



## **RA Support Credit System IST\_FN-05 Administrative Guideline**

The details of this program may be adjusted, including the rate at which individuals earn credit and how credit can be used.

Credits are generated only when IST Ph.D. students are funded via resources from sources external to Penn State. Credits are not accumulated based on support of postdocs, masters students, or undergraduates.

By default, all credits are associated with the PI of the project providing funding for the Ph.D. student. The PI may allocate credit to other faculty involved with the project as appropriate. The College will automatically capture credit associated with projects being run through the College. If a student is being funded by a project where the PI is external to IST, faculty can be credited if they are the official supervisor/advisor of the student and co-PI on the corresponding project. In these cases, faculty are responsible for bringing relevant details to the attention of the Finance Office.

### **Credits are earned at the following rate:**

- Fall/Spring semesters: Grade 13 (or higher), 1/2 time + full semester tuition = 3 credits
- Summer semester: Grade 13 (or higher), 1/2 time + tuition (paid by grant or STAP\*) = 1 credit

\* STAP (Summer Tuition Assistance Program): graduate assistants qualify for STAP if they were appointed on an assistantship during the preceding Fall and Spring semesters, but must request the support and register for Summer.

### **Credits can be used as follows:**

- 1 credit earned = \$400 of discretionary funds. These funds may NOT be used for Faculty Summer salary supplement. These funds may be used to support faculty or student travel, equipment, supplies, wages for students, and other support for teaching, research, and professional development activities.
- 5 credits earned = A single, one-time \$6,000 lump sum payment that faculty can choose to offer as a top-off, above and beyond what comes with normal RA support, for individuals who have been offered admission to the college. This is intended to be used as an incentive as you recruit talented new PhD students.
- 6 credits earned = 1 Summer stipend (only), 1/2 time, for a research assistant Grade will be equivalent to how the student was supported during the previous semester or how they

will be supported in the following semester if this is a new student.

- 15 credits earned = 1 semester (Fall or Spring) stipend, 1/2 time + tuition, for a research assistant. Grade will be equivalent to how the student was supported during the previous semester or how they will be supported in the following semester if this is a new student.
- 72 credits earned = 1 year of support for a postdoc at a rate commensurate with postdocs within the college.

**Maximum accumulation of credits/discretionary funds:**

- A maximum of 80 credits can be accumulated, credits will carry-forward until the maximum is reached.
- A maximum of \$12,000 of discretionary funds can be accumulated.

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