

**From:** [Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration](#)  
**To:** ["Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee"](#)  
**Cc:** [UB Provost](#); [Glick, Philip](#); [Allen, Lindsay](#)  
**Subject:** Additional Materials for the Budget Priorities Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018 3:58:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [Graduate Student Support\\_05-03-2018.pdf](#)

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*Sent on behalf of Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration*

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Dear Budget Priorities Committee Members,

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting of the committee.

However, I thought it would be helpful to provide the committee with materials regarding TA/GA stipends for your review and consideration.

The first document is entitled, "Graduate Student Stipends" <http://www.buffalo.edu/news/key-issues/graduate-stipends.html>. This is the university's statement re: Graduate student stipends. This statement also includes answers to frequently asked questions.

The second document is an attachment entitled, "PhD Student Support." Please note that this presentation is dated May 3, 2018 and draws from 2016-2017 data.

Last May, "PhD Student Support" was presented to the Budget Priorities Committee. We have not had the opportunity to update this presentation with current data. Nonetheless, I thought it would be helpful to share this comprehensive presentation with the current members of the committee.

I hope these materials provide clarity regarding graduate student stipends. I am happy to discuss during a Budget Priorities Committee meeting.

Thank you,

Laura

***Laura Hubbard***

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# PHD STUDENT SUPPORT

Stipends and Tuition Waivers

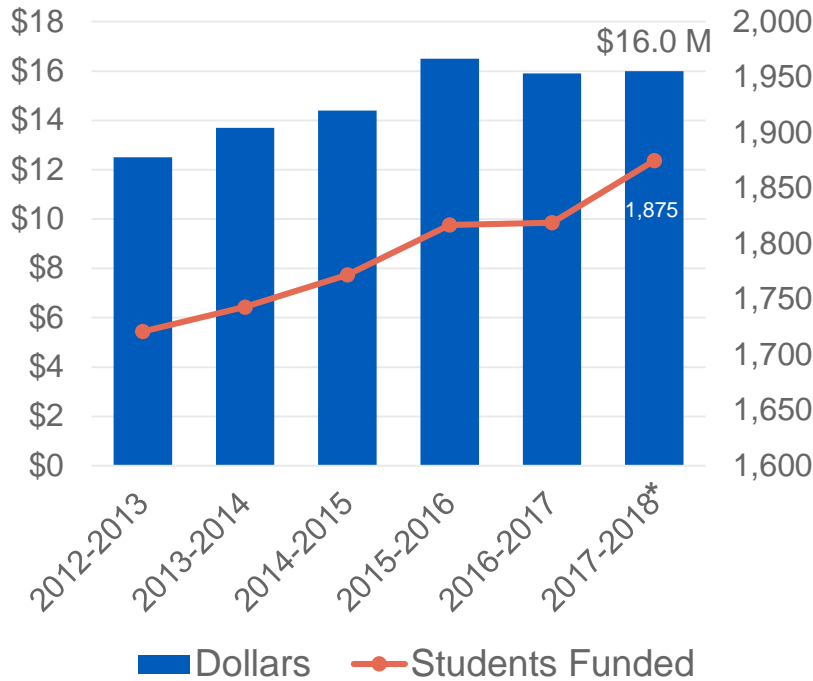
May 3, 2018



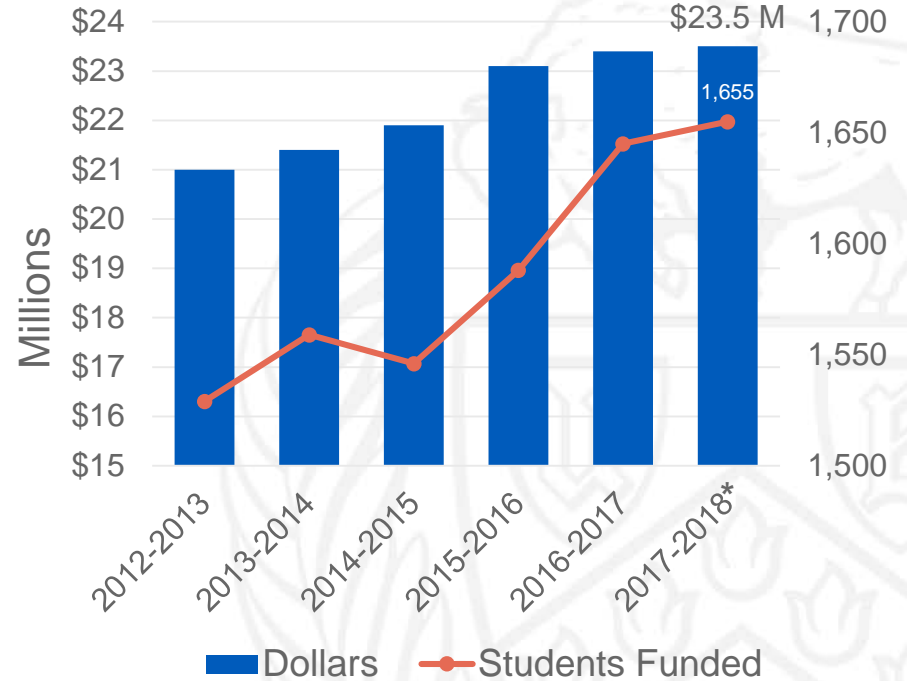
# How much does UB Invest in PhD Students?

