



BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY: *Tuition and Fees*

This policy establishes the basic principles for assessing, collecting, and managing tuition and fees at the University of Minnesota (University).

SECTION I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

The University is a publicly-supported institution whose programs benefit individual students, the state, and the nation. The following principles shall guide the assessment, collection, and management of tuition and fees at the University:

Subd. 1. Shared Responsibility.

The University's tuition and fee assessments shall reflect the shared responsibility, benefits, and needs of the individual student, the University, and the state.

Subd. 2. Access, Retention, and Timely Progress.

The tuition rate structure shall provide appropriate incentives for access, retention, and timely progress toward the degree.

Subd. 3. Determinants of Tuition Rates and Related Fees.

Tuition rates and related fees shall take into account the competitive environment of individual programs, personal benefits to individual students, and social needs as well as the level of state appropriations for the University's instructional programs. Graduate tuition rates, graduate assistant wage rates, and tuition waiver and remission policies shall enable recruitment of the best students to ensure that the quality of graduate programs is maintained and that the institution benefits from the contributions of graduate students to instructional and research programs.

Subd. 4. Assessment and Collection of Tuition and Fees.

All tuition and fees assessed by the University shall be collected and managed under approved University business procedures.

SECTION II. TUITION GUIDELINES.

Subd. 1. Tuition Assessment.

All students receiving credit-based instruction shall be assessed tuition or a comprehensive fee in lieu of tuition.

Subd. 2. Residency.

The Board shall establish the University's residency policy, consistent with state and federal law. The president or delegate shall approve interpretive conventions of resident tuition status, subject to Board review. Students shall be provided an opportunity to present arguments for possible classification as a resident for University purposes.

Subd. 3. Tuition Reciprocity Agreements.

Subject to Board approval, the University may participate in tuition reciprocity agreements with other states and Canadian provinces. These agreements shall specify the extent to which tuition is waived. Consistent with state law, the president shall recommend to the Board for action any additions or modifications to reciprocity agreements. The Board affirms that participation in reciprocity agreements involving the remission of nonresident tuition is based on adequate funding through the Governor's Office and the Minnesota State Legislature.

Subd. 4. Consortium and Exchange Agreements.

The president may approve consortium and exchange agreements with other institutions and other academic programs for the conduct of student exchanges and visiting student/scholar programs.

Subd. 5. Tuition Rates.

The president shall recommend to the Board for action the following tuition rates:

- (a) Undergraduate Students — For each campus, the resident tuition rates shall be the same for all undergraduate students and the nonresident tuition rates shall be the same for all undergraduate students. A college specific tuition surcharge may be established as a supplement to the relevant undergraduate tuition rate.
- (b) Graduate Students — Tuition rates for graduate students may vary by program, but shall be established on a cost-related basis within market rates.
- (c) Professional Students — Tuition rates for professional students may vary by program, but shall be established on a cost-related basis within market rates. The president or delegate shall determine the appropriate market comparisons for the professional schools of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and law.
- (d) Departmental Master's Degree Students — Tuition rates for departmental master's students may vary by program, but shall be established at a level above the undergraduate rate.
- (e) Non-degree Students — The president shall recommend tuition rates for non-degree students on each campus, recognizing that differences between degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students may justify differences in tuition rates.
- (f) Nonresidents — Nonresident, non-reciprocity tuition rates for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and departmental master's degree students shall be set at rates higher than for resident students.
- (g) Part-time Students — Tuition rates and fees shall recognize the difference in cost between full-time and part-time students.
- (h) Fees in lieu of tuition shall be set so that the total fee is equal to or greater than the tuition rate applicable to the credits earned. The total fee in lieu of tuition may include multiple components.

Subd. 6. Exceptions.

The president may recommend for Board action that nonresident, non-reciprocity students be charged resident student tuition rates on a campus, in certain colleges or programs, or for distance education courses delivered by correspondence or electronically to students defined as off-campus by administrative policy.

