

ENHANCING GRADUATE PROGRAM EXCELLENCE
Support Graduate Student Teaching Excellence

Willie Mae Harris Fellowships
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant
 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Mr. John Richard Harris established the Willie Mae Harris Fellowship to support graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The Willie Mae Harris fellowship is \$30,000 for the academic year. The graduate student must be an outstanding MS (thesis option) or Ph.D. student who has served as a Teaching Assistant for at least two semesters.

Purpose: To reward an outstanding GAT or GAR who is a Teaching Assistant and relieve them of a portion of their teaching load towards the end of their graduate studies so they can focus on their thesis or dissertation research.

Assistantship Match: The department is expected to continue the student on an assistantship, but at a reduced load compared to the student's normal teaching load. The department will propose how the fellowship is mixed and matched with assistantship funding for the year. The student must be supported for the entire year and given a reduced teaching load compared to a graduate student's normal teaching load. Recipients must provide an updated CV and a summary of accomplishments at the end of the Willie Mae Harris Fellowship.

Eligibility:

- 1) The nominee must be an MS (thesis-option) or Ph.D. graduate student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- 2) The nominee must have taught as a ½-time effort Graduate Assistant Teaching (GAT) or Graduate Assistant Research (GAR) for at least two full semesters (Fall, Spring, SSI and SSII, or 10-week summer session, each of these constitutes one full semester) at TAMU.
- 3) Lecturers are not eligible.
- 4) The nominee must be a US Citizen or permanent resident.
- 5) The nominee must be equivalent to the instructor of record in the course(s); e.g., they taught the lecture or lab section, prepared and graded exams, and assigned or recommended grades to the faculty member overseeing the lecture/lab sections. GANTs who assisted a faculty member are not eligible.
- 6) The nominee must have student evaluations.
- 7) The nominee must represent excellence in college-level teaching, have outstanding pedagogical and mentoring skills, have positive student teaching evaluations, and have a reputation for ethical behavior in all aspects of scholarly life. In addition, their research must be of high quality.
- 8) The nominee must have an approved thesis or dissertation research proposal on file with the Graduate and Professional School at the time of the application.
- 9) The nominee may not be a previous recipient of the Willie Mae Harris Fellowship.

Due Date: Nominations are due in the [InfoReady portal](#) by April 20, 2026.