

What should I do next?

- Contact the GEO.
- Pick up some yellow GEO membership cards and ask your colleagues to sign them.
- Attend the next Stewards Council meeting.
- Set up a meeting in your department to talk about the GEO.
- If you have questions, email or call us!

Connect with Stewards Council

The Stewards Council makes decisions about and carries out GEO's organizing campaigns. Come to Stewards Council meetings to help set your union's course!

Contact the GEO:

815 W. Van Buren, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60607

312-733-9641
geo@uic-geo.net
facebook.com/uicgeo
@uicgeo



GEO
GRADUATE
EMPLOYEES
ORGANIZATION
LOCAL 6297 IFT-AFT AFL-CIO

BECOME A GEO
STEWARD

Become a GEO steward

Stewards are the liaison between the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) and their department, and represent their department at GEO meetings. If you are interested in getting involved, becoming a steward is a great way to do it.

Each year the GEO gets stronger because of its members' participation!

Why are stewards important to GEO?

Stewards:

- create a stronger sense of support and solidarity among graduate employees across the university.
- represent their departments within the GEO. That's why we need several stewards in every department.
- establish the networks and organization needed for collective action.
- are visible and daily reminders to fellow members and the UIC administration that the GEO is here to protect employees' rights.
- are eyes and ears of the union. They are the first to identify problems and begin to solve them through the grievance procedure or other actions.
- are trusted and respected within their departments to uphold the contract and be there for their fellow union members.

What can I do to get started?

If you would like to become a stewards, you can:

- Know the GEO contract. If you have questions, email a union leader who can answer them at geo@uic-geo.net.
- Be visible! Let everyone in your department know that you are a steward by sending an email to your colleagues. Wear your GEO t-shirt, GEO buttons, and hang a GEO door card on your office door.
- Start talking to Graduate Assistants and Teaching Assistants in your department about the GEO by asking them to sign a yellow membership card.
- Ask people about their work, and find out if there are any problems.
- Invite your colleagues to upcoming GEO events, such as socials, general meetings and bargaining sessions.

When most people have signed membership cards, or if people have questions about GEO, set up a GEO meeting in your department. GEO leaders and staff can help by providing agendas, materials, and other resources.

Frequently asked questions for stewards

How do I become a steward?

You can be elected by other graduate employees in your department, or volunteer -- we're always looking for active members.

How much time will it take?

Generally, being a steward takes only a couple hours per week. Make it part of your daily routine! As you do your normal work activities, remember to talk to your colleagues about their work and the GEO.

I'm an international student. Am I in the union?

Yes. International graduate employees may be union members, become stewards, and hold elected union offices. Union participation may not be considered or used against you when renewing a visa.

Who do I contact with questions?

Email the Chief Steward at stewards@uic-geo.net. Or you can call the GEO at 312-733-9641.