



NWLTC Tuition Discount and Waivers

Original Adoption: August 10, 2005
Effective Date: August 10, 2005
Last Revision: Initial
Authority: Board Action

This policy is in accordance with the *Louisiana Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fee Policy, Tuition Discounts and Waivers*, adopted by the Board of Regents on April 28, 2005, as follows: ***Charging lower tuition rates to graduate students serving as graduate or research assistants, as well as certain nonresident undergraduates recruited for their special talents, including academic, performing arts and athletic abilities, has long been a common practice at universities across the nation. In order to improve Louisiana’s competitiveness in recruiting qualified and desirable undergraduate and graduate students from both in-state and out-of-state, system management boards are authorized to adopt tuition discounting and waiver policies consistent with the desired student body profile of its campuses and the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education. These policies should be judicious in order to minimize loss of income.***

LCTCS colleges are authorized to charge lower rates to students recruited for the special talents, including academic, performing arts and athletic abilities subject to the guidelines set forth below. Tuition discounting and waivers must be consistent with the desired student body profile of the campus and the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education. These waivers should be judicious in order to minimize the loss of income.

No tuition or fee waivers will be applied to student’s accounts unless it is specifically outlined in an approved Memorandum of Understanding and/or written authorization is provided by the Regional Director or Chancellor. Application of these waivers must follow NWLTC procedures. These waivers must be properly documented and easily auditable. A copy of the procedures and criteria by type of waiver must be provided to the Office of the System President for review and reference.

Definitions:

1. “Tuition” or “tuition and fees” as used in this policy shall include tuition and all mandatory fees.
2. “Waivers” as used in this policy are exemptions of a portion, or all of the tuition and mandatory fees assessed by the institution to the student. These waivers or discounts generally reduce revenue that would otherwise be due to the institution.
3. “Scholarships” are not addressed in this policy because they refer to tuition, fees and other student costs paid to the student, or on behalf of a student, by a third-party or third-party entity such as federal, external grants or private sources. Scholarships do not generally reduce revenue due to the institution.

Funds allocated by LCTCS institutions for student waivers and exemptions will be granted and distributed using the following guidelines:

1. All waivers and discounts must be properly documented, easily auditable, and reflected within the College's financial system. Tuition waivers or fee discounts are recorded as contra revenue.
2. Waivers and discounts are available primarily for Louisiana residents. Non-resident students are eligible only as specifically indicated.
3. With the exception of TOPS Scholarships, no students may receive more than one fee waiver funded with state funds (including SGA waivers) during any semester.
4. No waiver can exceed the amount of tuition and mandatory fees incurred by the student.
5. All waivers, as noted below, must be approved by a college waiver committee; waivers requiring subject matter expertise may be recommended to the committee by the appropriate faculty or staff member of the College.
6. The appropriate campus office, such as the Bursar's office, will oversee the actual granting of all waivers and discounts to students, including Chancellor's waivers. Complete documentation must be available for each waiver in the appropriate campus office within the student's financial aid file.
7. Annually, each college must submit for review by the Board: 1) Number of budgeted waivers and discounts by type of waiver for the current fiscal year and 2) actual dollars waived and number of waivers and discounts, by type of waiver, and 3) a grand total in waiver dollar values for the most recent fiscal year ending June 30. This report will be submitted to the Board under separate cover, at the same time the budgets are submitted each year.

Each college may grant the following waivers based upon available funds:

1. Academic, Honors, and Leadership Waivers

A. Adult Students (out of high school 5 of more years). Each institution may grant waivers to adult students who show promise of outstanding performance. These waivers may be granted to full or part-time beginning students who have been out of high school for five years. The recipient must demonstrate outstanding performance on-the job or at the last educational institution attended. A written recommendation from the student's employer, a community leader, or faculty member who has taught the student recently must also be required by the college.

B. Continuing Students. Each institution may grant waivers to continuing college students with an average G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

C. First Time Freshmen. Each institution may grant waivers to high school graduates based on signed Memorandum of Understanding with each school board.

D. Student Government Association Waivers. Waivers of in-state tuition, exclusive of student self-assessed fees, may be granted to highest ranking (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer) SGA officers not to exceed the cost of full-time equivalent students. The waiver of tuition may remain in effect for the duration of satisfactory service of the respective terms of office. Out-of-state tuition may be waived for the SGA president only. Institutions with more than one SGA or with SGA's on different campuses may be

granted waivers for highest ranking (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer) SGA officers not to exceed the cost of full-time equivalent students for each campus.

E. Concurrent Enrollments: Cross Enrollment and Dual Enrollment Waivers or Discounts. Each institution may provide waivers for students who may be enrolled in circumstances of Concurrent Enrollment: Cross Enrolled or Dually Enrolled according to signed Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with System wide terms.

F. Intercollegiate Athletics Waivers Athletic Waivers – Not Applicable to NWLTC.

G. Out-of-State Waivers Gifted and Talented Students. In order to continue to improve Louisiana’s competitiveness in recruiting highly-motivated, gifted and talented students and workers, waivers for highly qualified out-of-state students (G.P.A. of 3.0, ACT of 19.5 and three written faculty recommendations) may be granted. Waivers must be limited to students whom the college has specifically recruited for their special talents (i.e. including academic, performing arts, and/ or athletic abilities). College-wide criteria must be established, advertised and uniformly implemented in the granting of these waivers.

5. Chancellor/Director Waivers. Chancellors/Directors may grant tuition waivers to a limited number of students. Consideration for such a waiver should be given to students with extenuating circumstances that preclude them from receiving other financial assistance. A uniform application process is required. Waivers may be granted on a one-semester basis; but, the waiver may be continued at the Chancellor’s or Director’s discretion at the conclusion of one successful semester of course work. Reasons for granting these waivers must be documented in the student’s financial aid file. Chancellor/Director waivers are limited to 1/10th of one percent of the official Board of Regents headcount based upon the previous Fiscal Year as officially posted.

Policy Reference: LCTCS Policy #5.025 Tuition Discounts and Waivers (supersedes LCTCS Policy#1.2.009 Guidelines for Scholarships Using State Funds)

Approved:



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