**GACS Pilot Extended**

**Graduate Assistant Cost Share (GACS)**

The Graduate School is able to provide cost share in the form of tuition support for proposals authored by members of the graduate faculty and submitted through Michigan Tech according to the following guidelines:

I. **General Guidelines**

- GACS support will be made available to support full-time graduate students pursuing the highest degree awarded by a particular program.

- Requested direct costs of **$25k - $100k/year** (annual average direct costs): Annual GACS support is available to a PI with average requested direct costs of $25k - $100k/year:
  - GACS will provide 100 percent of tuition support (fall, spring, and summer semesters; 9 credits for fall and spring and 1 credit for summer).

- Requested direct costs of **$100,001k - $200k/year** (annual average direct costs): Annual GACS support is available to a PI with average requested direct costs of $100,001k - $200k/year:
  - GACS will provide a maximum of 50 percent of tuition support (fall, spring, and summer semesters; 9 credits for fall and spring and 1 credit for summer).

- Requested direct costs of **$200,001k - $350k/year** (annual average direct costs): Annual GACS tuition support is available only if cost share is mandatory. See below for commitment guidelines.

- Proposals must include full-time, year-round stipend support for students so that students receive continuous support from the project.

- GACS tuition support will be available for a maximum of one full-time student per project year per project.

- PIs who encounter difficulties in using GACS support should contact the Graduate School to renegotiate their cost-share agreement in a timely manner.
  - PIs who fail to use graduate student funds in an appropriate way will not be eligible to receive GACS support in the future.

- Unspent GACS funds will be returned to the Graduate School.
II. **Commitment Guidelines When Cost Share is Mandatory**

- The Graduate School will provide up to a maximum of 50 percent of the total required cost-share in the form of tuition support.

- Funds committed by the Graduate School for graduate student tuition support must be used for tuition.
  - If a PI is unable to use GACS funds to support graduate students, the contractual obligation for cost share will have to be met using other funds (e.g., departmental or IRAD fund accounts).

- Funds committed by the Graduate School cannot exceed the requested direct costs of a project.

- Once Michigan Tech’s commitment of graduate student support is disclosed in a proposal budget as cost share, Michigan Tech becomes contractually obligated at that level of support if the project is awarded.

III. **Commitment Guidelines for Large Proposals, >350k/year (annual average direct costs)**

- GACS support will be available for large proposals (>350k/year – annual average direct costs) that involve investigators from multiple units on campus and contribute significantly to the University’s mission.

- Requests related to large proposals should be submitted through the Graduate School finance coordinator.
  - Requests will be considered on an individual basis by the dean of the Graduate School.
  - Augmented GACS support for large proposals (>350k/year – annual average direct costs) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

IV. **Contact Person**

1. The Sponsored Programs Office can answer routine questions about budgets and assist PIs in the preparation of budgets that will include GACS support.

2. The Graduate School finance coordinator (Heather Suokas) is the primary Graduate School contact for the GACS program.

V. **Frequently asked questions (FAQ)**

1. Q. Can I request GACS for my MS student?
A. If a graduate program only offers an MS degree, they would be eligible for GACS. If a graduate program offers a PhD degree in addition to an MS degree, GACS support will only be made available to support students pursuing the PhD degree.

2. Q. When cost share is mandatory, how much GACS tuition support will I receive?
A. You will receive up to 50 percent of the total required cost share. For example, if the total cost of a project will be $50k and a 1:1 match is required from Michigan Tech ($25k), the Graduate School will commit up to a maximum of $12.5k in cost share (50 percent of the total required cost share) in the form of tuition support.

3. Q. What if the sponsor provides a cost of education allowance?
A. If a sponsor provides a stated amount for cost of education, you should budget that amount to the sponsor.

4. Q. What if a sponsor does not allow graduate tuition to be charged?
A. See the Graduate School’s policy on the Graduate Tuition Support Pool (GTSP): http://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/policies-procedures/academic/support/

5. Q. How should tuition be handled with re-budgeting or reallocation of graduate stipend after an award is made?
A. If you re-budget or reallocate graduate student stipend, GACS tuition support will be proportionately changed.

6. Q. What is the difference between direct costs and indirect costs?
A. Direct costs are costs that can be specifically linked to your project. Indirect costs are costs that cannot be attributed to a specific project. Indirect costs are also charged using a negotiated rate approved by the federal government in accordance with Michigan Tech’s facilities and administrative cost agreement.

7. Q. What is the dollar amount for cost share if I qualify for 100% GACS?
A. GACS will provide 9 credits of tuition for the fall and spring and 1 credit of tuition in the summer. For Engineering and Computer Science departments the dollar amount is $20,482. For Non-Engineering and Non-Computer Science departments the dollar amount is $18,050. Incremental increases for multiple year projects will not be budgeted.

8. Q. What is the dollar amount for cost share if I qualify for 50% GACS?
A. GACS will provide 4.5 credits of tuition for the fall and spring and .5 credit of tuition in the summer. For Engineering and Computer Science the dollar amount is $10,241. For Non-Engineering and Non-Computer Science the dollar amount is $9,025. Incremental increases for multiple year projects will not be budgeted.

9. Q. What happens if I do not spend my GACS allocation in its entirety?
A. Unspent GACS funds will be returned to the Graduate School.