

Funding

Assistantships:

- **Research Assistantship (RA), Teaching Assistantship (TA or GTA), Graduate Assistantship (GA)**
- **Paid positions which include tuition reduction and a stipend for living expenses may also include benefits like health care.**
- **Contracted to work a certain number of hours a week or to teach a set number of classes.**

- **Can be in an academic department, research lab/group, or any other department on campus.**
- **Gain career relevant skills while working and partially funding your education.**

Fellowships:

- **Apply for funding through national, state or institutional organizations**
- **May have specifications on how funding can be used.**
- **Funding may be distributed to you or directly to your institution.**
- **Apply for funding through national, state or institutional organizations.**

- **Funding for tuition or other specified uses.**
- **Funding may be distributed to you or directly to your institution.**

Financial Aid:

- **Grants: federally awarded funding based on educational need.**

- **Subsidized Loans:** federally subsidized loans that have a lower interest rate and which do not accrue interest until you graduate. Repayment of loans begins after graduation.
- **Unsubsidized Loans:** loans which begin accruing interest immediately. Repayment of loans begins after graduation.
- **Private Loans:** loans which begin accruing interest immediately and which you will begin making payments on immediately.

Academic Positions

Tenure Track:

- **Full Professor:** the destination of the "[tenure](#) track," upon exhausting all normally-expected promotions.
- **Associate Professor: On-Track** to be a "Full Professor."
- **Assistant Professor: On-Track** to be an "Associate Professor," typically entry-level for "tenure track" positions.

- **Professor Emeritus:** Other such *titles of special distinction* vary by institution. May or may not be active in campus through teaching or research.
- **PI: Primary Investigator** is the lead investigator on a research project and/or grant. Is often an Assistant, Associate or Full Professor.

Instructor:

- **Adjunct Faculty:** Titles differ by institution, but these faculty are not on the tenure track and often focus primarily on teaching.
- **Lecturer:** Often part-time and focused on teaching. May also be teaching at multiple campuses or also be a working practitioner in addition to teaching.

Researcher:

- **Post-doc: Person conducting research after the completion of their doctoral studies as part of a temporary appointment, usually in preparation for an academic faculty position.**
- **Research Associate: Faculty who are focused on conducting research and who do not normally teach. Not usually on the tenure track, but this varies by institution.**

Degrees

Doctorate:

- 3-6+ year degrees that require specialization in a field. Can be professional or research/academic focused.
- Requires a culminating dissertation where you generate and present *novel* scholarly research in your field along with qualifying exams.

Master's:

- 1-3 year degrees that require specialization in a field. Can be professional or research/academic focused.
- Requires the completion of qualifying exams and/or a thesis in which you present your research.

Professional:

- These degrees focus on coursework and practicum (e.g. internships, group projects, residencies, etc.). Degrees include: M.A., M.B.A., M.P.H., P.S.M., LL.M., M.Ed., M.D., D.O., Psy.D., D.V.M., J.D., Ed.D.
- Certificate and licensing programs focus on preparing you for a specific accreditation (usually an exam).

Academic:

- These degrees focus on independent scholarly work (e.g. a research-based thesis or dissertation). Degrees include: M.S., M.Sc., M.F.A., M.Phil., M.Res. Ph.D., D.Phil., D.Sci.