



Graduate Student Financial Awards: Terms and Conditions  
2024-2025

All financial awards, including Graduate Student Assistant (GSA) awards, made to graduate students at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance are contingent upon maintaining good standing and making satisfactory progress toward the degree as outlined in the [SMTD Policies & Procedures](#), satisfactory fulfillment of teaching duties, and compliance with the University's [Standard Practice Guide](#). In addition, failure to abide by the following terms and conditions may result in the revocation of your financial award:

1. Graduate students must be enrolled full time, which is defined as a minimum of 9 credit hours per term in courses relevant to or specifically prescribed by a student's degree program. Master's and specialist degree students are required to enroll in an appropriate ensemble, unless otherwise indicated.
2. Students whose awards are equivalent to full tuition or more must be in residence in Ann Arbor during the term of the award and may not accept salaried employment requiring more than 15 working hours per week except with written permission from the Graduate Dean.
3. The University requires background checks for all individuals who have an appointment or employment at the University. Because your funding offer includes the possibility of an appointment as a graduate student instructor (GSI), graduate student research assistant (GSRA), and/or graduate student staff assistant (GSSA), a background check prior to your first appointment in any one of these positions is needed. Your funding commitment is contingent upon successful completion of a background check, which includes successful resolution of any issues that might arise, prior to the commencement of your first appointment. Please note that information received as part of this standard screening will not automatically make you ineligible for funding.
4. Tuition awards, which for doctoral candidates cover candidacy tuition only, are for the amount of tuition assessed according to a student's course elections at the end of the third week of classes. Any subsequent increase in tuition as a result of adding courses is the responsibility of the student. If you withdraw from the University during a term, your award for that term will be subject to cancellation and any tuition obligation will become your responsibility.
5. Funding made possible through special donor endowments may require you to write a letter of gratitude and attend the Scholarship Showcase in the fall. Such awards may serve only to cover a portion of your existing award and will not necessarily represent a net increase of said award.
6. If for any reason you are not enrolled for one or more fall or winter terms, the funding commitment of the School is terminated, although you may be considered for awards subsequently on an ad hoc basis.
7. Dismissal from the degree terminates any financial award including Graduate Student Assistant (GSA) positions.
8. A Music, Theatre & Dance fee of \$250 is assessed by the university every term in which you are enrolled. For terms in which you hold a GSA appointment, this fee will be waived. In all other terms, you will be responsible to pay this fee.

Student cancellation of award: A student who accepts an offer of financial award or an assistantship prior to April 15 and subsequently wishes to withdraw may submit a written resignation at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept an offer from another institution without first obtaining a written release from the institution where a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution made after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of a written release from any previously accepted offer.

Payment of award: GSA and fellowship stipends are not paid until the end of each month (four payments per term). Direct deposit to a bank or other financial institution is the most convenient method of payment and may be set up through Wolverine Access. Stipends are otherwise mailed to the local address on file.

