



## **BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:** ***Tuition and Fees***

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### **SECTION I. SCOPE.**

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

### **SECTION II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.**

The University is a publicly supported institution whose programs benefit individual students, the State of Minnesota (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 consider 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 core mission activities. 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. Development of Student Services Fee.**

All persons involved in the development of the student services fee shall recognize the relationship of the student services fee to the total tuition and other costs of education for students.

#### **Subd. 5. 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 III. 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 of Regents (Board) shall approve the University's definition of residency for tuition purposes consistent with state and federal laws and regulations. The president or delegate shall annually approve guidance regarding the application of the University's definition of residency. Students shall be provided an opportunity to submit arguments to the president or delegate 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 from the state.

#### **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 tuition rates to the Board for action as part of the Annual Operating Budget. Recommended tuition rates shall adhere to the following criteria:

- (a) Undergraduate Students — Within 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) Post-Baccalaureate Students— Tuition rates for students enrolled in graduate, professional, departmental masters, certificate, and other non-undergraduate programs may vary by program. Non-undergraduate programs without a specifically approved tuition rate will be subject to the general graduate tuition rate.
  - (1) Professional Students — Tuition rates for students enrolled in professional education programs 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.
  - (2) Departmental Masters Students — Tuition rates for students enrolled in departmental masters programs may follow the graduate tuition rate or may vary by program, but shall be established on a cost-related basis within market rates.
- (c) Non-degree Students — Non-degree students will pay the same per-credit rates as comparable degree-seeking students (e.g., undergraduate rates for undergraduate courses).
- (d) Nonresidents — Nonresident, non-reciprocity tuition rates shall be set at rates higher than or equal to those for resident students based on campus, college, program, or admission status.
- (e) Fees In Lieu of Tuition — 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 exceptions to these tuition rates and fees for unique programs based on market criteria and cost considerations.

### **Subd. 7. Tuition Waivers and Remissions.**

Tuition may be waived or remitted selectively in order to accommodate applicable laws, 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. 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 make public the exceptions it will approve.

## **SECTION IV. 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 the University's actual costs 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; and
- (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. 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 delivery of credit-based instruction. Campus/collegiate fees shall support activities tied to the academic mission. 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 delivery of credit-based 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. 3. Student Services Fee.**

- (a) The student services fee is a campus-based fee that supports enriched campus life outside of instructional activity. The student services fee funds non-instructional programs and activities; supplements the academic curriculum; and is an integral part of the University's educational experience.
- (b) The student services fee is assessed each term. The student services fee is mandatory for all students enrolled in a degree program and registered for six or more credits per semester or three or more credits per summer session.
  - (1) The following students shall be exempt from the student services fee but may opt to pay the fee:
    - students enrolled in annually approved programs such as mid-career professional programs;
    - students studying abroad for their full semester registration;
    - non-degree seeking students not otherwise designated; and
    - others as approved by the president or delegate.
  - (2) The following students shall be exempt from the student services fee and may not opt to pay the fee:
    - Regents Tuition Benefit Program recipients;
    - Senior Citizen Education Program participants;
    - post-secondary education option students and concurrent high school enrollment program students; and
    - others as approved by the president or delegate.
- (c) The student services fee may not be used to fund courses or activities for which academic credit is offered.
- (d) Student services fee-supported programs, activities, and services shall be available to students assessed the fee.
- (e) A committee shall be established on each campus to review and recommend annually the student services fee. The committee shall have a student majority.
- (f) Decisions regarding the allocation of student services fee funds among student groups shall be made in a viewpoint-neutral and reasonable manner.

### **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 or academic fee categories as defined by Subds. 1 and 2 of this section and include, but are not limited to, the following: transcript fees, application fees, specific program fees, damage deposits, confirmation fees, and special exam fees.

## **SECTION V. IMPLEMENTATION.**

### **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 course, academic, student services, or miscellaneous term fees.

### **Subd. 2. Delegation of Authority.**

The president or delegate shall maintain administrative policies and procedures to implement this policy and assess tuition and fees. The President or delegate shall have the authority to implement changes to course, academic, student services, 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 IV. Any significant or unusual fees established for the delivery of new courses added outside of the Annual Operating Budget shall be reported to the Board.

## REVISION HISTORY

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**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; June 14, 2024

**Last Comprehensive Review:** 2024

**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; Student Services Fee dated June 10, 2005.