**17/18 Investment is \$39.5 M\***

Tuition Support



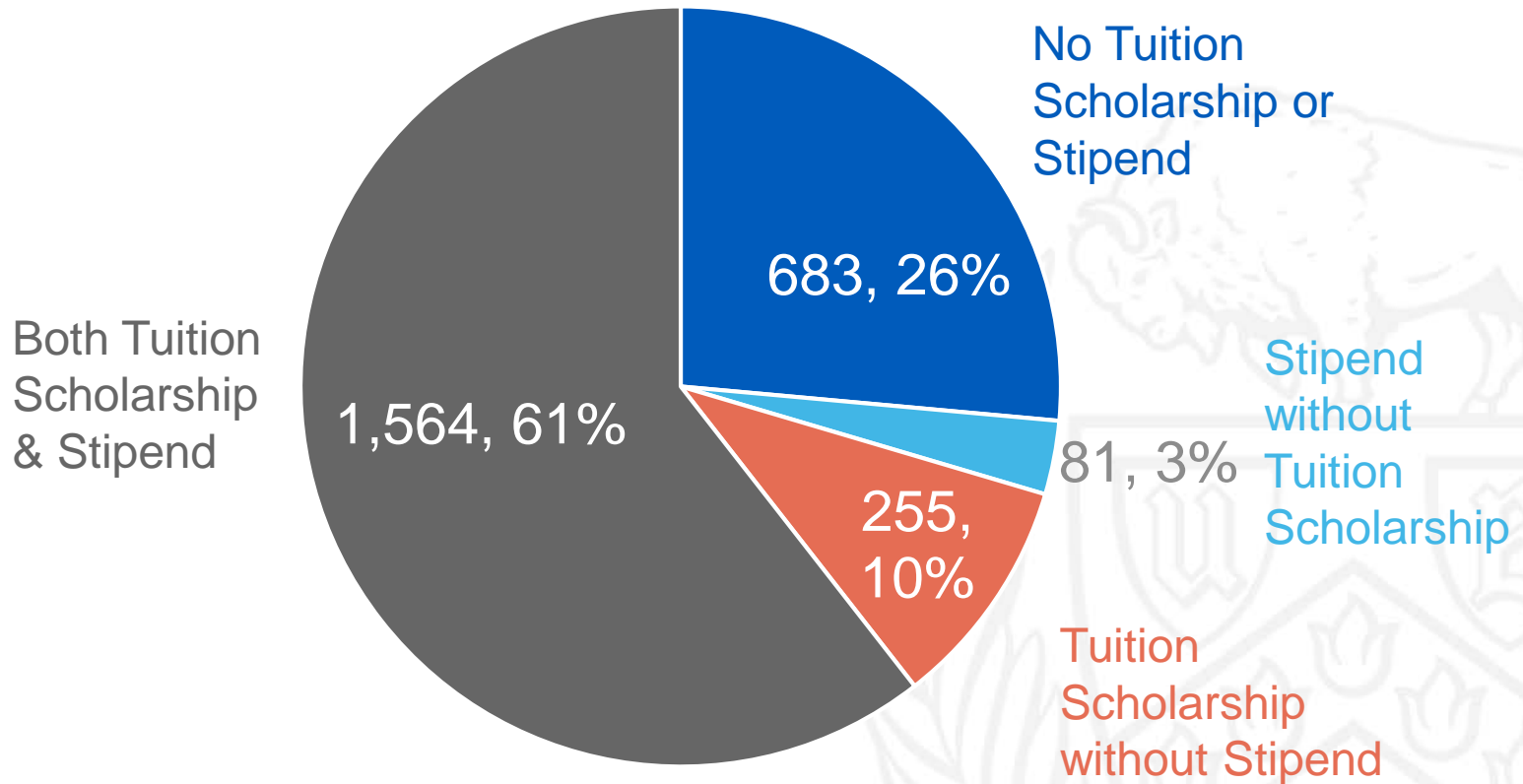
Stipend Support



17/18 estimated: 73.9% of 2,583 doctoral students receive either Tuition/Stipend Support; 72% receive Tuition Support and 63% receive Stipend Support

\*The 2017-2018 year is estimated  
Academic Year includes leading summer, fall and spring terms

# PhD Student Tuition Scholarship/Stipend Support



\* - Estimates based on 17/18 PhD students.

# PhD Tuition Scholarship/Stipend Support by Unit

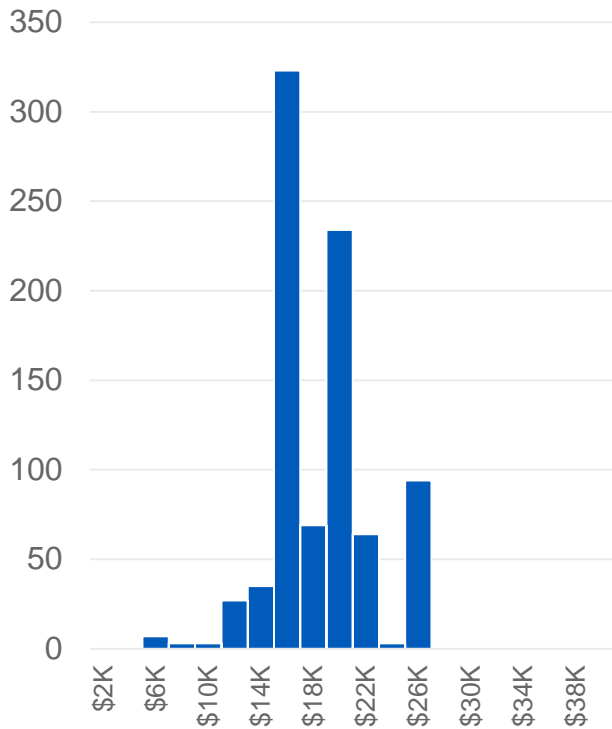
Unit	Both	No Support	Stipend Only	Tui Sch Only
Architecture	6	3	2	1
Arts and Sciences	762	279	32	38
Dental Medicine	8	2	1	0
Engineering	485	85	14	18
Graduate School of Education	79	242	7	82
Jacobs School	102	19	7	8
Management	39	9	8	1
Nursing	3	14	1	9
Pharmacy	34	3	1	5
Public Health	32	11	3	5
Roswell Park	3	14	0	85
Social Work	11	2	5	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>255</b>

## Distribution of TAs, GAs & RAs by Unit

Unit	TA	GA	RA
Architecture	3	3	5
Arts and Sciences	666	30	179
Dental Medicine	0	3	6
Engineering	214	87	331
Graduate School of Education	3	60	29
Jacobs School	2	34	77
Management	14	35	4
Nursing	0	3	1
Pharmacy	0	15	23
Public Health	13	14	13
Roswell Park	1	0	3
Social Work	2	9	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>678</b>

