



**TOWSON
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**Towson University
Graduate Student Guide**

Welcome from the Graduate Student Association!



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Welcome to Towson University!

General Information about your new home

First off, congratulations on your acceptance to Towson University! You have made an excellent choice of higher education and we hope you love it here as much as we do! Choosing Towson to further your education is the first right step to becoming who you want to be. Towson University is one of the nation's leading public universities with over 80 graduate programs and degree certificates. Towson University offers a distinct learning experience in a location that is filled with opportunity and employment.

Whether you are here to change career path or advance in your career, Towson University offers unique programs that can help you meet your personal and professional goals. Our campus upholds itself on being a diverse and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed. The variety of programs and expertise of the faculty paired with the close-knit community and personalized learning approach provides students with the best of both worlds for a graduate student experience.

Towson University is located in an ideal location for graduate students. Located eight miles north of Baltimore and less than one hour away from Washington D.C. Towson offers the best of both worlds for city and suburbs lovers. Towson's well-known status and affiliation can help students excel in opportunities such as research, internships, and jobs.

Again, welcome to Towson University! We are here to welcome you with open arms and ears. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns as you embark on this new journey! As exciting as this new chapter is, we understand all the information and changes can be intimidating and overwhelming so please utilize us during this time of transition.



Welcome to Towson University

On-Campus Resources

Albert S. Cook Library

The Albert S. Cook Library has thousands of resources to help graduate students be successful in their courses. From books, journals, and online databases this space provides graduate students with copious amounts of literature to tackle your assignments! As a graduate student, you can gain access to the graduate student reading room located on the 2nd floor of this library. This space is exclusive to graduate students and serves as a space to study, do homework, or just take a break between classes. This library has a Starbucks on the 3rd floor (where you walk in) along with various study rooms, and print stations. If you are having trouble finding a source or need help citing an article, the librarians at Towson are experienced and readily available. We even have a chat a librarian service, for those late-night projects.

University Union

The University Union houses many important offices and programs for campus. Some of the services offered here are, the University Store where you can rent new or used textbooks or purchase Towson apparel. Another important office here is the Auxiliary Services business office, this is where you can get your Towson OneCard which will be utilized to enter the Graduate student reading room in the library, print on campus, or take the campus shuttle. The union also has various dining options as well as a PNC and SECU Bank ATM's and a post office. At this time, the union is undergoing a state of the art renovation and will be ready for full operations by the spring semester of 2022.

Burdick Hall

Built in 2018, this recreation center is state-of-the-art! Burdick Hall has two multipurpose activity courts, studios for group fitness classes, a ninja warrior course, 33-foot climbing wall, swimming pool and numerous cardio machines and free weights for students to utilize. Burdick hall is accessible to students with their OneCard and included in tuition and fees. Bonus: there is a smoothie and acai window to fuel up after a hard workout!

The Writing Center

Students can go here during any stage of the writing process. Whether you need help brainstorming an idea or editing for a final time, experts at the Writing Center can assist you! You can make an appointment online with a writing assistant who is also a graduate student.

The Career Center

Staff at the Career Center can help you identify your interests and passions and turn it into meaningful work. Through self-assessments and one-on-one career counseling, this center can help you jumpstart the career you always wanted. With resume revisal, mock interviews, and LinkedIn assistance, the career center can assist with all your job-related questions or concerns.



The Counseling Center

Usually at no fee, the counseling center offers a myriad of services to students encompassing the importance of mental health. Some of these services are, individual and group counseling, substance treatment services, meditation and mindfulness rooms, referral services, emergency services, and various mental health related workshops and events.

Accessibility & Disability Services-

The ADS office serves students with various disabilities to find reasonable accommodations. Some populations the ADS office serves are students who may have a learning disability, physical or mobility disability, vision/hearing impairment, students with chronic health conditions, and those with mental health concerns. This office works with both temporary and long-term accommodations. If you believe you need reasonable accommodations, students are encouraged to make an appointment with the ADS office soon after enrolling to ensure measures can be met in a timely manner!

Child Care

Emphasizing the Montessori method of teaching, the Towson University Child Care Center is conveniently located on campus and staffed with lead teachers and caring student aides. This nature-based environment allows children to grow and learn with their peers with ample outdoor time. They offer part-time and full-time attendance and offer various student employment opportunities.

