

UC Berkeley Neuroscience Graduate Program Single Parent Supplementary Stipend Policy

The purpose of this policy is to encourage, support and retain single parents who are working toward earning a Ph.D. in neuroscience. The demands of being a single parent impose unique challenges for individuals pursuing graduate education. In addition, ensuring the presence of future role models who successfully balance family life with professional activities is considered by the Neuroscience Graduate Program to be important for promoting diversity and excellence in neuroscience research and education. The Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, through the UC Berkeley Neuroscience Graduate Program, has therefore implemented the following policy.

For Neuroscience Graduate Program students in good standing who are single parents (see stipulations, below), the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute will supplement the standard graduate student stipend, GSI-ship, or GSR-ship by \$2,400 per year for the duration of the student's graduate studies, for a maximum period of 5.5 years. To qualify for this supplement, the student must:

1. be unmarried to, legally separated from, or divorced from the dependent child(ren)'s other parent;
2. not be co-habiting with the dependent child(ren)'s other parent;
3. not be married to another individual;
4. not be claimed as a dependent on another individual's federal or state tax returns;
5. have either full- or joint-custody of his/her child(ren);
6. be a student in good standing in the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

All of the above six criteria must be met to be eligible for the Neuroscience Graduate Program Single Parent Supplementary Stipend. Students receiving this supplement will be expected to sign a document attesting to items 1 - 5. If circumstances should change at any time during the course of the student's graduate studies regarding the student's eligibility with regard to the six eligibility criteria, the student must inform the Neuroscience Graduate Program office immediately; the supplement will be discontinued at the end of the month in which the student no longer meets the eligibility requirements.

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis and may be terminated without notice.