

School of Graduate Studies Cultural Diversity Waivers Policy

Updated December 2014.

Recognizing the educational benefit of a diverse student population, the University of North Dakota adopted a Cultural Diversity tuition waiver program. Special emphasis of this policy is to recruit, assist, and retain enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages, American Indian graduates of tribally controlled community colleges in North Dakota, all other under-represented groups, and economically disadvantaged students.

The dollar value of cultural diversity tuition to be waived each academic year is allocated by the Budget Office. Key points of the policy are as follows:

- Tuition waivers will be awarded in credit equivalents and may reflect a fraction of total credits registered for. (Dollar amount waived = credit hours x tuition rate by residency)
- Cultural diversity tuition waivers are awarded once per year for the academic year
- Tuition waivers do not accumulate or carry over from semester to semester
- If a student fails to enroll or use all credits the semester an award is made, the tuition waivers will return to the tuition waiver pool and will be used for future awards.
- In any one semester, the maximum dollar value of tuition waived may not exceed the total tuition billed
- Only students in "Approved" status are eligible for Tuition Waives. Continuing enrollment (996) credits are not eligible to be waived.
- Students are eligible for a maximum of two years as a master's graduate student, and a maximum of three years as a doctoral graduate student.
- Cultural diversity waivers may not be used for certificate programs or course offerings of the Division of Continuing Education (correspondence study, extension, telecommunication courses, non-credit courses), or distance/on-line courses/degree programs
- International students, non-US Citizen, and students who are receiving a full tuition waiver or tuition payment from other resources are not eligible for a cultural diversity waiver.

Applicants must meet one of the following definitions for eligibility:

- Individuals historically under-represented (African American, American Indian, Asian American, or Hispanic American).
- Enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages as defined pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and as such constitute a political group officially recognized by the United States government.
- Persons who are economically disadvantaged, who are defined as persons who have a total family contribution not to exceed 25% of North Dakota resident tuition of the previous year based upon the federally prescribed need analysis formula.
- Applicants who receive funding from programs which pay full tuition will not be eligible for a Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver. Applicants who receive funding from programs that do not pay tuition or pay only a part of tuition may receive the Cultural Diversity Waiver, however, the amount of the tuition waiver may not exceed the amount of unpaid tuition.

Special Preference will be given to:

- Enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages with particular emphasis to enrolled members of the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
- American Indian graduates of North Dakota Tribal Colleges.
- Individuals who are economically disadvantaged
- Incoming graduate students

In order to be eligible for the Cultural Diversity Tuition, a student must:

- Be admitted to a program and be in approved status
- Past academic performance will be used in ranking applicants

- Applications for renewal must demonstrate continued progress in their program
- Generally, recipients should be enrolled full-time

Selection Process

A point system has been designed to assist in ensuring that the cultural diversity waivers are awarded to the highest priority students, based on the criteria identified for these waivers; to recruit, assist, and retain enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages, American Indian graduates of tribally controlled community colleges in North Dakota, all other under-represented groups, and economically disadvantaged students.

Assigning Points:

1 Point for Ethnicity – American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic American, or other

1 Point for Economically Disadvantaged – if applicant meets criteria (EFC \leq 25% of the ND resident tuition for the previous year per FAFSA information).

1 Point for enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band, or Chippewa, or Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

1 Point for American Indian graduate of a North Dakota Tribal College

Total possible points (4)

Questions regarding the new tuition waiver policy should be emailed to questions@gradschool.und.edu.