Center for Student Diversity

This office fosters inclusion, collaboration, and relationship building across campus. By providing social and transitional support to underserved or marginalized students, this office upholds Towson University's mission of a welcoming environmental for all.

Student Health Center

Located in the heart of campus, this student health center offers a wide range of services to students. Some services this health center offers are contraceptive/STD services and testing, physical exams, immunizations and tuberculosis testing, lab services, common illnesses, minor injuries, and referral services. This center encourages appointments however, walk-ins are available as well.



Information about the Graduate Student Association

What we do

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is here to help and serve you...graduate students! We represent graduate students at Towson University. Each college has a specific representative that you will hear from during various times of the semester, regarding upcoming events and University happenings. We are a voice for you! We address the needs and concerns that arise for graduate students. We offer workshops, research and professional development funds, and resources to help support your success.

In addition to these services, the Graduate Student Association also hosts graduate student orientation at the start of each semester. This orientation provides new graduate students with information regarding Towson's campus, resources, and allows you to meet your GSA officers and various program directors.

GSA Funding

The GSA provides financial support for graduate students who are conducting scholarly research, engaging in professional development opportunities, traveling to professional conferences, or presenting at academic conferences. Graduate students who are currently enrolled in a degree program, taking courses, and are in good academic standing may apply and be eligible for funding. Per fiscal year, students can apply for funding for one travel award and one research project. For more details please go to our website, [GSA funding](#) or email us at gsa@towson.edu.

Workshops

At various times throughout the semester, the Graduate Student Association will host professional workshops that are free and open to all graduate students. Some topics in the past included: Managing Stress for Graduate Students, Professional Branding, Working with Individuals With Disabilities, LinkedIn, and Office 365. The GSA will send out emails to notify graduate students about these workshops during the semester.



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Open Meetings

Did you know you are part of the graduate student association too? Each semester the executive members of the GSA hold weekly meetings with the Dean of Graduate Studies to discuss various topics and concerns. Reach out to the GSA at gsa@towson.edu to find out the weekly meeting time for the semester. Please feel free to come to a meeting to discuss a topic, meet us, or ask a question!

Information about the Graduate Student Association

Where we are located

Our office is located on the second floor of the Psychology building, which is connected to Hawkins Hall. Our office is room 204, you will find us there during typical business hours!





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Looking for a quiet place to study? Room 205 in the Psychology building is a unique and collaborative space for graduate students! This space has a microwave, mini refrigerator, 3 dual

screen computers, and a dry-erase board. This room is typically open 8:30am-7:00pm and is an open space exclusive for graduate students to collaborate or study.

Information about the Graduate Student Association GSA Social Media

Stay up to date with campus events and graduate student information by following our social media pages! We are continuously posting relevant information for graduate students along with quick tips for success, information about workshops, and other upcoming events.

Facebook: Towson University GSA

Twitter: @TowsonGSA

Instagram: @TowsonGSA

Graduate Student Facebook Group

But wait there's more! The Graduate Student Association has a Facebook group specific to graduate students, like you! The group is exclusive to Towson graduate students and is a place for students to ask questions, seek guidance, or just use as an open forum to discuss graduate student related topics and concerns. On this page you can may find helpful resources from other students, living arrangement ideas, happening's around Towson, and more! This group was created to provide graduate students with a sense of community.





Graduate Assistantships

About Assistantships

There are various types of assistantships, students are encouraged to contact their program director to discuss the opportunities that may be relevant or available in their field of study. More information about assistantships can be found [here](#). The various types of assistantships are listed below.

- Graduate assistantships
- Teaching assistantships
- Research assistantships
- Full time (20 hours per week)
- Half time (10 hours per week)

Students may be eligible for an assistantship if they are:

- Admitted to a graduate degree seeking program at Towson University
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher in each term and in good academic standing
- Registered for course units each term of assistantship

Benefits of an Assistantship

While assistantships offer great financial benefits, there are other reasons to pursue an assistantship. Graduate students who work an assistantship may benefit professionally and personally. With this position, students may gain familiarity in their field, communication skills, leadership opportunities, administrative experience, and more.

Along with the professional experiences, students who are hired for an assistantship position will be provided with a tuition waiver and bi-weekly stipend based on the assistantship position, full time or part time. This information can be found [here](#).