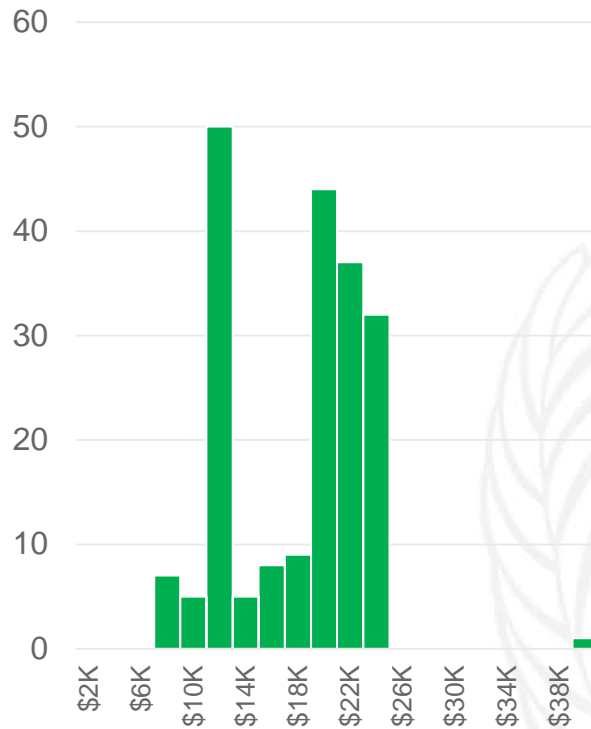
# Stipend Levels by Position Type

TAs



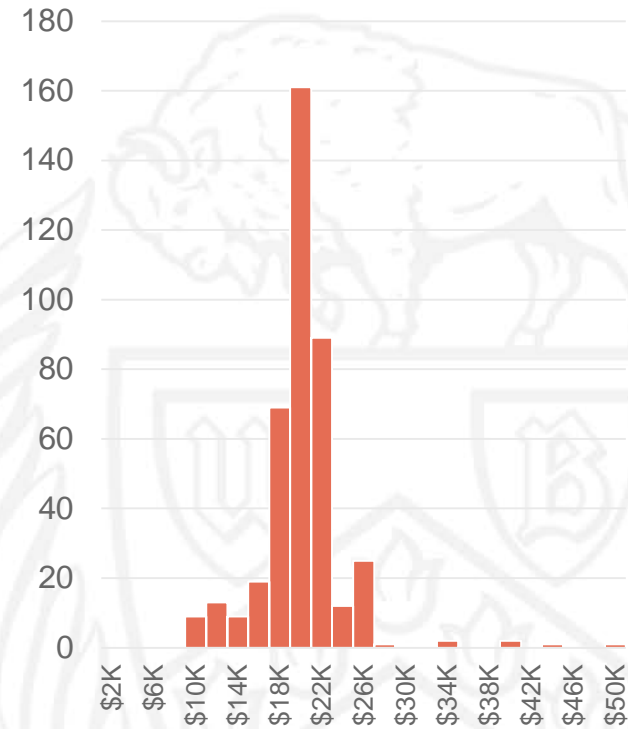
Average  
\$17,673

GAs



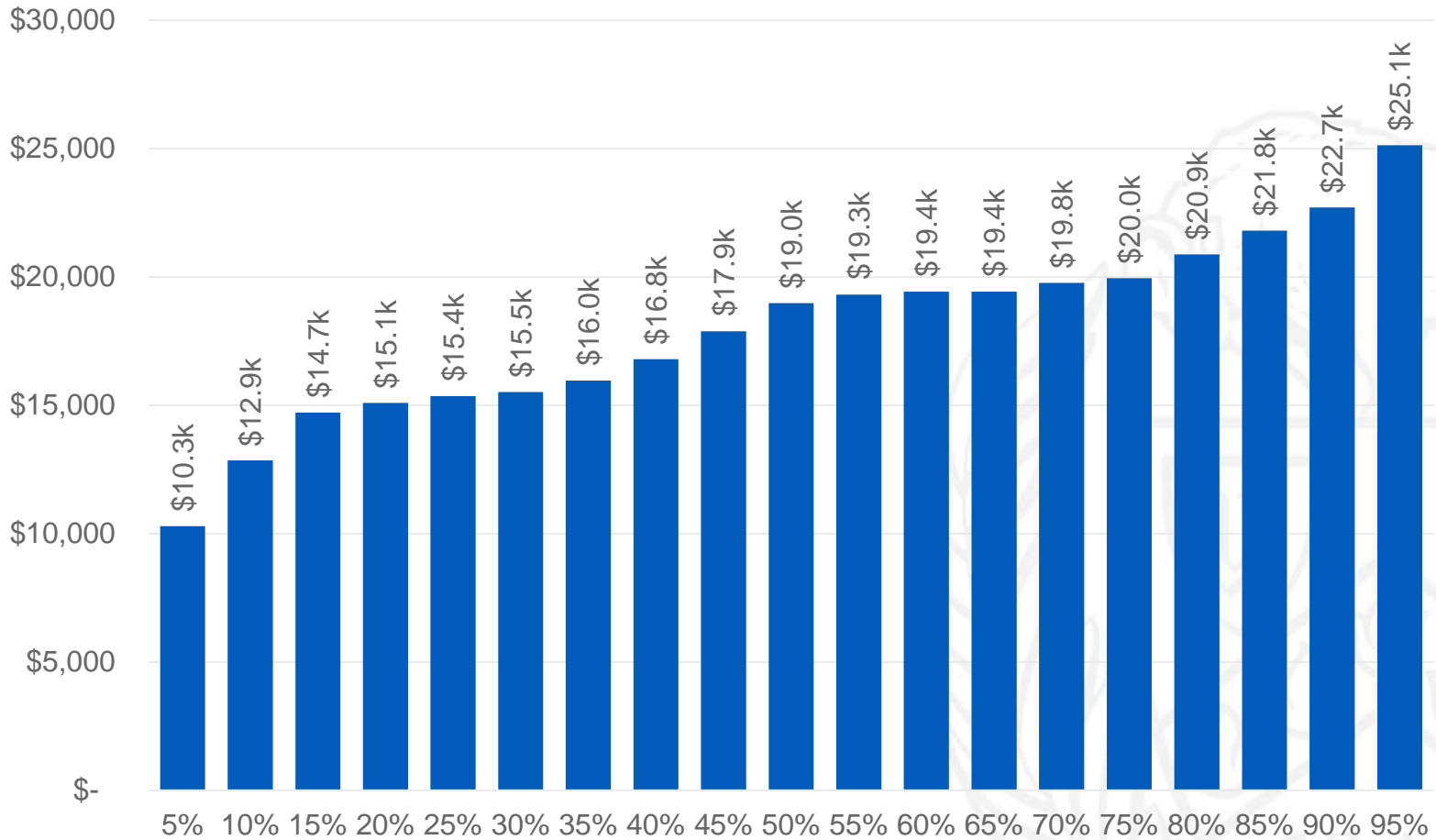
Average  
\$16,916

RAs



Average  
\$19,222

# Stipend Levels - Percentiles

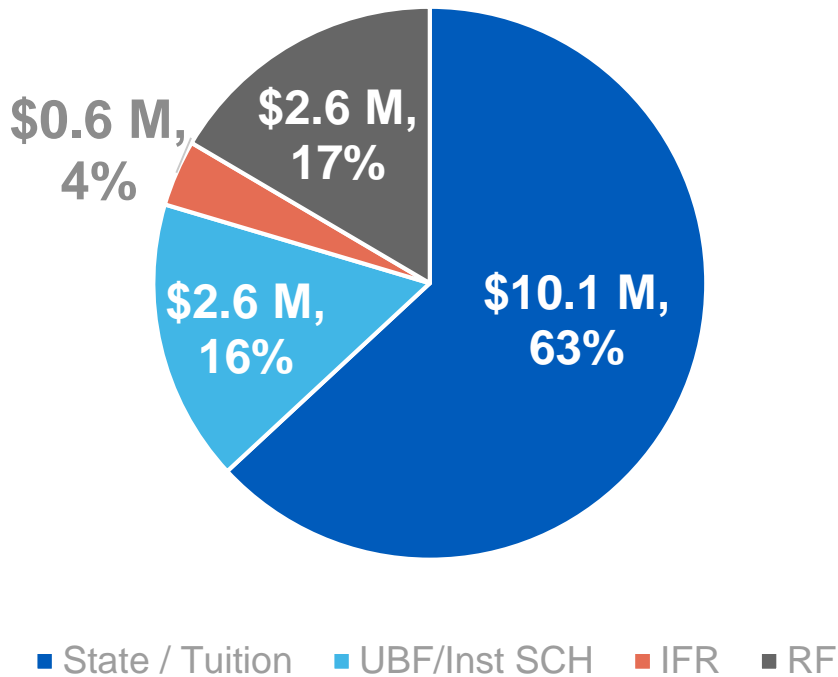


Includes all student assistants studying for a terminal degree. Academic year includes fall and spring terms only.

