

ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS
FACULTY AND STAFF TUITION DISCOUNTS¹
(Doc. T96-129)

I. INTRODUCTION.

As described below, the University offers tuition discounts in the form of Student Tuition Credits to University Employees and retirees, and the Spouses and Dependent Children of University Employees, retirees, and certain deceased University Employees.

These Standards implement Paragraph IV of the *Policy on Tuition Waivers* (T96-129) and codifies and regularizes certain practices and procedures, including those former waivers that had been collectively bargained. *See*, M.G.L. c. 75, § 1B (f).

These Standards apply to all members of the University community, except where any discount or other benefit contained in a collective bargaining agreement may be more favorable. *See*, M.G.L. c.150E, § 7(d).

Each campus and the President's Office is responsible for developing procedures to process requests for the Student Tuition Credits described in these Standards.

II. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) **Dependent Child** refers to a child of a University Employee or his or her Spouse: 1) who meets the requirement of dependency as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (whether or not such University Employee or Spouse claimed such child as a dependent on the most recent tax return); or 2) for whom the University Employee or Spouse has financial responsibility, as demonstrated by a court decree, FAFSA, or other suitable evidence as may be required by the campus Human Resources Department; but in no event shall Dependent Child mean an individual over the age of twenty-five (25) as of the first day of the semester for which the Student Tuition Credit is to be applied, unless specifically approved in writing by the President or designee.
- (2) **Continuing Education** refers to self-supporting, non-state-funded courses and programs as defined by a campus.
- (3) **Deceased University Employee** refers to a person who died while a University Employee.
- (4) **Part-time** refers to a regular schedule of at least one-half of the normal number of hours for the position (but less than full-time). However, 43-week employees are considered full-time.

¹ The *Policy on Tuition Waivers* refers to discounts as “waivers.” However, M.G.L. c. 75, § 1B, refers to discounts as “Student Tuition Credits.”

(5) **Retired University Employee** refers to a former University Employee who is retired and who meets the criteria for retirement under the rules of the State Board of Retirement.

(6) **Spouse** refers to an individual married to a University Employee.

(7) **Student Charge** refers to in-state and out-of-state tuition and fees that are charged to students for general attendance at the University; *provided* that, Student Charges shall not include any fee or other charge established by the University that is specific to a particular course, program or activity or any charges for room, board or student health insurance. *See*, M.G.L. c.75, § 1B.

(8) **Student Tuition Credit** refers to a reduction in Student Charges for an eligible student. *See*, M.G.L. c.75, § 1B (a).

(9) **University Employee** refers to any faculty member or a classified or professional staff member who is paid through the University payroll system, regardless of source of funds, and who is eligible for state benefits through the Group Insurance Commission and the State Board of Retirement. This definition includes employees on sabbatical leave, professional improvement leave, authorized leave without pay, sick leave, or disability leave, but does not include employees who are no longer employed (whether or not they are collecting workers' compensation or disability insurance benefits).

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

In the event that any provision in an applicable collective bargaining agreement or campus policy or practice offers benefits to a specific group of employees that exceed the benefits described in these Standards, such applicable provision, campus policy, or practice shall prevail. These Standards do not amend or alter the "System-wide Tuition Remission Policy for Higher Education Employees" administered by the Department of Higher Education.

- A. The Student Tuition Credits described in these Standards apply to all courses and program offered at any University of Massachusetts campus, except for the M.D. program at UMass Medical School, programs and the J.D. program at UMass Law School at UMass Dartmouth, and courses and programs identified by a campus as Continuing Education.
- B. Student Charges applied to all University Employees, Spouses, and Dependent Children for tuition are based on the applicable in-state/resident tuition rates and any Student Tuition Credits are calculated based on and deducted from such applicable in-state/resident tuition rates.

