

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors of Graduate Studies, Academic Deans and Department Chairs

From: Dave Kieda
Dean, The Graduate School
dean@gradschool.utah.edu

Date: 4/22/2020

Re: Updates to AY 2020-2021 minimum stipend levels for TBP

The University's Tuition Benefits Program (TBP) requires a minimum graduate student stipend to be paid each semester to be eligible for a full/partial waiver of base graduate tuition charges & mandatory fees. Each year, the minimum stipend is reviewed by the Graduate School and adjusted to ensure that the stipend level is competitive with peer institutions, and that it provides adequate support for student living expenses. The table listing the historical and future minimum stipend levels for a full/partial waiver of base graduate tuition charges/fees can be found online at <https://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tbp-minimum-support-amounts-and-deadline-calendar/>. The Graduate School's preliminary guidance (January 2021) on the minimum thresholds for 100% TBP eligibility for AY 2020-2021 was set to \$8100/semester for both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. This stipend level is a \$150/semester increase over the previous year.

Based upon the University's Resource Planning Guide for Near-Term Operations (dated April 13, 2020; https://www.hr.utah.edu/coronavirus/Resource_Planning_Guidelines.pdf), no university salary increases are allowed for Fall 2020 semester. Current University guidance states that a salary increase could be instituted starting January 2021, depending upon the future status of the University's finances.

In support of the University's Resource Planning directives, the Graduate School has adjusted the minimum stipends for full TBP eligibility Fall 2020 to be \$7950, identical to Spring 2020. The Graduate School's guidance on the minimum stipend for Spring 2021 will be kept at \$8100. However, this increase will be linked to the University's decision on the potential January 2021 salary increase for faculty and staff. Students who are currently paid at or above the \$8100/semester threshold will not be affected by this adjustment.

If you have incoming graduate students who have accepted a written offer for the \$8100/semester stipend for Fall 2020/Spring 2021, you are required to honor this request. In certain situations, a department-wide increase in the minimum stipend levels of existing graduate students may be appropriate to maintain stipend equity with the new graduate students. Contact Dean Kieda for authorization to proceed with a department-wide stipend increase.