

Summer 2017 – Registration Requirements and Options for Graduate Students: FICA-Exemption and Financial Aid Eligibility Requirements

All Graduate Assistants may register for GRAD 603 (class number 1495), 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 2017, 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 2017. 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	\$621	\$20	\$23	\$664
799 – Master’s Thesis Research	2 credits	\$621	\$20	\$23	\$664
898 – Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Research	3 credits	\$621	\$20	\$23	\$664
899 – Doctoral Candidacy Research	9 credits	\$1,242	\$20	\$46	\$1,308

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	\$3,726	\$20	\$138	\$3,884
799 – Master’s Thesis Research	6 credits	\$1,863	\$20	\$69	\$1,952
898 – Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Research	6 credits	\$1,242	\$20	\$46	\$1,308
899 – Doctoral Candidacy Research	9 credits	\$1,242	\$20	\$46	\$1,308

Questions? For general information about Summer 2017, 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 sbs.umbc.edu.

For information about financial aid, please visit the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at financialaid.umbc.edu. For information on registration, please visit the Office of the Registrar at registrar.umbc.edu.

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

¹ These costs are based on the proposed Summer 2017 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 sbs.umbc.edu.