

**MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Policy and Procedures Manual**

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Policy 940.20 – Annual Tuition and Fees for e-learning

**Effective: Fall Semester 2007; Revised: November 21, 2014**

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Board policy:

- A. Approval of a schedule of tuition and fees, and each request to approve tuition or fees for solely online students will be done concurrently with the submittals for on-site students, as set forth in Policy 940.12.1.
- B. Tuition rates for non-resident students admitted to online programs shall be set at no less than 125% of the BOR approved resident student tuition rates. An online program is defined as one in which 80% of the courses in the program are fully online courses delivered in a technology-enhanced distance learning (e-learning) environment. This policy imposes no ceiling for the non-resident tuition rates for enrollments in online programs, nor does it prohibit the campus from utilizing, as appropriate, the Western Undergraduate Exchange program tuition rate for qualified non-resident students who are studying solely online.
- C. The non-resident tuition rate may also be applied, at the discretion of the campus, to non-resident, non-degree seeking students enrolled in online courses that grant academic credit in order to serve professional development and continuous learning requirements for unique audiences such as teachers, healthcare professionals, and other audiences who must maintain current knowledge for their chosen profession. This policy does not apply to noncredit CPE.
- D. Non-resident students who are admitted to a campus-based program, who are also taking online courses will be assessed the tuition and fees at the full non-resident rate for all courses, plus the addition of any applicable Non-mandatory *eLearning* or online delivery fee.
- E. The campuses registering resident and non-resident students who are taking solely online courses shall waive a minimum of the following selected campus Mandatory Fees for those students that the campus identifies as not residing proximate enough (based upon zip code, county seat, etc.) to the campus to actually utilize the services funded by the following Mandatory Fees:
  1. Student Activity and Student Government Fees;
  2. Student Athletic Fees;
  3. Student Health and Dental Fees; and
  4. Other Fees not related to Technology Fees, Academic Support Fees, or Building Fees, that are for student-based activities which a solely online student cannot access or utilize.
  5. Additional Mandatory Fees may be waived by the campuses at their discretion in order to respond to the higher education on-line market pricing and competition.
- F. Campuses, at their discretion, may offer solely online students the opportunity to pay any or all of the above fees listed in item No. 4, on a positive check-off basis.
- G. This policy applies only to State-supported, credit bearing courses that are delivered as part of an online distance program that the campus has determined will generally not be able to consume the service(s) funded by the waived fees.
- H. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education will maintain the database of approved on-line programs that are subject to this policy.
- I. This policy rescinds all previous Regents' policies that were approved for online tuition and fees, except for those related to the delivery of specific academic programs of online study.

Definitions:

A solely online student is defined as one who is taking only web-based, State supported, academic credit bearing courses offered through a unit of the Montana University System. Excluding Continuing Education or Self-Supporting courses and non-credit bearing courses, any on-site course which requires a face to face meeting with the faculty or course instructor is not considered a solely online course.

National associations and research groups such as the Sloan Consortium, Babson Survey Research Group, and Eduventures define online programs as a degree or certificate program in which 80% or more of the total program is delivered in a technology-enhanced distance learning (e-learning) environment.

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History:

In further development of Item No. 133-110-R1106 (Nov. 2006) and rescinds Item No. 120-2005-R0703 (July 2003). Item No. 136-119-R0907, adopted by Board of Regents September 20, 2007. Revised November 21, 2014, Item 165-104-R1114.