mental health conditions; and
- Other circumstances as approved at the discretion of the faculty member (e.g., natural disasters that prevent safe travel).

Allowable days are limited per this policy. If you are absent for one of these reasons, and your work schedule is affected, it is up to you to discuss this with your supervisor and plan accordingly.

For more information regarding restrictions and procedures, please visit: https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/student-affairs/office-of-student-conduct/forms-and-policies.aspx

Holidays

Legal university holidays are observed by all offices and employees and GAs are not typically required to report. On occasion, GAs may be required to report to work based on their job expectations. If this occurs, the GAs must be given an alternative day off. Holiday work expectations should be discussed during the hiring process.

Breaks

Students who work five consecutive hours or longer are required to take a 30-minute unpaid break.

VI. JOB EXPECTATIONS

Job Duties

To the extent feasible, Graduate Assistants will be notified of expected duties, at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester. An overview of duties is expected to be included in their official contract.

Email

As an SU Graduate Student, you will use your student account for all of your access to student coursework (Gullnet, MyClasses, student email, etc.). If you are also a Graduate Assistant, you will also be given a "staff" username and password to access systems, some of which are the same systems used as a student, but have different access as a part of your job responsibilities. Due to IT security standards, student account access is kept separate from employee account access. Access to your Graduate Assistant account is tied to your work contract. You can forward your email from one account to another email account by creating a rule to allow you to manage all your email from one account.

Dress Code

Graduate Assistants working within an office setting are expected to dress in a business casual manner. Graduate Assistants working in other areas should discuss appropriate dress with the hiring supervisor.

Conduct

Salisbury University is committed to creating a campus climate that is respectful and in accordance to the laws of the State of Maryland. All employees, including Graduate Assistants, are expected to abide by university policies in regards to sexual misconduct, discrimination, and academic integrity. Any Graduate Assistant found in violation of these policies will face disciplinary action.

Confidentiality

Graduate Assistants may have assigned job duties that require access to sensitive information. As such, Graduate Assistants are required to treat such information in a highly professional and confidential manner. Any student who is found in violation of this will face disciplinary action.

Supervisor Responsibilities

Supervisor are responsible for providing a work schedule and list of job duties prior to the contract start date. Discussions regarding duties, work schedule and possible holidays should occur during the hiring process.

Supervisors are responsible for providing training and reviewing performance through evaluation. The type and/or method of evaluation is dependent upon job type and department. All evaluations, positive and negative, should be discussed with the GA.

VII. POLICIES

The Office of Institutional Equity leads campus efforts to manage all aspects of the Fair Practices/AA programs, as well as Title IX compliance, and weaves the diversity strategy throughout the University, focusing on and impacting the needs of various constituencies: faculty, staff and students. See Appendix B for a list of all polices.

VIII. GRADUATE ASSISTANT GRIEVANCE POLICY

1. Overview

The grievance policy will apply to disputes concerning:

a) Workload volume and scheduling;
b) Inappropriate work assignments;
c) Termination of a graduate assistantship within the term of appointment; and
d) Non-renewal of assistantship for arbitrary or capricious reasons including reprisal for filing a grievance.

The decision whether to renew an assistantship, except for the reason listed above, remains within the discretion of the department chair and is not subject to the grievance process. However, if a graduate assistant believes that an assistantship was not renewed because of unlawful discrimination or other unlawful grounds, the graduate assistant may pursue available institution processes.

Graduate assistants may raise concerns regarding suspected on-campus fraud or fiscal irregularities thought the confidential University System of Maryland hot-line mechanisms

established in USM Policy VIII-7.10, "Policy on Reporting Suspected or Known Fiscal Irregularities," institution fraud reporting policies, and any relevant state or federal "whistleblower" laws.

2. Procedures

The University is an academic and collegial community. Regular and clear communication between GAs and their supervisors is essential to maintaining an effective educational environment. GAs who believe their work experience is not in conformity with the *Graduate Assistant Policy* may seek a review in accordance with this Section.

