



## Graduate Meal Plan (GMP)

Rice H&D in association with Rice GSA

Rice University Housing and Dining and Graduate Student Association have worked cooperatively to create a meal plan for graduate students. This meal plan will allow graduate students to eat in an undergraduate servery. The features of this meal plan are given below.

### Details

#### 1. Signing up for the Graduate Meal Plan

- a. Graduate students can sign-up for the Graduate Meal Plan by filling out the following Add Meal Plan Form [here](#).
- b. The total number of open positions in the Graduate Meal Plan is **160** for the fall and spring semester. If all 160 spots are filled, interested students can still sign-up and will be waitlisted for the GMP. If during a semester a GMP spot opens up, the students will be notified.
- c. Graduate students will have to sign-up for the Graduate Meal Plan each semester. Thus, at the end of the spring semester, you will need to sign-up again for the following fall semester.
- d. Sign-up for the fall semester begins Aug. 1; sign-up for the spring semester begins Dec. 15.

#### 2. Choice of Plans

- a. Graduate students signing up for the Graduate Meal Plan can select between the following options:
  - i. 85 lunches/semester: This is equivalent to five meals/week. Plan cost: \$680/semester OR \$8/lunch (same price as extended to undergraduate students)
  - ii. 50 lunches/semester: Plan cost: \$400/semester OR \$8/lunch
  - iii. 25 lunches/semester: Plan cost: \$200/semester OR \$8/lunch
- b. All unused meals will expire at the end of the semester. There will be no rollover of meals between semesters.
- c. Charges for the selected plan will be billed to the student's ESTHER account as a one-time charge. The student is allowed to opt out of the GMP during the fall semester by Sept. 15 and the spring semester by Feb. 14. You may not opt out after the specified dates. If this happens, the student will be refunded the pro-rated amount based on the number of meals that the student has used. However, a student who has opted out cannot rejoin the GMP during the same semester even if spots are available.

### 3. Choice of Servery

- a. Graduate students signing up for the Graduate Meal Plan can provide their top three preferences for the servery they wish to utilize.
- b. There are **FIVE** undergraduate serveries participating in the Graduate Meal Plan – *North, South, Seibel, West, and Sid Rich Kitchen*. Each servery has a limit on the number of graduate students that it can accommodate as a part of the Graduate Meal Plan. These are:
  - i. North – 40
  - ii. South – 30
  - iii. Seibel – 35
  - iv. West – 35
  - v. Sid Rich Kitchen – 20
- c. The North and West serveries are located closer to the Engineering and Natural Sciences buildings while the Seibel, South, and Sid Rich Kitchen serveries are located closer to the Bioscience Research Collaborative (BRC), Social Sciences, Humanities and Jones School of Business buildings. You can see the servery location map [here](#).
- d. Servery allocation will be made on a first-come-first-serve basis. Thus, whether or not you get allocated to your top preference will depend on whether or not all spots at your preferred servery(s) are filled.
- e. You can dine **ONLY** at your designated servery location.

### 4. Rules and Regulations

- a. **Servery Timings**
  - i. The lunch hour of all college serveries are: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
  - ii. There is no restriction on when graduate students with the Graduate Meal Plan can dine at the college servery.
- b. **Use of Graduate Meal Plan**
  - i. Once you sign-up for the Graduate Meal Plan, your Rice ID card will be activated for the GMP within **one business day** by Rice Housing and Dining. Access to the college servery will be through your Rice ID card.
  - ii. You must carry your Rice ID card whenever you go to your designated servery for a lunch. No exceptions will be made if you are not carrying your Rice ID card.
  - iii. Sharing the Graduate Meal Plan with another graduate student is NOT allowed.
  - iv. Serveries are NOT an “*all-you-can-eat, multiple entry*” buffet. It is a once-through system. However, it is acceptable to go in a second time at the end of your meal to grab fruit, ice-cream, milk, etc.
- c. **Actions defined as “Food Theft”**
  - i. Eating one lunch and then packing another “TO-GO” **OR** bringing storage containers and packing food “TO-GO”.
  - ii. Sharing a meal plan with another graduate student without buying an additional meal for them.

- iii. Taking food out of the servery. (*This includes small items like fruits, yogurt, etc. You are allowed to take any of these items after finishing your main course. However, you must finish eating it in the servery and not take it back to be used at a later point of time.*)
- d. **Consequences of Food Theft**
  - i. If a member of the Graduate Meal Plan is found engaging in one of the actions described above, his/her access to the servery will be revoked for the entire semester.
  - ii. Rice University Housing and Dining, who provide the Graduate Meal Plan, reserve the authority to deny access to individuals found guilty of food theft.
- e. **Use of Undergraduate College Commons**
  - i. Undergraduate '*College Commons*' are the large spaces located adjacent to the college serveries. These are used by the undergraduate college students for programming exclusive to members of the colleges. All members of the Graduate Meal Plan are expected to respect any ongoing college programs in the College Commons by not using the Commons during these events.