



MEMO

DATE: August 4, 2020 (updated 10/20/20)
TO: Department Heads, Program Directors, Graduate Coordinators, Deans and Associate Deans
FROM: Jim Ahern, AVP for Graduate Education
RE: Updated guidance on GA hiring and terminations during the ongoing pandemic

In March, the Office of Graduate Education instructed that, due to the ongoing pandemic, no graduate assistants should be terminated for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. Our guiding principle was and remains that we should all endeavor to do what is in the best interests of our students. Although the no-termination order has now expired, supervisors of GAs are expected to be as flexible and accommodating as possible, given the ongoing pandemic. For the remainder of the summer, graduate assistants should be allowed to work remotely if that is their preference.

As UW moves to return to residential education for the fall semester, graduate assistants may be expected to work on-campus as long as appropriate safety and healthy practices are implemented. That said, we can anticipate that some graduate students will be unable to arrive on or return to campus. Departments and faculty supervisors should be as flexible as possible with these students in terms of graduate assistantship funding and job duties. For overseas international students who are unable to be hired as and/or fulfill their GA duties, UW is offering the Graduate Tuition and Fees Fellowship Program for AY 2020-2021. Please see the International Graduate Students section of OGE's Covid-19 Resources page (<http://www.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/covid-19-related-information/index.html#international-graduate-students>).

The Office of Graduate Education will provide updated guidance as circumstances change.