In all instances, the GA should attempt to resolve these matters locally, collegially, and informally. If the difficulty has not been resolved to the GA's satisfaction through informal means, then he or she may elect to file a formal grievance.

a) **Informal Consultation:** The Graduate Assistant should first attempt to resolve any difficulty by discussing the situation with his or her supervisor as expeditiously as possible. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the GA should next discuss the situation with the Chair of the Department or follow "the chain of command" for the unit in which they are employed.

b) **Formal Grievance:** Most problems related to assistantships are resolved through informal consultation. If a problem has not been solved informally to the GA's satisfaction, he or she may initiate a formal grievance. The formal procedures outlined below are intended to provide a mechanism through which grievances related to assistantships can be formally made and decided.

If a satisfactory resolution has not been achieved following informal consideration, the GA may initiate a formal grievance by sending a letter to the Dean of her or his academic School or Vice President of the unit where he or she is employed, copying the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. To be considered, it must be received within 30 calendar days from the action involved or from the GA having reasonable knowledge of it. Under exceptional circumstances, that deadline may be extended. The letter must be signed and:

a) Contain a clear description of the facts giving rise to the grievance; and,
b) Be copied to the GA's supervisor
c) Be copied to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
d) Propose a solution

Upon the receipt of the letter, the unit head (Dean or Vice President) will render a decision, informing the GA, the supervisor and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research within 10 working days. If the GA finds the solution unacceptable, he or she may appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. This appeal must be sent within 10 working days of the unit head decision. The letter must clearly state why the proposed solution is unacceptable.

Upon receipt of a letter of formal grievance, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research will offer to meet with the GA and the supervisor, either individually or together, before proceeding. The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research may also consult with the unit head and other persons knowledgeable about the policies and practices involved. If no solution (agreeable to all parities) can be reached through these discussions within 10 working days, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research shall refer the matter to a Graduate Appeals Panel. If a solution is reached, a letter detailing the solution will be sent to all parties.

The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research shall appoint a Graduate Appeals Panel consisting of two graduate faculty (one of whom shall chair the panel) one graduate student, and as appropriate, an HR representative to review the matter and make a recommendation. Neither the faculty nor the graduate student appointed to the Panel will be from the department or unit involved in the grievance. Either party to the grievance may request that a panel member be substituted on the grounds that the panel member has a conflict of interest. Additionally, if the grievance involves the office of Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, the Dean shall remove himself/herself from the proceedings and the Provost shall appoint someone to oversee the process. The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research will provide the panel with the letter of formal grievance and the written response(s). The panel shall offer to meet with the GA and the supervisor.

This Panel shall endeavor to convey a written decision and, where appropriate, the remedy, to all parties involved within 15 calendar days of receipt of the letter of grievance.

The Panel shall provide the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research a written report containing a statement of the issues, the panel's findings of fact, the controlling policy provisions, the panel's conclusions regarding the merits of the grievance, and a recommended disposition of the grievance, including any suggested remedy.

The decision, and proposed remedy, of the Graduate Appeals Panel, shall be final.

3. General Principles Controlling Grievances

These procedures are not intended to mimic a courtroom and be adversarial in nature. Rather, they are formal in the meaning of offering a structured method to investigate, weigh and remedy differences. They are designed to preserve collegiality and minimize injury to the student-faculty relationship. Because grievances, if not made known or not considered expeditiously, threaten the learning experience, GAs, faculty, and administrators share responsibility alike to deal with them promptly. Experience has shown that the following rules promote the orderly and efficient disposition of grievances. Accordingly, they shall be observed:

a) There is a burden of proof. The GA has the responsibility of convincing the unit head (Dean or Vice President), the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research or the Graduate Appeals Panel of three things: a) that the *Graduate Assistant Policy* has not been followed; b) that the GA has been adversely affected; and c) that any proposed solution is inappropriate.

b) All matters to be considered in support or defense of a grievance should be made known as early in the informal process as possible. Absent extenuating circumstances, matters not raised in the informal process should not be considered in the formal process. In both the informal and formal process, it is the responsibility of the GA and faculty member, respectively, to produce in a timely way the evidence they each wish considered, including any documents and witnesses.