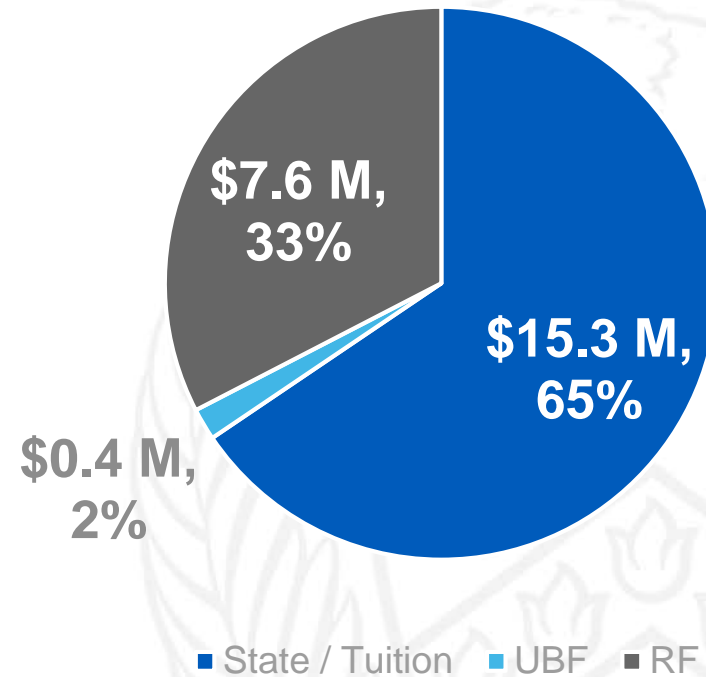


# What fund types are used to pay for tuition waivers and stipends?

Tuition Waivers by Fund Type



Stipends by Fund Type



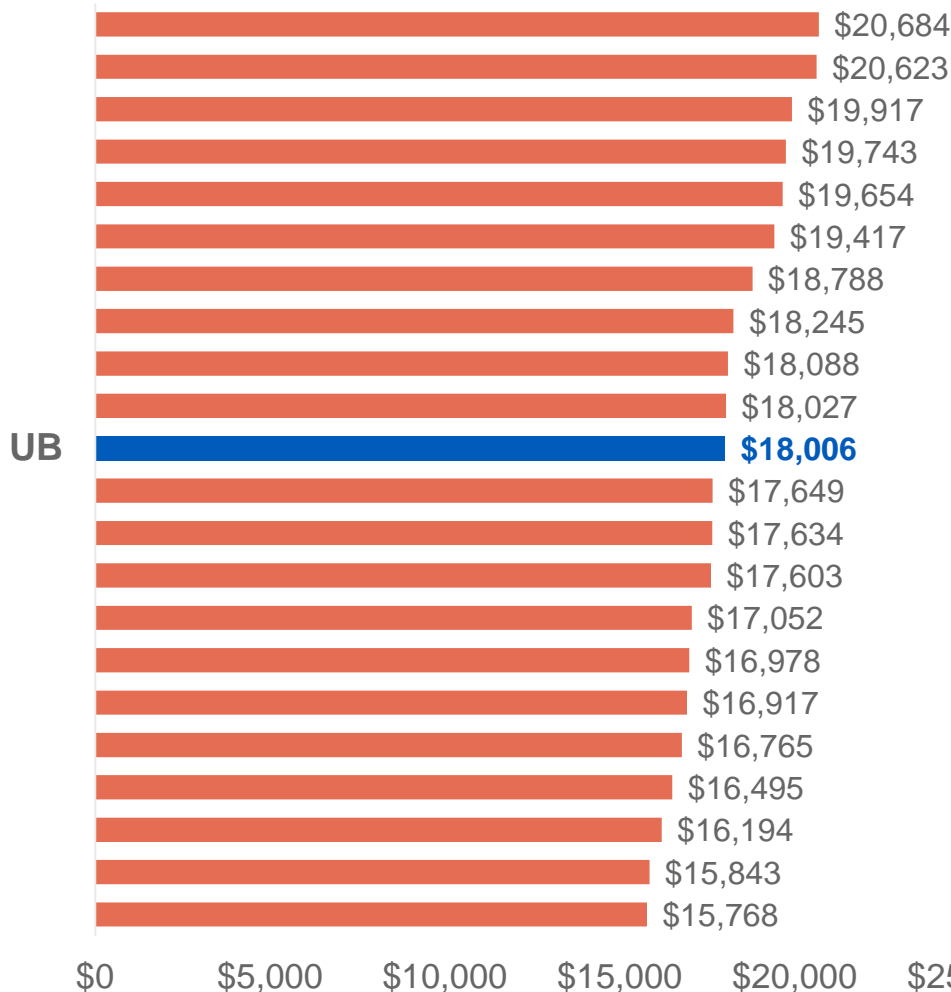
## Academic Unit Internal Funding Models

- SEAS: based on PhD degrees averaged over the previous three years (35%) and credit hours delivered during the previous AY (65%)
- GSE: based on total number of CH generated by regular faculty (50%) and total funded grant research expenditures (50%) during the previous year
- JSMBS: school provides tuition and stipend support in year one; PIs cover in subsequent years
- RCPI: unit covers tuition for up to seven years; stipends & health insurance covered by unit in year one and by PIs starting in year two
- SOM: aims to provide each ladder faculty member with ½ PhD assistantship each year (stipend + tuition)
- SSW: based on student progress
- CAS: based on outcomes (placement of doctoral students) and quality metrics; departments receive a fixed amount that they manage (recently changed from model based on historical number of TA-ships)

# GSEU Contract

- Contract covers TAs and GAs, but not RAs
- Negotiated by Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) and State University Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU)
- UB does not have authority to negotiate with GSEU
- Contract sets minimum stipend of \$9,764 for AY2017-18 for Full Assistantships, UB average is \$18,006 for PhD students
- Contract has 2% increases for 2016-2019
- Benefits specified by contract