Subd. 7. Tuition Waivers and Remissions.

Tuition may be waived or remitted selectively in order to accommodate state law, to provide financial discounts to students the University is seeking to attract, to offer University employees a benefit, to promote cooperation with other educational institutions, to support the international exchange of students, and to serve humanitarian purposes. As a general rule, a tuition waiver or remission program shall be offered only if the University intends to provide such a benefit to all qualifying students, regardless of financial circumstance. The president shall recommend for Board action the terms and conditions of any new tuition waiver or tuition remission programs, and the University shall state publicly the exceptions it will approve.

SECTION III. FEES.

Fees within this section shall be assessed only in specifically justified situations consistent with the definitions and parameters identified, and shall be set based on consideration of actual cost and the impact to students.

The president may recommend for Board action assessment of the following fees:

Subd. 1. Course Fees.

Course fees may be assessed to recover costs of goods and services provided beyond the normal expectations of instructional delivery when those goods and services:

- (a) are essential to the educational outcomes of the course;
- (b) are unique to the type of course;
- (c) are used during the term of enrollment;
- (d) represent direct costs or assignable indirect costs calculated on a per-student basis

Course fee rates shall be set to recover but not exceed actual costs.

Subd. 2. Distance Delivery Fees.

Fees in excess of tuition may be assessed for delivery of instruction that does not require the physical presence of the student on campus. Fees for distance delivery of courses may be set to reflect market considerations.

Subd. 3. Academic Fees.

- (a) **Campus/Collegiate Fees.** Campus/collegiate fees are campus- and college-wide fees that may be assessed to all students enrolled on a campus or in a college for goods and services that directly benefit students but that are not part of actual classroom instruction. Allowable goods and services include advising, career services, computer labs, special equipment, orientation activities, and other goods or activities intended to enhance the student experience outside of actual classroom instruction. Each campus shall assess no more than one campus-wide fee and each college shall assess no more than one college-wide fee.
- (b) **Durable Goods Fees.** Durable goods fees may be charged by a campus or a college to their enrolled students (or any cohort or subset of their enrolled students) for educational materials and equipment that will be owned by, potentially owned by, or assigned to a specific student for their use during the entire term. Durable goods fees may not be charged for services, or for use of any equipment owned and retained by the University, with the exception of computer or other specialized equipment assigned for a full term to a specific student.

Subd. 4. Miscellaneous Term Fees.

Miscellaneous term fees may be assessed to an individual student (or to students in a defined group) for goods, services and benefits received, or for implementing a penalty. Allowable items covered in this subdivision are those that do not fall under course, distance delivery or academic fee categories (subdivisions 1 – 3) and include, but are not limited to: transcript fees, application fees, specific program fees, damage deposits, confirmation fees, and special exam fees.

SECTION IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**Subd. 1. Recommendations.**

The president shall recommend for Board action tuition rates for all levels of students and estimate tuition revenue in the Annual Operating Budget, which also shall include information regarding tuition practices, any proposed tuition refund schedules, and administrative, academic, or course fees.

Subd. 2. Implementation.

The president or delegate shall implement tuition policy and assess tuition. The President or delegate shall have the authority to implement changes to course, distance delivery, academic, and miscellaneous term fees outside of the *Annual Operating Budget* to correct errors or to establish fees essential for the delivery of new courses, provided the fees in question meet the standards set forth in Section III.

REVISION HISTORY

Adopted: February 10, 1995

Amended: May 10, 1996; April 11, 1997; June 12, 1998; March 12, 1999; December 10, 2004; June 10 2011; February 10, 2012; June 8, 2012; June 14, 2013

Last Comprehensive Review: 2016

Supersedes: Tuition Policy dated February 12, 1993; Tuition Policy dated November 10, 1993; and Tuition Waiver for American Indian Students at the Morris Campus dated February 10, 1961.