Petition for Extension of Graduate Assistantship Program (Stipend Support)
Due to COVID-19 Pandemic 2020-2021
The Extension of Graduate Assistantship (stipend support) program is a collaboration between the
Graduate School, the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President and the Office of Budget and
Finance. The intent of the program is to provide assistance to graduate students whose research
progress was significantly disrupted by the restrictions imposed during the peak of the COVID-19
pandemic (State, Federal, International restrictions) in 2020. Below outlines the criteria of eligibility for
the program. The student should complete the fillable pdf petition form and include any additional
documentation they deem appropriate that can support the request for an extension. Please be sure
that the form has secured all appropriate signatures before submitting the form and documents to the
Graduate School Office, attention of Ms. Amanda Baine.

Criteria:
To file a petition for Extension of Graduate Assistantship (stipend support), a graduate student
- must have been enrolled in his/her program during the calendar year 2020, and nearing the end of
their normal stipend support cycle (within one year of completion),
- must be completing a thesis (Master’s degree) or dissertation (Doctoral degree) research program,
priority will be given to Doctoral students,
- must demonstrate, in a narrative format, how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their ability to
conduct their research or collect/access data for the purpose of completing their research project
objectives. Clearly state the impact on research progress and provide a rationale for the extension of
their assistantship. Students may provide any relevant documentation, if available, to support their
petition,
-must complete the Extension of Stipend form in its entirety,
-must submit form and any additional relevant documentation in support of the petition by close of
business to the attention of Ms. Amanda Baine (abaine@grad.msstate.edu), Graduate School by March
29, 2021.

Please note that there is a limited amount of funds available to support this program, so the extension
in support will be for one semester only at this time.
Departments will be responsible for handling the paperwork associated with those graduate students
who are granted and extension of their graduate assistantship.
Petitions will be reviewed by a panel of Associate Deans from the academic colleges and representatives
from the Graduate School Business Office.
Deadline for submission of petitions is 5:00 pm (CT) on Monday, March 29, 2021