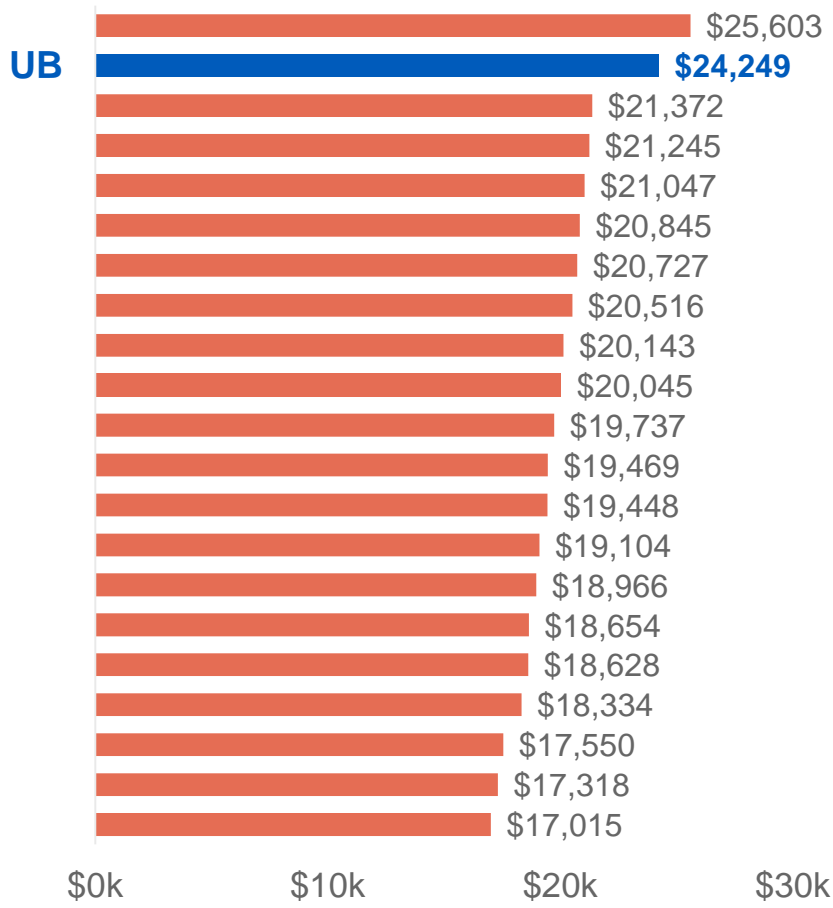
## How do UB stipends compare to other AAU Publics?



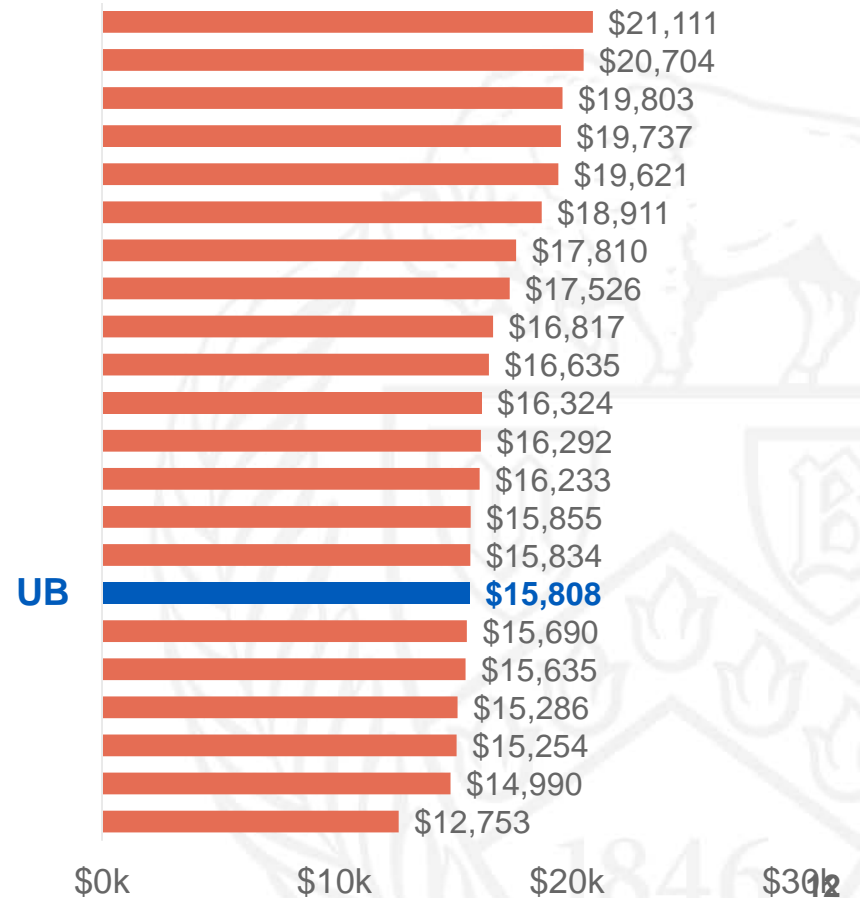
- AAU Publics  
*Average = \$18,004*  
*Median = \$17,649*
- Range \$15,768 to \$20,684
- National Comparisons based on Academic Year (9/10 Month)

