

Department of Epidemiology
Coverage of NRSA Shortfalls in AY23-24

During academic year 2023-2024 (Summer 2023, Autumn 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2024) the Department of Epidemiology will pilot the following policy regarding shortfalls associated with NIH T32 and F-award appointments that have previously defaulted financial responsibility on the student. The policy statement below reflects unchanged policies as well as new pilot policies, the latter of which are indicated with an asterisk. This policy was created in part due to the Epidemiology Strategic Plan and specifically prompted by KRA #1 Outcome #1. Epidemiology will evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot program, as well as the financial implications incurred by the Department, toward the end of AY23-24, and subsequently decide if the policy will be continued into the future (i.e. AY24-25).

Institutional Training Grants (T32)

Tuition*

The Department will provide coverage of tuition funding gaps associated with Epidemiology students appointed as Predoctoral trainees on NIH T32 training grants. This tuition gap is defined as the difference between the available tuition coverage from T32 funds and the tuition coverage of a benefits-eligible Academic Student Employee (ASE) position.

This applies only to students matriculated in an Epidemiology degree program during AY23-24 and appointed on a T32 housed at the University of Washington. The T32 need not be housed within Epidemiology (i.e. the T32 can be in a different UW department).

In order to qualify for Epidemiology funds to be applied toward a gap, the full amount of tuition funds available annually from the training grant (currently \$16,000 per student) must be fully applied and expended to the relevant operating fee portions of tuition for the student.

After the tuition funds available from the training grant have been depleted, Epidemiology will cover any remaining gap of tuition fees typically waived by employment of at least 50% FTE in an ASE (, TA or RA) position. This includes the Operating, Building, Technology, and U-Pass fees. Any remaining required student fees are the responsibility of the student (Facilities and Renovation, IMA Bond, and Services and Activities fees).

Epidemiology will apply this coverage toward full-time enrollment (minimum 10 credits) in Autumn/Winter/Spring quarters, and 2 credits in Summer quarter.

Benefits

Benefits have been successfully covered by the T32 thus far, avoiding shortfalls. There is currently no policy or regular practice of departmental coverage.

Coverage of Stipend Gap*

Per NIH guidelines, trainees may receive a supplemental stipend or additional compensation. This policy is defined in NIH GPS 11.3.10. Either of these sources may be sought out by the trainee to supplement their take-home pay to align with ASE rates. If a trainee has trouble securing one of these two sources,

the Department will prioritize making a 25% Teaching Assistant position available for them, when possible.

Individual Fellowship Awards (F31/F99)

The policies below apply to Pre-Doc students matriculated in an Epidemiology degree program only. Shortfall coverage for non-Epi students should be requested from the student's degree program/Department, if needed.

Tuition*

The UW Graduate School will cover the operating fee via "general tuition waiver" once the award funds have been expended for the budget year. This waiver must be proactively requested by the Department in My Grad Program. The Department will cover the Building fee in the last quarter of the award budget year to ensure the required payment by the student is consistent each quarter and in line with ASE tuition waivers.

Benefits

The department will cover the benefit shortfall created by predoctoral NRSA fellowships after the full institutional allowance available on the award has been expended.

Operationally, individual fellowship NRSA awards are set up with a separate budget for the institutional allowance, which fringe (health insurance) is automatically charged to. The benefits will be charged to this institutional allowance budget for the duration of the award, regardless of the budget balance. At the end of the budget period, any deficit will be transferred to a Department budget.

Coverage of Stipend Gap*

Per NIH guidelines, fellows may receive a supplemental stipend or additional compensation. This policy is defined in NIH GPS 11.2.10. Either of these sources may be sought out by the trainee to supplement their take-home pay to align with ASE rates. If a trainee has trouble securing one of these two sources, the department will prioritize making a 25% Teaching Assistant position available for them, when possible.

**represents a new pilot policy for AY23-24*