How to Find Assistantships

Most assistantship are posted on Towson University's Handshake page. While the majority are posted here, program directors are not required to post openings, therefore, we encourage students to contact their program director upon acceptance into their program. You can access Handshake by clicking [here](#) and will be prompted to sign in with your Towson University student information.



The Local Community

What's nearby?

Towson offers the best of both worlds between city and suburbs. With Baltimore being just under 10 miles away, it is the quintessential location for a graduate student to explore, find employment, try new restaurants, and more! Towson offers a Collegetown shuttle that offers free transportation to 5 universities in the Baltimore region. This is a great way to explore your new city for free!

Situated by the waterfront, *Fells Point* in Baltimore has picturesque cobblestone streets, restaurants with a waterfront view, and unique boutiques. Conveniently just 25 minutes from campus, Fells Point makes for a great lunch or dinner spot, especially when the weather is great. You can take a look [here!](#)

Home to the Naval Academy and just 45-minutes away from campus is *Annapolis, Maryland*. Annapolis is known for its historic buildings, Chesapeake Bay views, fishing, shopping, and food- specifically Maryland Blue Crabs. You can find more points of interest and things to in Annapolis [here](#).

Washington DC is just 50 miles away and makes for an awesome day trip or nice weekend getaway! Washington DC and its surrounding neighborhoods are filled with history, culture, amazing food, museums, parks, and more! Other points of interest to consider visiting while in Washington DC may be, *Old Town Alexandria, Georgetown, Arlington, Logan Circle, DuPont Circle, and the Navy Yard*.



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Things to do

Within walking distance or just a short car ride away, Towson has many things to offer. Listed below are common locations you may be visiting while in your new town...

To enjoy a meal and music with friends:

- Barley's Backyard Uptown (0.7 miles)
- C&R Pub (0.9 miles)
- The Rec Room (0.9 miles)
- The Point In Towson (1.0 miles)
- Hightopps Backstage Grille (4.6 miles)

Grocery needs

- Giant (1.3 miles away)
- The Fresh Market (1.4 miles away)
- Safeway (1.4 miles away)
- Trader Joes (1.6 miles away)
- Sprouts Famers Market (1.7 miles away)
- Weis Markets (1.8 miles away)
- Aldi (2.2 miles away)
- Whole Foods (4.1 miles away)

Caffeine

- Dunkin Donuts (0.6 miles away)
- Starbucks (0.5 miles away)
- Cunningham's Café (0.8 miles away)
- Atwater's (1.6 miles away)
- Einstein Bros (1.7 miles away)
- Corner Bakery (1.9 miles away)
- Wawa (2.3 miles away)

Shopping



- Towson Town Center – luxury mall with over 180 stores (1.0 mile away)
- Target (1.8 miles away)
- Walmart (1.9 miles away)
- Homegoods (1.9 miles away)
- TJ Maxx (2.0 miles away)

For nature guru's:

- Lake Roland Park (3.7 miles away)
- Double Rock Park (6.7 miles away)
- Loch Raven Reservoir (4.7 miles away)
- Federal Hill Park (11.0 miles away)

Getting around/travel:

- Penn Station - Amtrak - 8.5 miles away
- Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) – 26.5 miles away
- Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport – 58.9 miles away
- Dulles International Airport – 74.6 miles away
- Greyhound bus – 10 bus stops - Baltimore area
- Mega Bus- location at White Marsh Mall – 9.3 miles away

Other Points of interest

USA Today ranked Baltimore “among the America’s 10 best cities for college students.”

Below are some more things to do in the surrounding area. Click the link for further details...

- List of seasonal [Farmer's Market](#) in Baltimore
- [Sherwood Gardens](#) – known for its 80,000-tulip showcase- 3.5 miles away
- [Maryland Zoo](#) – representing over 200 species of animals - 8.5 miles away
- [National Aquarium](#) –home to more than 20,000 animals - 10.3 miles away
- [Little Italy](#)– restaurants, festivals, and more - 10.2 miles away



- [Inner Harbor](#) –Science Center, Hard Rock Café, and Water Taxi ride- 10.9 miles away
- [Baltimore Orioles](#) at Camden Yards - 10.8 miles away
- [M&T Bank Stadium](#), Home of the [Ravens](#) football team-11 miles away
- [R. House](#) - “launchpad for outstanding food and community” – 12 miles away

Coming soon!

