



Quick Facts about Graduate Employee Unions

1. There are 34 campuses with unions of graduate employees in the US. These are:
UW Madison, U Michigan, U Oregon, U Florida, FAMU, U South Florida, U Mass-Amherst, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Davis, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Albany, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Potsdam, UW Milwaukee, U Mass-Lowell, U Kansas, U Iowa, Wayne State U, Oregon State, U Mass-Boston, Temple U, Michigan State, U Rhode Island, U Illinois-Urbana, U Illinois-Chicago, Rutgers U, and CUNY.
2. There are 9 campuses where there is either an organizing campaign or a Union without bargaining rights. These are:
NYU, Yale, Brown, Columbia, U Pennsylvania, U Akron, Ohio State, U Maryland, and Kansas State.
3. The oldest graduate employee union is the Teaching Assistants Association at UW Madison, founded in 1969.
4. The two institutions that grant the largest number of PhDs, UW Madison and UC Berkeley, have graduate employee unions.
5. Graduate employee unions affiliate in the greatest numbers with the American Federation of Teachers, the United Auto Workers, and the Communication Workers of America. Some unions have also affiliated, either singly or jointly, with the American Association of University Professors, the National Education Association, and the United Electrical Workers
6. Most graduate employee unions are stand-alone units, but some are part of either faculty (e.g., at Rutgers) or faculty and staff unions (e.g. at CUNY).

7. The AFT (American Federation of Teachers), UIC-GEO's affiliated union, has 17 graduate employee locals, is involved in organizing on 3 additional campuses, and represents over 16,000 graduate employees.
8. The National Labor Relations Board denied graduate employees at private universities the right to collective bargaining in 2004. This decision, based on a case brought forward by the administration of Brown University, overturned a 1998 decision granting collective bargaining rights to graduate employees at private Universities.
9. State employee labor law grants graduate employees the right to collective bargaining in many states. In Illinois, graduate employees are covered by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act.
10. UIC-GEO's affiliate Union, the AFT, changed the IELRA in 2003 to grant collective bargaining rights to graduate employees.
11. Prior to that, UIC-GEO's sister union at UIUC gained voluntary recognition from the Board of trustees, in 2002, and began bargaining its first contract in 2003.



Quick Facts about UIC-GEO Local 6297

- UIC Graduate Employee Organization won recognition in late 2004, and signed its first ever collective bargaining agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois which is effective:
August 16th, 2006 through August 15th, 2009
- UIC-GEO is a union representing the 1200+ Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- UIC-GEO is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) through its state affiliate, the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT).
- The IFT represents over 90,000 educators, university faculty and professionals, graduate employees, public employees, and educational paraprofessionals in the state of Illinois.

- The AFT represents over 1.3 million member educators, public employees, healthcare, and school professionals and paraprofessionals across the United States.
- UIC-GEO's sister union, UIUC-GEO, represents 2800 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. UIUC-GEO is also affiliated with IFT and AFT. The UIC-GEO also has a sister union at the University of Illinois at Springfield which is currently bargaining its very first contract.
- UIC-GEO is a democratically organized union run by and for its members. Members elect yearly two Co-Presidents, A Secretary, and a Treasurer. Individual departments also choose or elect Stewards to connect members from different departments. Members are also highly active in committees and smaller projects.

Contact Information

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