# How does UB compare to other AAU Publics by discipline? (Selected Disciplines)

## Chemistry



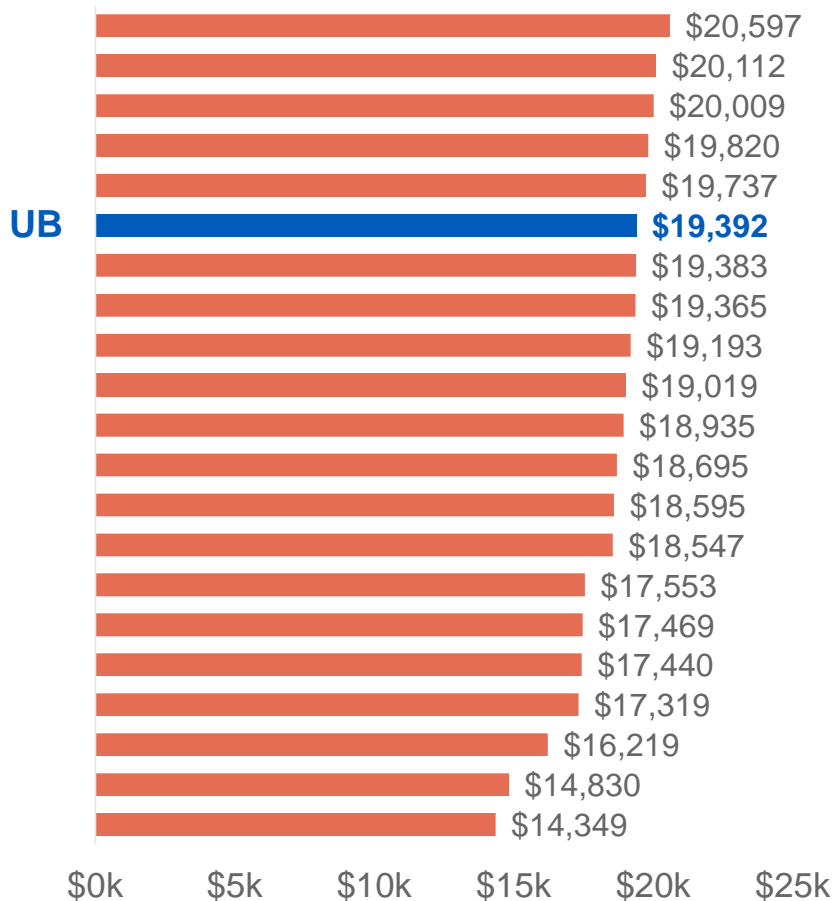
## English



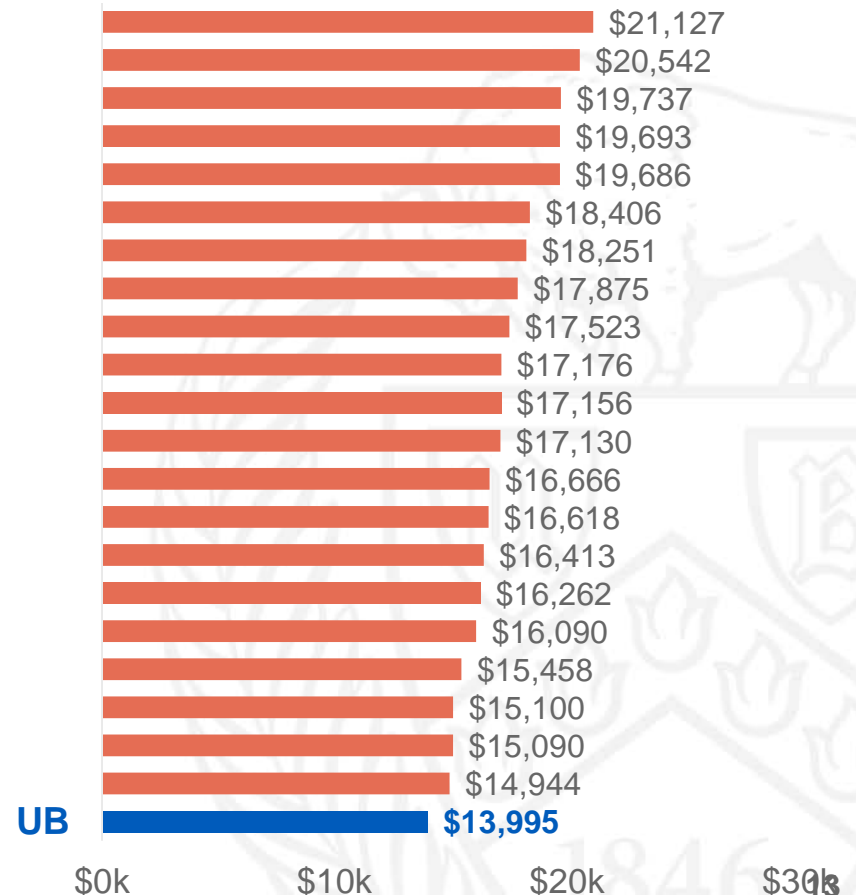
Source: AAU Data Exchange; Includes all student assistants studying for a terminal degree. Academic year includes fall and spring terms only.

# How does UB compare to other AAU Publics by discipline? (Selected Disciplines)

## Electrical Engineering



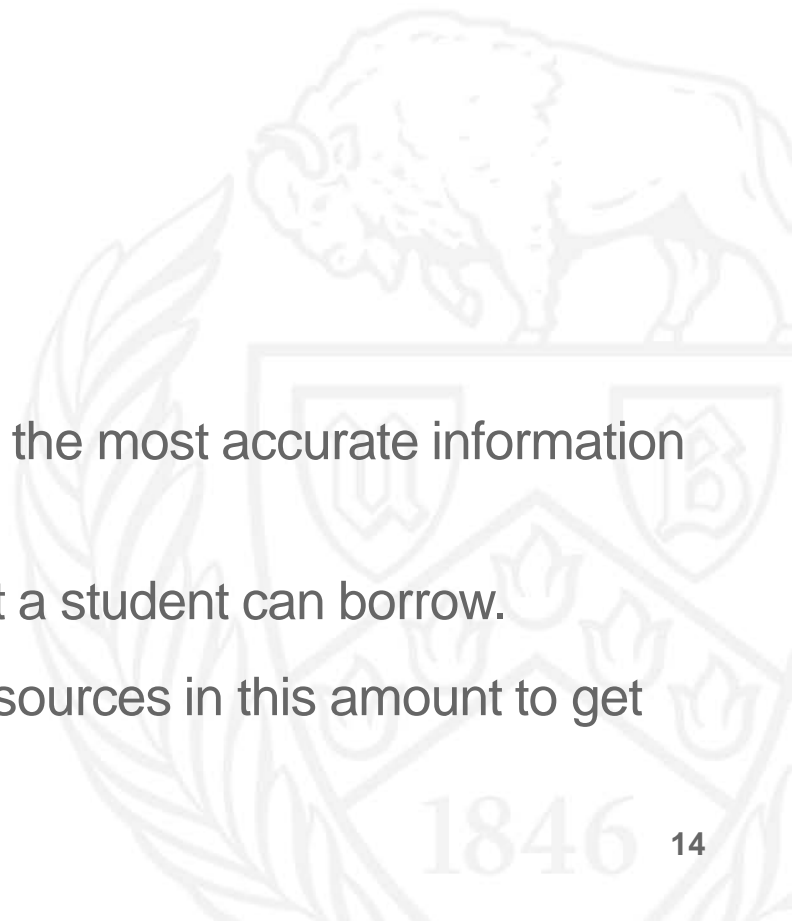
## History



Source: AAU Data Exchange; Includes all student assistants studying for a terminal degree. Academic year includes fall and spring terms only.

