



University
of Vermont

From: Kirk Dombrowski, Vice President for Research and Economic Development *KD*
Claire Burlingham, University Controller *CLB*
Holger Hoock, Dean of the Graduate College *HH*

To: Principal Investigators and Research Administrators

Date: May 24, 2024 (Effective Date July 1, 2024)

Re: Charging the Graduate Student Comprehensive Fee as a Direct Cost to Sponsored Projects

Effective July 1, 2024, mandatory graduate comprehensive fees for Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) assigned to sponsored projects can be charged as direct costs, where not prohibited by the funder or award terms and conditions. This applies to all active and new federal and non-federal sponsored projects.

With this change, a GRA's reasonable compensation package for performing work on a sponsored project is now comprised of a stipend, tuition, and the mandatory comprehensive fee.

In order to be directly charged, the comprehensive fees must benefit the sponsored project receiving the charge. If a student is assigned to multiple funding sources, the fees must be allocated accordingly.

Examples:

- If a GRA is assigned to work on a grant for 100% of their assignment, (20 hours per week), and is being paid for that work from the sponsored project, 100% of their tuition, stipend and fees can be paid from the grant.
- If a GRA is assigned to work on a grant for 50% of their assignment, (10 hours per week), only 50% of their tuition, stipend and fees can be paid from the grant.
- If a GRA is assigned to work on grant X for 50% of their assignment, (10 hours per week), and 50% on grant Y, tuition, stipend and fees will need to be allocated 50/50 to each grant.

Certain sponsors restrict the amount of total compensation to GRAs. For example, NIH publishes NRSA Postdoctoral 0-level trainee stipend amounts annually, which is the maximum combined GRA compensation that can be charged to NIH funded projects. If the total GRA compensation exceeds the maximum allowed, the student's unit will need to absorb the overage.

Please direct technical questions to Sponsored Project Administration.

For any questions related to UVM's graduate program, contact Holger Hoock, Dean of the Graduate College.