UB to fund new graduate assistant programs

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University of Bridgeport is offering 165 new graduate assistantships, each worth more than \$5,000 annually, to help students gain valuable research and teaching experience while defraying the cost of their education.

Students applying to graduate-level programs at the Schools of Engineering and Business will be automatically considered for the assistantships, which will be first offered in the 2009 fall semester.

"The University of Bridgeport is pleased to be in the position to offer this opportunity to so many highly qualified students," said Barbara L. Maryak, the associate vice president of admissions. "The graduate assistantships will help many students significantly."

The graduate assistantships will be awarded by a faculty panel to those students who are enrolling full-time. Candidates will be judged based on their grade point averages and, in the case of international students, their TOEFL scores, as well.

Award recipients will then be assigned to research, administrative, and/or teaching assistantships in the engineering and business schools, thereby qualifying them to reduce their tuition by up to four credits, or \$2,560, per semester.

UB has always offered GA opportunities, but until now, students have not been eligible to receive an assistantship award prior to their first semester, Maryak said.