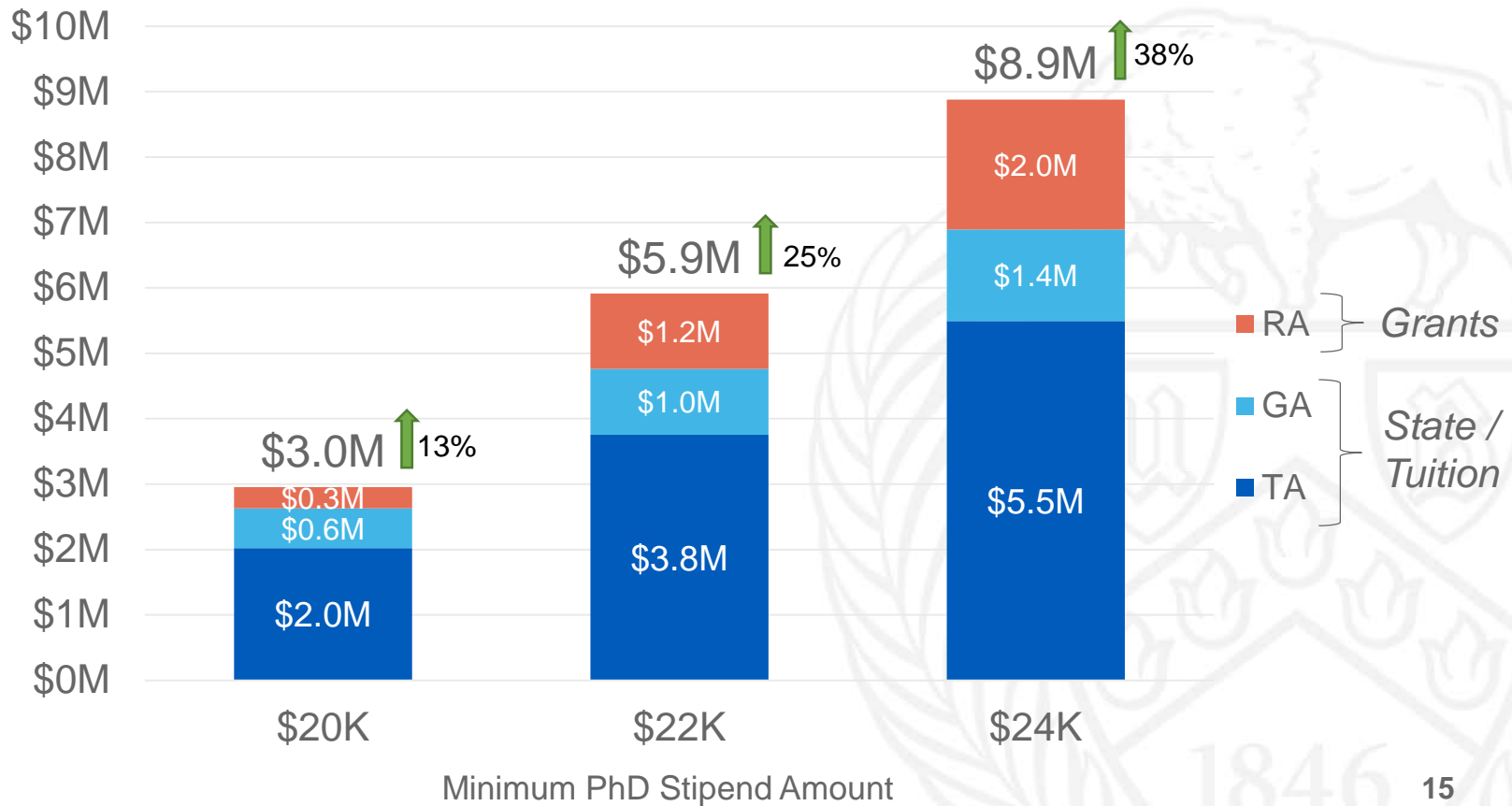
## What is cost of attendance? What is it used for?

- Cost of Attendance (COA) is *estimated* average cost to attend for one academic year (fall through spring) at an institution.
  - Tuition and fees
  - Books and supplies
  - Room and board
  - Transportation
  - Personal expenses
- Colleges adjust the COA yearly to provide the most accurate information to students
- Used to determine the maximum amount a student can borrow.
- International students required to show resources in this amount to get VISA



# How Much Would It Cost to Raise Stipends?

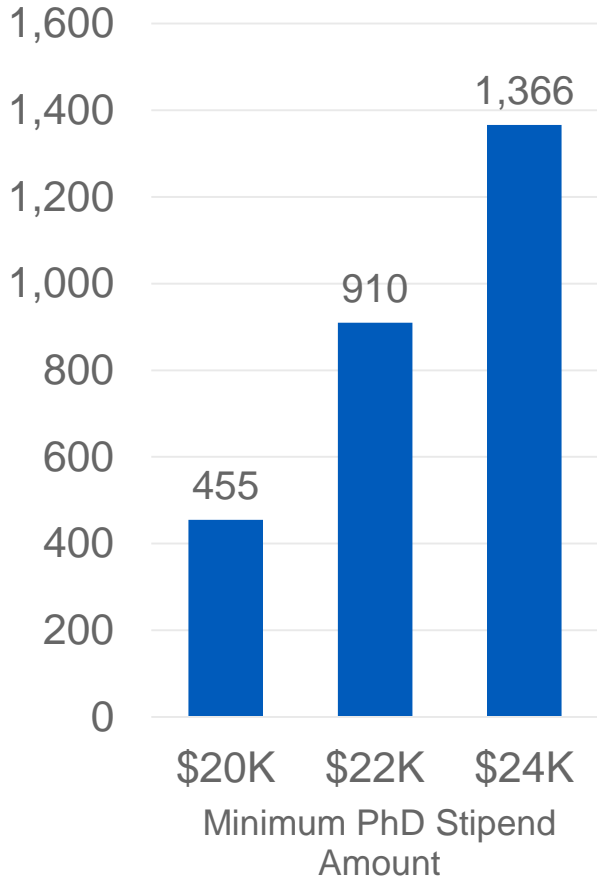
Additional Money Required for PhD Students



