

Non-Resident Merit Waivers

Non-Resident Merit Waiver/Scholarships are reductions of out of state tuition and are targeted for use to recruit and retain students from the Western Undergraduate Exchange states, Midwestern Exchange states, and other non-contiguous states and non-contiguous provinces, and contiguous states and provinces.

A. Definitions:

1. Contiguous states and provinces include residents of South Dakota, Montana, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
2. Midwestern Exchange states include residents of Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois.
3. Western Undergraduate Exchange states include residents of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
4. Non Contiguous states and Provinces include residents of any other state or Canadian province.

B. Amount of Waivers:

1. Waivers shall not reduce a student's tuition to an amount that is less than the North Dakota rate tuition rate. There are no specific limits to the number of Non-Resident Waivers that can be awarded in any given year. The amounts of the waivers may vary and generally will be awarded in increments , ranging from a minimum amount that is one-half of the differential between the MHEC/Contiguous and North Dakota tuitions rates to a maximum amount that is the full differential between the out of state and North Dakota tuition rates, depending upon the student's residence. These amounts will generally be in increments of \$600.
2. Non-Resident Merit Waiver/Scholarships may be combined with Comet Athletic waivers, Cultural Diversity waivers and with other athletic or academic awards, but may not be combined with International Student waivers.

C. Eligibility Requirements:

1. New students must meet academic eligibility criteria established by the Enrollment Services Office and require minimum ACT/SAT scores and high school and/or college GPA requirements. These academic criteria generally require a minimum ACT Composite score of 18 or SAT of 1270 and a high school or college grade point average of 2.50. A scale utilizing ranges of ACT/SAT scores and GPA's will determine the specific amount of the waiver. In order to be eligible for a non-resident waiver a new student must be enrolled full time. Students who drop below full time at any point in the semester may be required to repay the amount of the waiver.
2. Current students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 to be eligible for a renewal of a non-resident waiver. The amount of the waiver will also vary based on the student's GPA. In order to be eligible for a non-resident waiver a current student must be enrolled full time. Students who drop below full time at any point in the semester may be required to repay the amount of the waiver.
3. Students receiving a non-resident waiver will be monitored each semester and those not meeting minimum academic requirements (2.5 GPA) will be placed on probation for one term. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirements after the second term will result in termination of the award.

D. Application Process:

1. There is no application process for new students to receive a Non-Resident Waiver. Enrollment Services staff will determine eligibility and make award offers as part of the recruitment process. Students offered a Non-Resident Waiver will have a specified time within which to accept or decline this award.

E. Selection Process:

1. Selections of new students who are to receive a Non-Resident waiver will be made by staff of the Enrollment Services Office based on established academic criteria.
2. Current students who have received a Non-Resident waiver will automatically receive a renewal of their waiver based on meeting established academic performance criteria. Current students who have not received a Non-Resident waiver may be selected for a waiver if their grade point average meets or exceeds the minimum of 2.50. These selections will be made by the Vice President for Student Affairs after a review of grades at the end of each spring term. Adjustments in renewal awards (increase or decrease) will also be made at this time.

F. Award Process:

1. Award selections for new students will be forwarded by the Enrollment Services Office to the Financial Aid Office for inclusion in the student's 'financial aid package.'
2. 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 and that they are enrolled full time.
3. Once the Financial Aid Office verifies that a Non-Resident 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.
4. Each year, the Director of Enrollment Services and Vice President for Student Affairs will review the Non-Resident Waiver/Scholarship 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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