

**Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Department of Public Health
School of Public Health and Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts**

Gift Policy

Over the course of a graduate student career, faculty mentoring may result in the development of close bonds with students. In fact, such relationships are an important part of graduate education. Graduate students in the Division come from many different countries and cultural traditions. From some of these traditions, it may be common and accepted to give a small gift, or token of appreciation to a faculty mentor.

In the United States, such gift giving is not common, and may be construed in different ways, even though the intent may be simply to show appreciation. For this reason, it is the policy of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for faculty not to accept gifts from students. Faculty welcome positive feedback, and are appreciative of 'thanks' when offered. For this reason, please keep expressions of appreciation to a simple 'thanks'.