

Effective start date of S-point accrual	Summer 2025 onwards
Effective start date of S-point usage	Summer 2026 onwards
Window of calculation (recurring)	Summer, Fall, Spring

KFSCIS TA Allocation Policy

Approved by Jason Liu (Director).

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A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the methodology for the quantification of faculty's mentoring, research, and scholarly contributions into *Support-Points* (hereafter: *S-Points*) for the purpose of securing a Teaching Assistant (TA) line funded through the KFSCIS. This mechanism is designed to transparently allocate school's resources. Awarding of all S-Points, and subsequent allocation of TA Lines under this policy is contingent upon the availability of schools, college, and/or university funding. Notwithstanding any calculation herein, the School Director reserves the right to adjust, reduce, or deny the allocation of S-Points or TA Lines based on strategic school needs, budgetary constraints, or the professional judgment regarding compliance with the spirit and letter of these guidelines.

B. STANDARD S-POINT ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Table 1. S-Points are calculated on a per-semester basis for the following contributions

Item	Contribution Category	S-Point Assignment	Key Eligibility Requirements
1	RA (from Grant)	0.25	Student must be funded at 0.5 FTE at least at base RA rates (plus tuition) as determined by FIU UGS, and funded by an active, external grant. Internal FIU grants/fellowships and external fellowship funding secured without the faculty input are ineligible.
2	Graduated PhD Student	0.5	Primary/sole supervisor is allocated a max. 0.5 points. Co-supervisors can mutually agree upon the allocation of points. In the absence of such agreement the points are split 50/50.
3	Recognition	0.1	Director-approved regular awards (e.g. best paper award, highly reputable venue papers etc.) will get 0.1 points. Major Distinctions (e.g., IEEE Fellow status, NAE member, etc.) are assigned a variable, higher S-Point value, at the discretion of the Director.
4	Selective Venue Paper (SVP)	Variable	A pool of 3 S-points will be reserved each evaluation year (Summer, Fall, Spring) to be split among all faculty who have published a paper that counts for the school's csrankings.org* rank and meets the eligibility requirements for csranking.org (venue, length, or other requirements). A faculty member is first assigned an individual SVP score equal to 1/n for each eligible paper, where n represents the total number of authors on that paper. The individual S-point is then calculated based on the following formula: Individual S-point faculty earns = $3 \times \frac{\text{Total SVP points of the faculty}}{\sum \text{SVP of all faculty (for a year)}}$

Remarks.

- S-Point Value:** One S-Point can be debited from the faculty's account for one TA line per semester (default: base TA rate; higher depending on student's academic progress and experience level). Fractional S-points are permitted in increments of 0.5 S-Points, resulting in a proportional allocation of the TA line.
- Banking:** S-Points are cumulative, are calculated per semester basis, and do not expire until used. One's balance can go negative in the case of funding gaps, to be paid back by future S-point accumulation.
- No Retroactive Claims:** Points are only earned starting from the effective accrual date. Points cannot be claimed retroactively.

C. APPLICATION AND REVIEW CYCLE (ANNUAL)

- Submission and S-point Calculation Process:** Items #1 and #2 (Table 1) will be calculated using FIU KFSCIS records. Items #3 and #4 (Table 1) will be based on the faculty's annual evaluation and any supporting documentation provided by the faculty.
- Maximum per Faculty Member:** Faculty can redeem no more than one TA Line in a single academic semester funded through the school. Any exception to this rule will require Director's approval.
- Review and Approval:** The Graduate leadership committee, GPD and Director shall review submissions for compliance with these guidelines and notify the Faculty Member of the approved allocation prior to the start of the semester in which the relief is requested. The list of students supported by KFSCIS TA lines and their faculty advisors will be made available to all faculty at periodic intervals.

*Although CSRankings.org is not exhaustive, faculty are expected to target premier venues within their specific subfields. These contributions will be recognized and weighted accordingly during annual performance evaluations.