Graduate Meal Plan (GMP)  
Rice H&D in association with the Rice GSA

Rice University Housing and Dining and the Graduate Student Association have worked collaboratively 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 outlined 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 “Meal Plan form” on the webpage.
   b. The total number of open positions in the Graduate Meal Plan is 160 for the fall and spring semester. This is a “first come, first serve” process to fill the 160 spots and once they are filled, interested students can still sign up and be waitlisted for the GMP. If during the 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. You may sign up for the fall semester starting at 12:00 am on August 1 and for the spring semester at 12:00 am on December 15.

2. Choice of Plans
   a. Graduate students signing up the Graduate Meal Plan can select between the following options:

   **Plan C:**
   85 lunches/semester: This is equivalent to five meals/week.
   Cost: $616/semester

   **Plan D:**
   50 lunches/semester
   Cost: $362/semester

   **Plan E:**
   25 lunches/semester
   Cost: $181/semester
b. All unused meals will expire at the end of each semester. This plan does not rollover between semesters.

c. The plan will be a one-time charge to the student’s ESTHER account. If you change your mind and decide to opt out of the plan, you must do this by September 15 for the fall semester or by February 14 for the spring semester. From the date you opted out, there will be an adjusted prorated amount for the meals consumed and the refund will be reflected less those meals used. Once you opt out, you will not be allowed to get back a meal plan within that semester.

3. Choice of Servery

a. 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 this program – North, South, Seibel, West, and Sid Richardson. Each servery has limit on the number of graduate students that it can accommodate as part of the Graduate Meal Plan.

i. North – 40
ii. South – 30
iii. Seibel – 35
iv. West – 35
v. Sid Rich – 20

c. The North and West serveries are located closer to the Engineering and Natural Sciences buildings while Seibel, South, and Sid Richardson serveries are located closer to the Bioscience Research Collaborative, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Jones Business School.

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 are filled.

e. Graduate students may dine only in the servery that they are assigned when they purchase the meal plan, with the exception of weekend lunches.

4. Policies

a. Dining Schedule
i. The lunch hour of all college serveries is 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.
ii. Graduate students may dine at any time during the scheduled lunch period.

b. Use of the Graduate Meal Plan
i. Your student ID will be activated for the GMP and entrance to your dining location by the first day of regular service each semester.

ii. You must carry your Rice ID card whenever you go to your designated server for a lunch. No exceptions will be made.

iii. Sharing the Graduate Meal Plan with another graduate student is NOT allowed. However, you may bring as many guests as you wish as long as you are present.

iv. Serveries are NOT an “all-you-can-eat, multiple entry” buffet. It is a “one pass through” system. It is acceptable to allow re-entry for desserts and beverages.

c. **Meal Plan Mis-use**
   i. Eating one lunch and then packing another “TO-GO” OR bringing storage containers and packing food “TO-GO”.
   
   ii. Sharing a meal with another student without buying an additional meal for them.
   
   iii. Taking food out of the server.

   d. **Consequences for Miss-use of the GMP**
      i. If a member of the Graduate Meal Plan is found engaging in one of the actions described above, his/her access to the server will be revoked for the entire semester
      
      ii. Rice University Housing and Dining, who administers the GMP, reserves the authority to deny access to individuals miss-using the meal plan.

   f. **Use of the 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 the 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.