



UAW 2865: Academic Student Employees



Know your rights!

Here are some of the major rights and protections guaranteed by our contract. If any of these rights are being violated, the union is here to help! Contact a steward or email merced@uaw2865.com to talk about your problem. Grievance resolution often happens informally; **contacting the union about your problem does not commit you to any formal grievance procedure.** Our contract is only meaningful if these rights and protections are enforced, so contacting the union about a violation helps not just you, but all of us.

➤ **Appointment Notification and Appointment Security**

When you are hired you should be issued **an appointment notification letter**, which states the dates you are being hired for, how many hours, and what your pay and benefits are. If you accept an appointment, that job is then **guaranteed**. If your section is canceled after you're hired, the university either has to reassign you to another section, or pay you anyway. You are also entitled to supplemental documentation that details **what course you will be assigned to, and what your specific duties will be**. This should be in the form of a check-list, filled out by your supervisor.

➤ **Childcare Subsidy**

Any academic student employee working at 25% time or more who has non-school-aged children is entitled to a **\$900 per semester childcare reimbursement**. Starting this summer, ASEs with **summer appointments** are also eligible for a **\$600 subsidy**. To find out more about the subsidy and get the form necessary to receive it, go to: <http://www.uaw2865.org/member-resources/childcare/>.

➤ **Full remission of in-state education and registration fees and health care premiums**

Whenever graduate students work at least 10 hours a week as a GSI, Reader or Tutor (a 25% appointment or higher) the university pays 100% of our in state education and registration fees (called Educational and University wide Student Service Fees) in addition to our healthcare premiums. This also applies to undergraduates working as TAs.

➤ **Health Insurance**

ASEs are eligible to participate in the UC Student Health Insurance Program (UCSHIP). An ASE who is a registered grad student with a 25% employment or more is eligible for **premium remission**.

➤ **Medical, Family and other kinds of Leave**

In addition to **3 paid sick days per semester**, salaried ASEs appointed at 50% time are entitled to **3 days of paid short-term family-related leave** per semester which can be used for illness, disability or family emergency. Salaried ASEs are also eligible for **paid long-term leave up to four weeks**. Up to four weeks of paid leave can be used for childbearing or up to two weeks for serious illness of an ASE or an ASE's family member or to care for and bond with an ASE's newborn or newly adopted child. Unused short-term leaves may be added onto long-term leaves where necessary to increase the amount of time that an ASE may be on leave.

➤ **Protections against sexual harassment and discrimination**

Our contract protects against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, medical condition, HIV status, status as a veteran, age, citizenship, political affiliation, union activity and membership or non-membership in the union.

➤ **Workload**

You are **entitled to pay for all duties related to your appointment**, including reading the course material, attending lecture, preparing for discussion, answering student e-mails, etc. It also means you can't be required to work more than the hours you are being paid for. For a teaching assistant (GSI) working at 50%, this means that you **cannot be asked to work more than 370 hours during the semester**. This should average 20 hours a week, and you **cannot be asked to work more than 40 hours in any week, or more than 8 hours in one day**. If your duties ever exceed these amounts, your supervisor should reassign work to make the load manageable, or if that is impossible your appointment percentage can be increased to reflect your actual working time. **Workload problems are rarely limited to one ASE!** If you have workload problems, check with your co-workers and pursue resolving the problems collectively. Our contract gives us the right to file group and union policy, as well as individual grievances.

Too much work for ASEs is not just a problem for employees, but for our students as well – ASE working conditions are student learning conditions. We can improve the quality of education at UC by enforcing our workload rights!

To read about these items in more detail and find out about other rights and protections, you can read the full contract at: <http://www.uaw2865.org/about/current-uaw-contract/>

Where's the union when you need them?

For any questions or inquiries, you can send an email to **merced@uaw2865.org**.

➤ **Stewards and Head Stewards**

Stewards are members who volunteer to act as union representatives. Stewards help with membership outreach and education, contract enforcement (finding out about contract violations and filing grievances), and other organizing projects. *If your department or school is not represented by a steward, you can nominate someone to become one!*

➤ **Merced Elected Officers**

Unit Chair: Vacant
Recording Secretary: Patrick Wilkinson