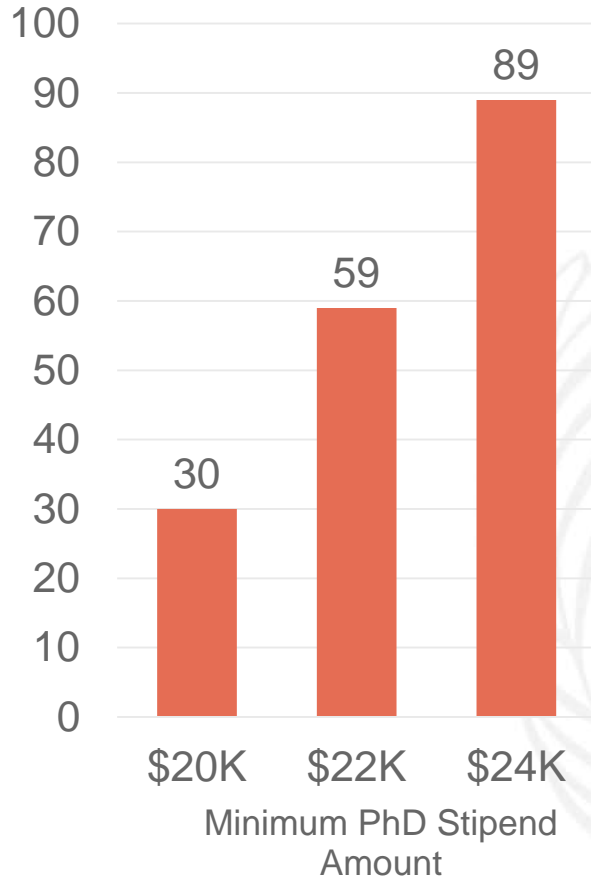


# Cost to Raise Stipends Equivalent Amounts

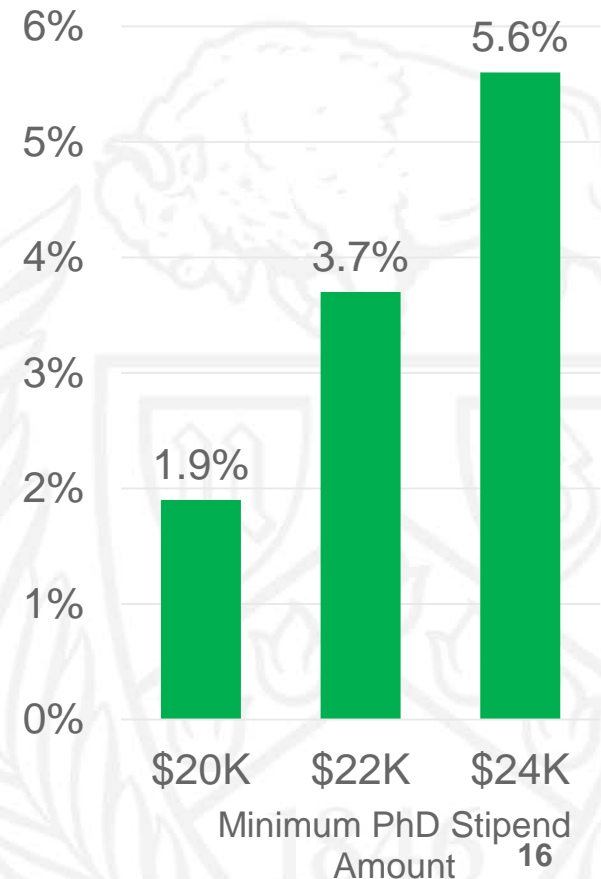
New UG Student



Ladder Faculty



UG Tuition Increase

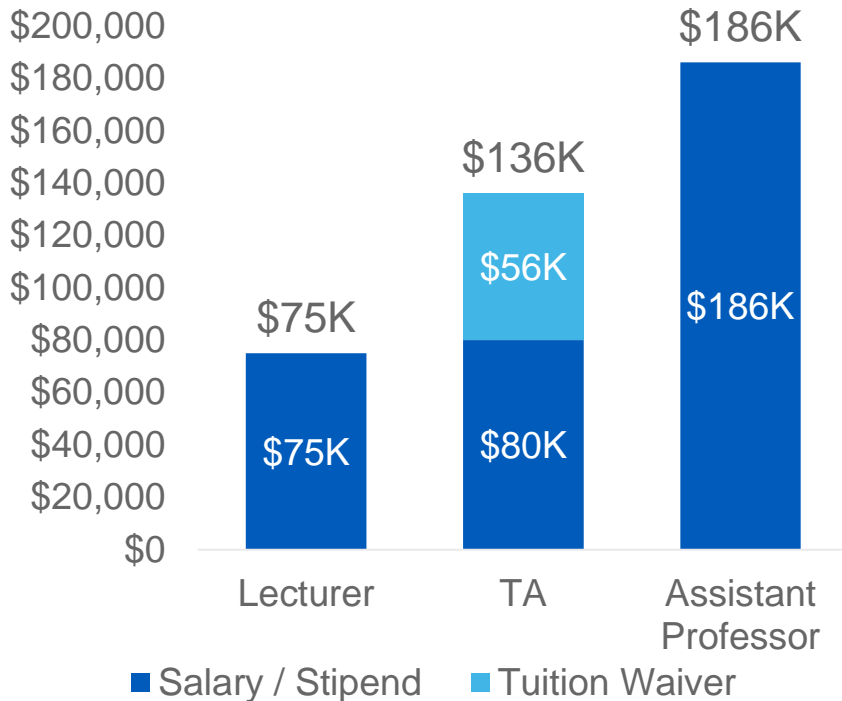


# Lecturers, TAs and Assistant Professors as Primary Instructor

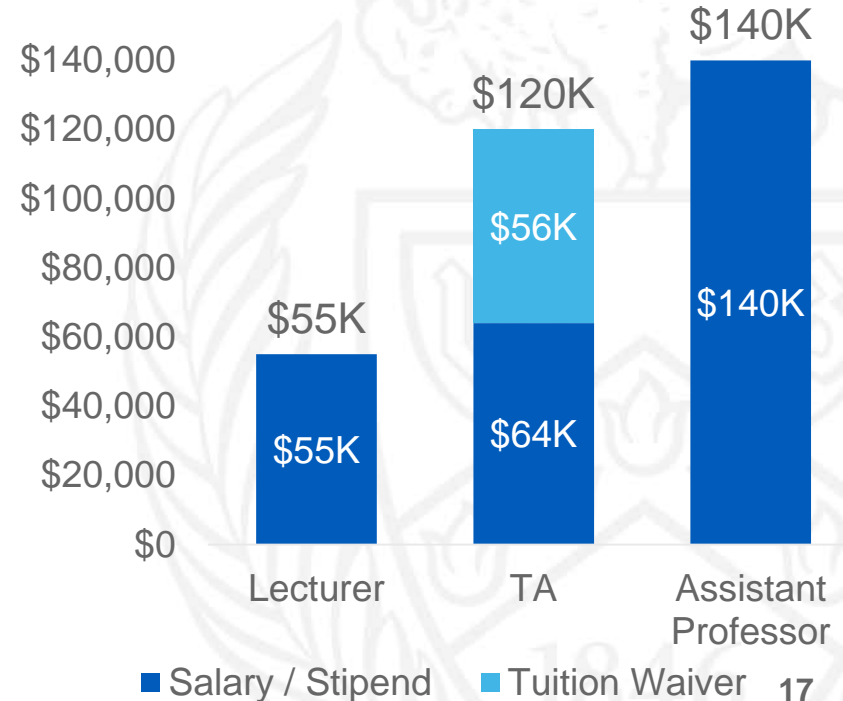
*TAs are not the lowest cost of instruction*

## Cost per 8 Sections\*

### School of Engineering and Applied Sciences



### College of Arts and Sciences



\*-assumes median cost for lecturer, TA, assistant professor and resident tuition waiver

# Summary

- Educating the next generation of scholars continues to be a university priority
- Most of our resources are in existing base budgets – thinking about how we deploy these resources is increasingly important
- Priority setting lies with the Deans, Chairs and faculty
- There are opportunity costs in raising stipends
- The university has invested in PhD students
- Deans have authority to work with departments to prioritize stipends where they are non-competitive