With its rising population and desired location, the Towson area is constantly evolving to fit the needs and wants of the community! According to Baltimore Business Journal, “In two years, it (Towson) will be busier, have more crowds of people and be more alive... it will be more cosmopolitan.” Here are some things coming to your town in the near future...

Off campus:

- Hotels - a Hampton Inn and Home 2 Suites by Hilton
- Whole Foods – 45,000 square-foot store located on the corner of York road and Towsontown Boulevard
- [Towson Armory](#) – the new “front door” to the university

On campus:

- Renovation of Student Union coming Fall 2021; food market inspired atmosphere, 15,000-square foot ballroom, student activity space
- Renovated College of Health Professions coming in 2024



Local Housing

Near Campus

If you are looking to stay near campus, there are many options for off-campus apartments! Many of these apartments are conveniently located near Towson shuttle stops too, this will help you cut down on costs of having a parking permit. Below are some common apartments in the Towson area.

- [Courthouse Square Apartments](#) – Charming apartments in walking distance of stores and campus
- [Somerset Apartments](#) – Shaded and well-maintained community
- [Rodgers Forge Apartments](#) – Neighborhood-like community close to campus
- [The Quarters](#) – Various floorplans and newer amenities
- [Altus Apartments](#) -Individual leases in one to four-bedroom apartments near campus and Uptown Towson
- [Donnybrook Apartments](#) – Walking distance to campus and access to shuttle stop

Downtown

Some students choose to live downtown in the Baltimore area. The commute is typically anywhere from 20-30 minutes depending on location and traffic patterns. Living downtown provides students with the opportunity to live in an apartment or rent a house/row home. Some of the most popular areas for graduate students and young professionals to live in are neighborhoods near the inner harbor, such as...

- Charles Village
- Fells Point
- Federal Hill
- Canton

Campus Parking and Transportation

Shuttle service

Towson University has a free shuttle service for students and faculty/staff of Towson University. The shuttle stops at various points around the surrounding Towson area, stopping both on and off campus. There is also an on-campus shuttle that can transport students to various locations around the campus. You can download TU shuttle app which allows students to track its location throughout the day. Shuttle schedules and information can be found [here](#).



Student parking passes

If you choose to live at a location that the TU shuttle does not go or prefer to drive yourself to and from campus, students have the option of purchasing a Towson Student Parking Pass. A parking permit is required Monday-Thursday 6am-8pm and Friday from 6am-3pm. There are various options for purchasing the best parking permit for you. Students can buy a parking permit for the whole academic year, fall term only, spring term only, or night-only option. Students are encouraged to look at the campus map for eligible parking garages and locations. More information regarding student parking can be found [here](#).



Below are some services and resources that Graduate Students can reach out to for questions.

Additional information can be found on [our website here!](#)

Accessibility & Disability Services

Administration Building, Suite 232-235

[Website](#)

Email: tuads@towson.edu

Campus Police

Public Safety Building

[Website](#)

Email: police@towson.edu

Civic Engagement & Social Responsibility

Administration Building

[Website](#)

Email: civicengagement@towson.edu

Cook Library

[Website](#)

E-mail: library@towson.edu

Counseling Center

Ward & West, 2nd floor

[Website](#)

Email: counseling@towson.edu

Graduate Student Reading Room and Student Lounge

The reading room in Cook Library 202A and the student lounge in Psychology 205 are places to study and relax.

Inclusion & Institutional Equity

Administration Building, Suite 214

[Website](#)

Email: oiie@towson.edu



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International Students & Scholars

Psychology Building, Suite 408

Website

Email: isso@towson.edu

Military & Veterans Center

Psychology Building, Room 107

Website

Email: tuvetcenter@towson.edu

Parking & Transportation Services

Union Garage, Lower Level

Website

Email: uPark@towson.edu

Registrar

Enrollment Services Center, Room 223

Website

Contact Us

Student Computing Services

Cook Library, Room 35, Towson Run, Room 123

Website and Chat

Email: scs@towson.edu

Writing Center

Liberal Arts Building, Room 5330

Website

Email: wrobertson@towson.edu

[Quick Guide to Graduate Academic Requirements \(PDF\)](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Policy Reminders \(PDF\)](#)