**Graduate Student Hours/Compensation**

Graduate Research Assistants on a stipend and with tuition credits or continuous enrollment are working on their degrees and devoting 50% of their time to grant work and 50% time to their academics during the academic year.  This is based on a 40 hour week. Thus, **100% of a GRA’s time to devote to grant work during the academic year is 20 hours per week.**  This is consistent with the information provided in the Graduate Assistant Handbook, on the Graduate School’s website. Even if a GRA has continuous enrollment during the academic year and their time is focused exclusively on their research, the expectation holds that the individual is a student and their primary purpose is to pursue a degree.   The 50%/50% model still holds.

Often, grant reports or applications will ask for effort in terms of **person months**.  In terms of reporting person months worked for a graduate student, if the student is working 20 hours per week (100% time for the student) on a grant for nine academic months, their time would be represented as 4.5 person months.

In summer, Graduate Research Assistants can devote additional time to the grant, if necessitated by the scope of work.  They could work up to 40 hours per week, which would then become 100% of their time for three months rather than the 20 hours per week in the academic year.  If they do this, then they need to be compensated accordingly for that time (i.e., doubling their stipend).  A graduate student cannot be worth $20 per hour in the AY and $10 per hour in the summer for doing the same work.  Additionally, the rate that is set during the academic year needs to be consistent with the summer.  There is no such thing as a “reduced” summer stipend rate.

To supplement a student’s income in the summer, they could receive the same stipend during the summer as in the academic year for 20 hours per week of research time.  They could then be allowed to teach for up to 20 hours per week for additional income.