

## MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

### FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Section 707.4

**SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN TUITION WAIVER**

**PURPOSE: To provide guidelines and procedures for the Native American tuition waiver**

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#### **A. Introduction**

The colleges of the MCCS have a long tradition of waiving certain costs of attendance for qualified Native American students. Over time, the colleges' practices have varied depending upon their unique regional, financial and operational demands and resources. Despite these variances and despite the fact that such waivers are not required by law, the colleges and MCCS have remained committed to assisting Native American students. The purpose of this procedure is to outline the common baseline benefits offered to Native American students by each of the colleges and to authorize the colleges to adopt additional assistance when and if such benefits can be provided without undue financial impact.

#### **B. Eligibility**

The tuition waiver provided by this procedure shall be available to any student who has:

1. Resided in Maine for the twelve consecutive months preceding enrollment for which the waiver is sought;
2. Qualified to matriculate in a degree program;
3. Completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if the student qualifies for a Pell or other grant(s) (as opposed to loan(s)), apply for such grant(s); and
4. Provided documentation that the student is a person whose name, or whose parent's or grandparent's name, is on the current tribal census of:
  - a. the Passamaquoddy Tribe;
  - b. the Penobscot Nation;
  - c. the Houlton Band of Maliseet;
  - d. the Aroostook Band of Micmac; or
  - e. a state, federal, or provincial North American Indian Tribe, or held a band number of the Maliseet or Micmac Tribes.

This documentation shall include an original tribal verification document sent directly from the pertinent tribal enrollment office to the college no later than two weeks prior to the start of the semester for which the student seeks the waiver.

### **C. Tuition Waiver**

The waiver available under this procedure is for the cost of tuition not met by grant(s) awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in *Section B* above. The waiver may not, either alone or in combination with other aid received, exceed the total cost of attendance as determined by federal standards and the college's financial aid office.

The tuition waiver available under this procedure applies to all credit hours that a student attempts after August 1, 2008. The waiver is also limited to the number of credit hours required for graduation from the one degree or two certificate program(s) in which the student first matriculates after August 1, 2008. A college may waive tuition for additional credit hours attempted after August 1, 2008 for a student who presents exceptional circumstances, provided that any such additional waivers do not result in a total waiver of more than 90 credit hour attempts per student. These are System-wide limits, meaning that all of a student's credit hour attempts at one or more MCCS college(s) will be counted toward these limits.

The tuition waiver provided by this procedure does not apply to room or board charges, book or tool costs, academic or program fees, or other student fees. Nonetheless, a college with unique financial and operational conditions may also waive the unmet need for one or more of these costs if the college determines that it can absorb the resulting lost revenues without undue financial impact.

### **D. Maintaining a Waiver**

To maintain a waiver under this procedure, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by federal and college guidelines, and otherwise remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

### **E. Transferring between Maine's Community Colleges**

Students transferring between Maine's community colleges must apply anew for a waiver from the new college, provided that a student's credit hour attempts at one or more MCCS college(s) will be counted toward the limits set in section C above.

### **F. Effective Date**

To the extent that this procedure, which memorializes existing college practices, changes any such practices, this procedure takes effect for the fall, 2010 semester.

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REFERENCES: *MCCS Policy 707*

DATE ADOPTED: March 23, 2010

DATE(S) AMENDED: December 16, 2014