

## Cultural Diversity Waiver Policy

Recognizing the educational benefit for the members of our academic communities derived from a culturally diverse student population, Mayville State has adopted a Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Program.

This Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Program will grant a maximum amount of waivers of tuition each year, as determined by the Cabinet, to facilitate diversity and the needs of disadvantaged students on our campus.

Tuition waivers should not be used exclusively to benefit one population, but should embrace the needs of students from a variety of circumstances.

### CULTURAL DIVERSITY TUITION WAIVERS SELECTION CRITERIA AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

#### A. DEFINITIONS

1. Cultural diversity for this policy is inclusive of all aspects of human differences, including but not limited to: age, background, citizenship or national origin, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, language, political views, race, religion sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status. International students are included under a separate waiver program.
2. American Indians are defined as 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.
3. Members of underrepresented or minority groups include individuals who identify themselves ethnically as African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or multi-racial.

#### B. AMOUNT OF WAIVERS

The amount of a waiver will not exceed the amount of North Dakota tuition. Tuition waivers do not include fees, books, board, room, and other costs of attendance. Cultural Diversity waivers will consider financial need when they are awarded. Cultural Diversity Waivers may be awarded in combination with other academic and athletic scholarships. Generally, awards will be made for an academic year. Awards can be made for a longer or shorter duration.

The total amount of Education Cultural Diversity Waivers to new education students and those admitted to Teacher Education will not exceed the equivalent of 10 full waivers at the North Dakota Tuition rate. An additional 5 full waivers at the ND tuition rate will be available to meet past criteria and practices which have placed priority on Native American students. Any waivers available after meeting past criteria and practices may be available for the Education Cultural Diversity Waivers.

#### C. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

**There will be two groups of students that will receive priority for consideration for Cultural Diversity Waivers.**

1. Members of underrepresented groups or minority students applying for, and being considered for Education Cultural Diversity Tuition Waivers. Students wishing to receive priority consideration in this category must have indicated their minority cultural status when applying for admission to Mayville State. This status will be verified with data from Connect ND. Students may indicate more than one ethnic/minority group in Connect – either the primary or secondary group status will be considered when verifying this status.
2. Native Americans who are enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives and Villages. Particular emphasis will be given to enrolled members of the Spirit

Lake Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Sisseton Tribe, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Dependents of enrolled members of these tribes will also receive consideration for cultural diversity waivers, as will graduates of North Dakota tribal colleges. Applicants who wish to receive special emphasis based upon enrollment in a federally recognized American Indian tribe and Alaska Native and Village must attach verification of enrollment to the application.

#### **D. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

1. Minimum qualifications for new freshmen who are Native Americans are a GPA of 2.00 or higher, and an ACT of 18 or a combined SAT of 1270. In order to be eligible for renewal, recipients must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
2. Members of underrepresented groups or minority students being considered for an Education Cultural Diversity Waiver must meet the following academic criteria. New freshmen must have a minimum of a 2.50 CGPA and new transfers must have a 2.75 CGPA. The criteria for the amount of waiver considered under this category will also include a sliding scale of CGPA and ACT/SAT scores for new freshmen and a variable scale of CGPA for new transfers and will determine the initial amount of the waiver. Renewals of Cultural Diversity waivers under this category are dependent upon a minimum CGPA of 2.75 for freshmen and 3.00 for transfers. Current students formally admitted into teacher education programs must maintain a 2.75 CGPA in order to be eligible for a renewal of their waiver.

#### **E. OTHER ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

1. Recipients must be enrolled full-time (12 credits) if they are residential students at Mayville State. Residential students who drop below 12 credits at any point in the semester may be required to repay the amount of the waiver.
2. Recipients enrolled in off campus or collaborative programs must be enrolled in at least six Mayville State credits during a term that they receive a diversity waiver. Off campus or collaborative students who drop below 6 credits at any point in the semester may be required to repay the amount of the waiver. Recipients enrolled as collaborative students will not receive a waiver of tuition for any credits taken from another institution.

#### **F. APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. New undergraduates must submit a Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver application form to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to March 15 in order to receive top consideration.
2. Renewals of waivers to continuing students will be based on meeting academic performance criteria and taking into consideration a student's financial needs.
3. Applicants who wish to receive special emphasis based upon enrollment in a federally recognized American Indian tribe and Alaska Native and Village must attach verification of enrollment to the application.

#### **G. SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Students who have applied for a diversity tuition waiver and who have completed all application for admission processes will be considered for an award. New freshmen or transfer students must have formally applied for admission and must be eligible for non-provisional admission before an Education Cultural Diversity Waiver can be offered.
2. The institutional Diversity Committee will provide input for the development of selection criteria to be used in administering the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver, and will recommend to the Cabinet levels of waivers to be awarded each year. Criteria for Education Cultural Diversity Waivers may include the factors of academic performance, explicit interest in education programs, financial need, personal recommendations, and satisfactory completion of entrance requirements for formal admission into teacher education.

3. The letter of notification to the recipient regarding the waiver shall include a statement that acceptance of this award may affect other financial aid awards.

#### **H. AWARD AND SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Members of underrepresented groups or minority students formally admitted into teacher education programs may receive Education Cultural Diversity Waivers that are equal to the ND Tuition rate. The combination of this waiver and other Non-Resident or International Student waivers may not exceed the total tuition and fee charges for that student.
2. Student's financial need will be considered when awarding any Cultural Diversity Waivers. Because Cultural Diversity Waivers must be applied to tuition charges; other aid such as Pell Grants, Scholarships and other gift aid may be applied to fees, or room/board charges. The Financial Aid Office will be consulted prior to the final awarding of Cultural Diversity Waivers and the total financial aid amount awarded cannot exceed the total cost of education.
3. The final selection of all Cultural Diversity Waivers will be made by a committee consisting of: The Education Division Diversity Coordinator, a faculty member from the Education Division, a faculty member from another academic division, the Director of Enrollment Services, and the Director of Financial Aid. The Vice President for Student Affairs will serve in an advisory capacity to the committee. Awards will be made on a rolling basis, starting on April 1 of each year. The committee will make awards monthly until the start of the fall term and by December 1 for awards for the spring term. In order to be considered for an Education Cultural Diversity Waiver, a new student must have been unconditionally admitted to Mayville State and must have submitted FAFSA information to the institution. Current students must also have a FAFSA on file with the institution for the award year being considered.

#### **I. OTHER PROCESSES**

1. Award selections for new students receiving Cultural Diversity Waivers will be forwarded by the Enrollment Services Office to the Financial Aid Office for inclusion in the student's 'financial aid package.' Award selections for returning students will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office by the Vice President for Student Affairs after verification that the student has meet academic renewal criteria as defined and determined by the institutional Diversity Committee. Once the Financial Aid Office verifies that a Cultural Diversity Waiver and other aid does not exceed an individual student's financial aid budget, the waiver will be applied to the student's account by the Business Office.
2. Each year, the Director of Enrollment Services, and the Vice President for Student Affairs will meet with the institutional Diversity committee to review the Cultural Diversity Waiver program to verify the proper use and accuracy of previous awards and determine their effectiveness as a recruitment and retention tool. Recommendations for changes in the incremental amounts of awards for the following year will be forwarded to the Cabinet, and changes in advertised eligibility and award criteria will be established.

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