c) The Grievance Procedure is not a trial. Formal rules of evidence commonly associated with criminal and civil trials may be counterproductive in an academic investigatory process and shall not be applied. The unit head, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Graduate Appeals Panel shall give effect to the rules of confidentiality and privilege, but shall otherwise accept for consideration all matters which reasonable persons would accept. Unduly repetitive, irrelevant, or personally abusive material, however, should be excluded. They may also consider matters within the common knowledge and experience of University faculty, including published policies of the University System of Maryland and Salisbury University.

d) The GA may be assisted at any meeting by another person. Although the GA is expected to take an active role in all meetings, the other person may help with organization of arguments and evidence, but they may not speak directly to the panel.

e) The University has in place other grievance procedures and administrative processes designed to address specific types of claims. These are meant to be the exclusive avenue for review and redress. Grievances that by their subject matter may be considered under other established institutional procedures must be brought under those procedures and may not be considered under these procedures. Matters pertaining to the general level of wages, wage patterns, fringe benefits, or to other broad areas of financial management and staffing are not grievable. These procedures also may not be used to challenge faculty judgment about a GA's academic performance (including, for example, test scores, grades, waivers, dissertation defenses and other indicia of mastery of subject matter and taught skills).

f) The filing of a grievance does not relieve the GA of the obligation to perform all duties as assigned unless and otherwise decided. Financial awards (e.g., "back pay", "damages", "compensation", and "raises") may not be awarded. The acceptance of a proposed remedy by the GA shall terminate the grievance process. The matter may not then be further considered or additional remedies sought under the campus procedures.

g) A decision may not be made at any step that conflicts with or modifies a policy, regulation, or grant of authority approved by the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, the President, the Provost, or the Faculty Senate or with any applicable Federal or State of Maryland law.

h) Only currently enrolled Salisbury University graduate students may initiate a formal grievance. The grievance must pertain to the GA's personal services, not those of another GA group, although similar grievances may be consolidated and processed together as a

single issue. As a general matter, where a number of individual grievances have been reduced into a single grievance, not more than three graduate assistants selected by the group may be excused from their duties to attend. But they may attend (no matter how many) if they do not need to be excused from their duties.

i) Because it is critical to address potentially corrosive grievances sooner than later, and because the remedies available are prospective, the time requirement established for initiating a formal grievance is necessary to the effective administration of the graduate program. Time requirements are measured from the first occurrence of an event; "continuing" wrongs are not recognized for the purpose of satisfying time requirements.

j) Reprisals against graduate assistants for filing a grievance are prohibited.

IX. GRADUATE ASSISTANT SHARED GOVERNANCE

Salisbury University believes strongly in the shared governance model. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) was created with the goal of representing all graduate students equally. The GSC is a completely student run organization. The GSC advocates on behalf of graduate students, and addresses their concerns with university administration and shared governance groups, USM officials, the Board of Regents, and lawmakers.

Graduate Assistants may elect to engage a representative, which may be a labor organization, to assist them in "meet and confer" discussions with institution administrators over issues of concern to graduate assistants, including stipends, benefits and terms of appointments. Further information can be found in USM Policy III-7.11.

POLICIES

USM Policy on Graduate Assistantships
http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/III711.pdf

Conduct Policies

- Salisbury University Policy Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct and Other Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination
- Salisbury University Policy Prohibiting Non-Sex Based Discrimination
- USM Policy on Sexual Misconduct
- Salisbury University's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statement
- Salisbury University's Title IX Statement

https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/institutional-equity/document-library.aspx

Procedures for Filing a Complaint
https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/institutional-equity/report-a-concern.aspx

Employment Policies

Substance Abuse Policies
https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/administration-and-finance-offices/human-resources/_files/docs/StateofMDExecutiveOrder01.01.1991.16.doc

SU Policy on Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect
https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/general-counsel/can/policy.aspx