
TITLE: Tuition Waivers

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The Board of Trustees of Whatcom Community College recognizes and supports the institution's participation in the following statutorily mandated, SBCTC mandated and college optional waivers in support of student access and success. Tuition waivers shall conform to the requirements and limitations of law as now authorized or as amended in the future.

STATUTORILY MANDATORY WAIVERS

The College shall participate in all statutorily mandated waivers.

A) Children and Spouse of Totally Disabled or POW/MIA or Deceased Eligible Veterans or National Guard Members

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.621 \(4\)](#)

Description: Established by Legislature, this waiver honors active and reserve veterans, National Guard members and their dependents. This is a mandatory tuition waiver for the children and spouses of totally disabled or POW/MIA or deceased eligible veterans or National Guard members.

Waiver Amount: All tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees), and all other fees incurred as a condition of a student's full participation in coursework and related activities

B) Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Law Enforcement Officers or Firefighters

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.380](#)

Description: This waiver is for the children and surviving spouses of deceased or disabled law enforcement officers or firefighters.

Waiver Amount: All tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees)

C) Wrongfully Convicted Felon

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.395](#)

Description: This waiver is for the wrongfully convicted individual, their children and step children.

Waiver Amount: All tuition and fees. Limitations apply per RCW.

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES MANDATORY WAIVERS

The College shall participate in all SBCTC mandated waivers.

D) **Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language and GED Preparation**

Rule: [WAC 131-28-026\(4\)\(a\)](#)

Description: Tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees) for certain ungraded courses may be waived. Per statute, this amount is set by the State Board.

Waiver Amount: Students pay \$25.00 per student per quarter. Colleges may waive the \$25 charge for students who are unable to pay.

E) **Apprenticeship**

Rule: [WAC 131-28-026\(4\)\(c\)](#)

Description: A fee reduction is available for apprenticeship students.

Waiver Amount: Community and technical colleges may waive one-half of the standard per-credit tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees).

COLLEGE OPTIONAL WAIVERS

The College shall have the ability to participate in the following optional waivers. College Optional Waivers shall be awarded within the provisions of the law and as approved by the College President.

F) **Financially Needy Students**

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.740\(1\)](#)

Description: This waiver is available for eligible financially needy students.

Waiver Amount: May waive all or a portion of tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees) for financially needy students eligible for resident tuition; May waive all or a portion of tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees) for other students, at college discretion, except for athletics, not to exceed three-fourths of one percent of tuition collections.

G) **International Student Exchange**

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.527](#)

Description: Waiver of nonresidential tuition differential for foreign students.

Waiver Amount: May waive all or a portion of the nonresident differential for foreign students.

Participation is limited to 100 full-time students each year.

H) **Refugee**

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.014\(3\)](#)

Description: Waiver of nonresident tuition differential for refugees, their spouse and dependents.

Waiver Amount: May waive all or a portion of the nonresident tuition differential for refugees, their spouse and dependents if the refugee is on parole status (allowed into the United States for humanitarian reasons), has received an immigrant visa or has applied for citizenship.

I) **Ungraded Course Based Waivers**

Rule: [WAC 131-28-026\(3\)](#)

Description: May waive tuition and fees for certain ungraded courses, such as Parent Education and Journey person at Whatcom Community College.

- a. Parent Education: Program must involve cooperative preschool.
Waiver Amount: Tuition and fees shall equate to \$52 per credit. Eligible students may apply for an additional tuition waiver reducing tuition rate to \$16 per credit based upon income eligibility requirements.
- b. Journey person: Training in cooperation with joint apprenticeship and training committee(s).
Waiver Amount: Waiver is 50% of the current tuition rate.

J) Over 18 Credit Exemption for Vocational Students – Resident and Nonresident

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.100\(3\)](#)

Description: This waiver is for vocational students registering for more than 18 credits (Resident and Nonresident).

Waiver Amount: May waive all or a portion of the additional operating fee charged students registered for more than eighteen credit hours in vocational preparatory programs.

K) Nonresident – Operating Fees Only

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.915](#)

Description: Waivers of the nonresident operating fee differential shall be established by the College President and included in College Procedure 3161.

Waiver Amount: May waive all or part of the nonresident operating fee differential; but not the building fee differential.

L) Athletic Waiver – Resident and Nonresident

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.915](#)

Description: This waiver is available to grant-in-aid-eligible resident and nonresident student athletes.

Waiver Amount: May waive up to 100 percent of the State Board established resident 15 credit tuition and fee rate, which shall be determined annually by the college president or their designee.

M) Senior Citizens – Audit/Credit

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.540](#)

Description: Waiver for students sixty years or older (Audit and Credit). Students shall be enrolled on a space available basis and must be Washington state residents. Students enrolling under this waiver shall register for no more than two courses per quarter.

Waiver Amount: May waive tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees) for students sixty years or older who are enrolled for credit. For students enrolled on an audit basis, a nominal fee, not to exceed five dollars per quarter, is to be charged.

N) State Employees

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.558](#)

Description: This waiver is for eligible state employees and teachers and other certificated staff. Students shall be enrolled on a space available basis.

Waiver Amount: May waive tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees) for state employees employed half-time or more. Students shall be charged a registration fee of not less than five dollars.

O) **High School Completion**

Statute: [RCW 28B.15.520\(1\)](#)

Description: Community and technical colleges may waive all or a portion of tuition (operating and building fees) and services and activities (S&A) fees for students 19 years of age or older who are enrolled in a high school completion program. Students must be Washington state residents.

Waiver Amount: May waive 1—8 credits per quarter, maximum of two quarters.