Schar Course Buyout Policy

July 1, 2026

- As a default policy, faculty members may buy out up to three courses per academic year using grants and contracts. Accordingly, the minimum teaching load for a standard nine-month faculty member is either 1–0 or 0–1, unless the faculty member has been awarded a fellowship or annual leave during the same academic year. Faculty members who buy out all of their teaching obligations for the academic year remain responsible for all other service obligations, such as attending faculty meetings, participating in promotion and tenure discussions, and voting when eligible.
- Beginning July 1, 2026, course buyouts requested by faculty members on new proposal budget submissions will be budgeted **at a default rate of 20%**. However, if the PI is able to cover a nine-month Schar Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) **stipend and tuition** through the current award or another PI's award, the applicable course buyout rate will be 15% for that academic year (AY).
- If the PI funds a Schar GRA stipend and tuition for the academic year, the PI may buy out **up to two courses at the 15% buyout rate** per AY. The default 20% buyout rate will apply to any additional course buyouts beyond this limit.
- If the PI funds stipends and tuition for more than one Schar GRA, the 15% buyout rate may be applied to up to two courses per academic year per GRA. The default 20% buyout rate will apply to any additional course buyouts beyond this limit.
- If the PI and Co-PI on the same award jointly fund one GRA stipend and tuition and both request course releases, **a total of two courses** may be bought out at the 15% rate. The PI and Co-PI are responsible for determining which course releases will be budgeted at the 15% rate versus the 20% rate, and in which semester.
- If GRAs are hired from schools other than Schar, the default 20% course buyout rate will apply.