



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

December 4, 2025

To: Franklin College Heads and Directors

From: Dean Anna Stenport

Re: Updates to the Franklin College Policy: GRA/GA Tuition Requirement and GTRIP Incentive

Effective July 1, 2024, all proposals that include GRA or GA assistantships or training grant stipends are required to include tuition, when allowed by the funding agency, unless an exemption is granted.¹ Tuition requirements for graduate assistants are common across research institutions.

In tandem with this tuition requirement, UGA launched an incentive program known as the Graduate Tuition Return Incentive Program (GTRIP). As of October 1, 2025, the GTRIP incentive program returns 100% of the tuition charged to sponsored projects (1X the tuition charged on the grant). For example, each academic year (fall and spring) of GRA tuition at \$5,017 X 2 semesters will result in \$10,034 in funds returned to the major academic unit. These tuition return funds shall be used to directly benefit colleges, departments, and PIs. A description of the GTRIP incentive programs is available on the [Graduate School's website](#), including [procedures](#) and [FAQs](#).

As per UGA's GTRIP policy, Franklin College is expected to deploy **at least 75%** of the returned GTRIP funds to support graduate student assistantships. Students on assistantships funded by GTRIP dollars receive the same benefits (i.e., tuition waiver and university contribution to health insurance) as students on other forms of university-supported assistantships. The University expects the college to work with faculty PIs to ensure this program is beneficial to them.

Up to 25% of the GTRIP funds may be used to support graduate student training and professional development beyond assistantships (e.g., registration and travel for conferences and research-related trips; specialized training or software; access to core

¹ Training grants (e.g., NIH T32 and NSF NRT grants) may be exempted from Franklin College's policy on GTRIP utilization. T32 grants submitted or awarded prior to September 1, 2023 have MOUs in place regarding the utilization of GTRIP funds, and those MOUs will be honored by the college. For training grants submitted on or after September 1, 2023, PIs should work with personnel in sponsored projects to properly budget costs for tuition and fees and should negotiate with the college to determine how GTRIP returns generated from their programs will be allocated.

research facilities). GTRIP funds **may not** be used to pay mandatory student fees or health insurance premiums.

Franklin College implemented UGA's mandatory tuition requirement starting **September 1, 2023**. Since that time, the College has monitored changes in UGA policy and the federal funding environment. Now two years into the system, we have conducted a review, accompanied by listening sessions, to assess how the college's GTRIP policy is functioning, and to design and implement any changes that are warranted. We have examined effects on graduate students, PIs, departments/schools, and our broader research culture, and have solicited feedback from numerous faculty around the college. In response to this comprehensive assessment of external and internal factors, we have updated the policy, effective January 1, 2026.

Franklin College GTRIP Utilization Policy, effective January 1, 2026.

- 25% will be returned to the PI (no change). These funds can be used to support graduate student assistantships or for graduate student professional development (e.g., registration and travel for conferences and research-related trips; specialized training or software; access to core research facilities; and other costs that are generally included as direct costs on grants to support graduate student professional development).
- 75% will be distributed to contributing departments for graduate student assistantships. The college will not retain any GTRIP funds (this is a change). Departments may choose to retain these funds at the department level or push them to the PIs who generated the funds. In either scenario, the funds must be used to support graduate assistantships.
- The college will defer all GTRIP returns to the fiscal year subsequent to the one in which they were generated to help PIs and departments plan for the use of GTRIP funds. All tuition return funds must be used in the year that they are received.
- Given Franklin College's policy decision not to retain GTRIP returns at the college level, Franklin College PIs should route their grants through Franklin REST and not through other colleges or units.

This memo reflects Franklin College's commitment to maintain and grow our graduate student enrollments. Within a diverse workforce that includes graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and research scientists, all necessary to support basic research, a strong graduate student population is especially critical to meet both our instructional and research needs. We appreciate your continued investment in graduate students.