- C. University Employees, Spouses and Dependent Children receiving Student Tuition Credits are responsible for paying all other educational costs, including fees (application, laboratory, etc.), books, and supplies.
- D. Admission into any course or program at the University is governed by campus admission policies. All University Employees, Spouses and Dependent Children must apply for and meet the applicable admissions criteria to enroll and must continue to meet and maintain all applicable program standards and requirements.
- E. Admission to all courses and programs is on a space available basis. Each campus reserves the right to cancel any course or program at any time.
- F. As all Student Tuition Credits are former tuition waivers (see, M.G.L. c. 75, § 1B (f)), University Employees, Spouses and Dependent Children may not receive Student Tuition Credits based on these Standards and additional Student Tuition Credits that were also former waivers (*e.g.* the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship).
- G. A University Employee may take one (1) course per semester (no more than four credits) during normal working hours; *provided that*, such University Employee's supervisor determines that the course is directly and immediately related to the University Employee's work. Release time may be granted with the approval of the campus Chief Human Resources Officer or designee. Otherwise, the University Employee must use accrued vacation or personal leave or, if necessary, arrange with his or her supervisor to make up any lost work time.

IV. STUDENT TUITION CREDITS

A. University Employees

- 1. Current/Active University Employees
 - a. **Full-time**. A Full-time Current/Active University Employee is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 100% of the applicable tuition in a covered course or program.
 - b. **Part-time**. A Part-time Current/Active University Employee is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit of 100% of the applicable tuition in a covered course or program for up to seven (7) credits per semester.

2. Retired University Employees

A Retired (full- or part-time) University Employee is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 100% of the applicable tuition in a covered course or program for one (1) program of study, whether or not such retired University Employee is enrolled in such program of study at the time of retirement.

3. Terminated University Employees

Except as provided in Section IV(A)(2), above, former University Employees are not eligible to receive Student Tuition Credits. However, a University Employee who is terminated (for any reason) may complete the semester or course for which a Student Tuition Credit was previously applied.

B. Spouses and Dependents of Current/Active University Employees

1. Graduate Courses or Programs

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a current/active University Employee is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 20% of the applicable tuition in a covered graduate course or program.

2. Undergraduate Courses or Programs

a. Current/Active University Employees with two (2) or more years of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) University Service

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a current/active University Employee with two (2) or more years of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) University Service is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 60% of the applicable tuition in a covered undergraduate course or program.

b. Current/Active University Employees with less than two (2) years of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) University Service

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a current/active University Employee with less than (2) years of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) University Service is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 15% of the applicable tuition in a covered undergraduate course or program.

C. Spouses and Dependent Children of Deceased University Employees

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a Deceased University Employee who had at least five (5) years of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) University service is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 60% of the applicable tuition for one (1) undergraduate program of study, whether or not such Spouse or Dependent Child of such Deceased University Employee is enrolled at the time of such University Employee's death.

D. Spouses and Dependent Children of Retired University Employees

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a Retired University Employee who has begun a program of study prior to the official retirement date is eligible to receive a Student Tuition Credit equal to 60% of the applicable tuition for the remainder of their program of study, provided that the program of study is continuous.

E. Spouses and Dependent Children of Terminated University Employees

A Spouse or Dependent Child of a former University Employee is not eligible to receive Student Tuition Credits. However, a Spouse or Dependent Child, of a University Employee who is terminated (for any reason) may complete the semester or course for which a Student Tuition Credit was previously applied.

STUDENT TUITION CREDITS

Current/Active University Employees ¹	
Graduate Courses or Programs	100%
Undergraduate Courses of Programs	100%
Retired University Employees ²	100%
Spouses and Dependent Children of Current/Active University Employees	
Graduate Courses or Programs	20%
Undergraduate Courses of Programs	
University Employee w/ 2+ FTE Years of Service	60%
University Employee w/ < 2 FTE Years of Service	15%
Spouses and Dependent Children of Retired University Employees ³	60%
Spouses and Dependent Children of Deceased University Employees ⁴	60%

¹Part-time University Employees are eligible for up to seven (7) credits per semester.

²One (1) program of study.

³One (1) program of study; undergraduate only

⁴With at least five (5) years of FTE University Service; one (1) program of study; undergraduate only

NOTE: A terminated University Employee (or the Spouse or Dependent Child of a Terminated University Employee) may complete a semester or course for which a Student Tuition Credit was previously applied.