Living Wage Approach to Doctoral Stipends

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Fees – Progress and Recommendations

Fees - Progress:

• Graduate Student Fees reduced $60 per year in FY22
• Approved reduction of an additional $250 per year in FY23 – WOW! GREAT NEWS!

Fees - Recommendations:

• Continue to decrease fees by $50 per year until reaches $500 per semester/$1000 per year
Tuition and international student support – Recommendations

• For students in unfunded professional doctoral programs, ensure tuition frozen for duration of their time in the program

• Continue exploring variable tuition rate to reduce costs for programs without funding for students

• Explore resources available to international students and build a database of opportunities
Stipends – Recommendations

• Increase minimum doctoral stipend to the Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage and
  • Minimum annual increases of 5% until this goal is reached
  • Use this metric for annual adjustment of minimum doctoral stipend

• Increase Master’s stipends in an equitable manner compared to increase in doctoral stipends

• Encourage more applications for individual and University training grants and other means to secure stipends for unfunded students in eligible doctoral programs
Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage

• The Vermont Basic Needs Budget is a market-based analysis that accounts for estimated monthly living expenses in Vermont.
  
  • Basic needs include the costs for essential items such as food, housing, transportation, child care, clothing and household expenses, telecommunications charges, health and dental care, renters insurance, life insurance, and savings.

• The Vermont Livable Wage is defined in statute as the hourly wage required for a full-time worker to pay for one-half of the basic needs budget for a two-person household with no children and employer-sponsored health insurance, averaged for both urban and rural areas.
  
  • Individual Living Wages are also calculated based on other family configurations and specific to urban or rural.
Current minimum doctoral stipend of $26.46/hr is $8,898 less than VT BNB

Current highest minimum doctoral stipend by unit of $29.11 is $6137 less than VT BNB
Current minimum doctoral stipend of $26.46/hr is $2144 less than VT BNB

CALS, BIOE, CMB, NGP doctoral stipends all above the VT BNB