

Doctoral Program in School Psychology

University of Central Arkansas

Program Costs

For students who have established instate residence, tuition costs (Fall 2011) are \$271.85 per credit hour + \$126.50 in fees for the first hour. These costs would apply to instate students as well as those who have a paid assistantship on campus. These costs cover tuition only and do not include housing, books, or other expenses. Each semester a graduate student is enrolled in an assessment course (P6313, P6376, or P7310), he/she is assessed \$50 per class for materials and protocols.

Research Assistantships

Doctoral-level research assistantships will be available in the Department of Psychology and Counseling. Students can contact the Graduate School (501-450-3124) for information on applying for assistantships. Students who are granted research assistantships are paired with one or two faculty members in the Department of Psychology and Counseling for the school year. These positions are typically 20 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters and include a stipend that is paid to the student monthly.

Other Forms of Financial Assistance

Other graduate assistantships are available through the university's Graduate School office for qualified students in 20 academic areas and in approximately 20 non-academic areas. Recipients of these assistantships serve as laboratory assistants, research assistants, or teaching assistants. For the current status of this information and related information, refer to the print version of the Graduate Bulletin or the online version of the [Graduate Bulletin](#).

The primary goal of an assistantship is to augment the student's educational objectives **and** to assist in the successful completion of the student's degree program. The student and the department share responsibility in the student's education. The graduate assistant, while making progress in the degree program, has special opportunities to receive varied educational experiences under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Although such students serve the University of Central Arkansas with teaching, research, and/or supervisory/administrative duties, they are first and foremost students. Accordingly, the assistantship tasks assigned to a student must be consistent with the program's educational objectives.

Various funding sources exist for graduate assistantships. In addition to assistants who receive funding from the Graduate School, other sources for support include grants, gifts, contracts, community service agencies, or various university departments, divisions, or centers. Approximately 150 UCA graduate students receive assistantship funds each semester. The student must have been admitted to Graduate School and to the School Psychology program with full qualifications in accordance with the admission policies and procedures of the Graduate School.

Graduate assistants on Graduate School sponsored appointments may be appointed for up to 12 months per contract period. Nine-month appointments would generally correspond to thirty-six (36) weeks of service (nine monthly pay periods). Twelve month appointments would generally correspond to fifty-two (52) weeks of service (12 monthly pay periods). The start and end dates of all Graduate School sponsored appointments must be within the university's fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

In order to continue an appointment from semester to semester during the academic year, all graduate assistants must remain in acceptable academic standing. If an assistant's cumulative grade point average falls below a 3.0 during the academic year of an appointment, the student may be terminated from the assistantship.

Typically, the maximum number of years that a graduate student may hold an assistantship is two years while pursuing a master's degree and four years in a doctoral program. Information about other forms of financial aid, including loans, may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office, located in McCastlain Hall, (501) 450-3140. Students receiving graduate assistantships and other forms of financial aid need to contact the Financial Aid Office to determine their combined financial package.