

Summer 2015 – Registration Requirements and Options for Graduate Students: FICA-Exemption and Financial Aid Eligibility Requirements

All Graduate Assistants must register for GRAD 603 (class number 1540), which carries two (2) credits at no cost.

Graduate Assistants with F-1, J-1, M-1, or Q-1 immigration statuses are already FICA-exempt and are ineligible to receive financial aid. International graduate students may disregard the remainder of this document.

To retain FICA-exemption during Summer 2015, domestic Graduate Assistants (GAs) must be registered for at least three (3) credits at all times. In addition to GRAD 603, students must also register for the appropriate research course. Additionally, Ph.D. students who have reached candidacy are allowed to register for either 898 or 899 during Summer 2015. The following table summarizes the registration options and their associated costs¹ to remain exempt from FICA.

Course	Minimum Registration	Tuition	Summer Session Fee	Auxiliary Facilities Fee	Total
Independent Study	1 credit	\$585	\$20	\$23	\$628
799 – Master’s Thesis Research	2 credits	\$585	\$20	\$23	\$628
898 – Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Research	3 credits	\$585	\$20	\$23	\$628
899 – Doctoral Candidacy Research	9 credits	\$1170	\$20	\$46	\$1,236

If domestic Graduate Assistants are not registered for at least three (3) credits at all times during the summer, the Graduate Assistant and the supporting department will each pay 7.65% of the student’s gross pay each pay period as FICA.

To be eligible to receive financial aid during the summer, domestic graduate students must be registered for at least six (6) total credits between both summer sessions [e.g., three (3) in session I and three (3) in session II or six (6) credits in either session] **THAT DO NOT INCLUDE THE GA COURSE, GRAD 603.** The following table summarizes the registration options and their associated costs¹ to be eligible to receive financial aid.

Course	Minimum Registration	Tuition	Summer Session Fee	Auxiliary Facilities Fee	Total
Non-Research Graduate Classes	6 credits	\$3,570	\$20	\$138	\$3,668
799 – Master’s Thesis Research	6 credits	\$1,755	\$20	\$69	\$1,844
898 – Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Research	6 credits	\$1,170	\$20	\$46	\$1,236
899 – Doctoral Candidacy Research	9 credits	\$1,170	\$20	\$46	\$1,236

Questions? For general information about Summer 2015, please visit the Office of Summer, Winter, and Special Programs at www.umbc.edu/summer.

For information about billing and payments, please visit Student Business Services at www.umbc.edu/sbs.

For information about financial aid, please visit the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at www.umbc.edu/financialaid.

For information on registration, please visit the Office of the Registrar at www.umbc.edu/registrar.

For information on the GA course or any other assistance, please visit the Graduate School at www.umbc.edu/gradschool.

¹ These costs are based on the proposed Summer 2015 tuition and fee rates. The General Assembly and the University System of Maryland Board of Regents will finalize or revise these proposed rates at a later date. Official tuition and fee rates for a given term are located at www.umbc.edu/sbs.