

Date: December 16, 2009
Subject: Tuition Waivers at the University of Washington

Who benefits from tuition waivers at the University of Washington?

The practice of waiving tuition is critical in addressing multiple needs and commitments at the UW. Tuition waivers are used to assist low-income students, recruit outstanding students, and support programs that enhance the university. Further, tuition waivers are a critical tool in maintaining a competitive advantage for recruiting highly qualified graduate students, whose efforts are essential to the University’s teaching and research missions. Some of the noteworthy waiver programs ensure access to the UW for:

- ❖ Children of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty
- ❖ Veterans, Washington National Guard members, and children of missing in action and prisoner of war veterans
- ❖ Low-income undergraduate and graduate resident students
- ❖ Teaching and Graduate Assistants in research and classroom positions

How much tuition revenue is waived at UW?

In 2008-09, the UW waived \$78.7 million of tuition for undergraduate and graduate students. The waivers listed below are those that the UW officially reports to the state. Many of the waiver programs are described on the following page.

Tuition Waivers Disbursed by Category and Year (in thousands)					
Undergraduate	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
ICA Gender Equity	\$1,458.5	\$1,584.6	\$1,704.3	\$1,846.2	\$1,996.7
Achievement Award	\$158.6	\$231.3	\$252.5	\$116.5	\$10.8
International Exchange	\$464.3	\$596.1	\$591.8	\$652.6	\$792.3
Employees moving to Washington*	\$8.4	\$4.8	\$24.8	\$5.2	\$27.9
Child of Deceased Police/Fire	\$27.9	\$23.5	\$42.6	\$37.0	\$30.4
Veteran’s	\$10.6	\$244.1	\$671.9	\$1,131.2	\$1,431.5
3% Need, 1% Merit	\$5,466.1	\$5,849.3	\$6,333.2	\$7,192.0	\$8,137.0
Other	\$0.0	\$22.1	\$3.9	\$3.8	\$3.1
Total	\$7,594.3	\$8,555.8	\$9,625.1	\$10,984.5	\$12,429.8
Graduate Professional	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
TA/RA Res Op Fee	\$12,559.0	\$13,925.4	\$14,949.0	\$15,796.6	\$17,591.3
TA/RA Nonresident	\$23,568.7	\$27,318.0	\$30,365.1	\$31,179.5	\$33,536.0
ICA Gender Equity	\$1.7	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Graduate/Professional NR	\$0.0	\$953.6	\$1,566.6	\$2,508.1	\$2,926.9
WWAMI	\$3,120.1	\$3,355.9	\$3,681.4	\$4,230.2	\$5,005.5
WICHE	\$125.0	\$115.6	\$121.6	\$139.2	\$136.0
Over 18 Hour Exemption	\$199.1	\$183.4	\$205.0	\$221.3	\$627.8
International Exchange	\$1,030.6	\$1,032.6	\$1,246.2	\$1,343.2	\$1,208.4
Employees moving to Washington*	\$65.7	\$40.7	\$39.4	\$30.6	\$15.5
Veteran’s	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$34.6	\$324.5	\$540.3
3% Need, 1% Merit	\$3,020.4	\$3,210.1	\$3,656.5	\$4,171.4	\$4,704.1
Total	\$43,690.3	\$50,135.4	\$55,865.5	\$59,944.5	\$66,291.8
TOTAL	\$51,284.6	\$58,691.2	\$65,490.6	\$70,929.1	\$78,721.6

Tuition waivers enable the UW to fulfill its mission and are supported by Washington State code. Some of the larger waiver programs at the UW are detailed below:

Intercollegiate Athletics Gender Equity (RCW 28B.15.740) – Federal law requires that the participation of women in intercollegiate athletics programs be proportionate to the percentage of women in the student population. Providing waivers to certain women athletes assists the UW in meeting this federal requirement.

International Exchange (RCW 28B.15.556) – When UW students study abroad and their host institution sends students to the UW, each student involved in the exchange can benefit from paying resident tuition rates while each institution supports the visiting student by subsidizing the tuition differential. The UW supports 100 students at most under this waiver.

***Dependent Children and Spouses of Employees moving into Washington from Other States** (RCW 28B.15.014) – Under this waiver, the spouse or dependent children of a UW employee who is recruited for employment from another state to work at the UW can have the non-resident portion of tuition waived for four quarters after the employee has moved to the state.

Veteran's Waivers (RCW 28B.15.621) – Waivers for veterans (and their spouses and dependents) can cover up to 50 percent of tuition costs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

3% Need, 1% Merit (RCW 28B.15.740) – One of the largest waiver programs at the UW, the “3% need, 1% merit” category supports low-income and outstanding students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. In total, 3 percent of the waiver balance is used to support low-income students and the remaining 1 percent is used for merit aid.

TA/RA Resident and Nonresident Operating Fee (RCW 28B.15.910) – As part of the compensation package for resident students that work as teaching assistants (TA) and research assists (RA), all or part of the operating fee component of tuition is waived. For nonresident graduate students serving in RA or TA positions, all or a portion of the operating fee can be waived. TA's and RA's fill critical instructional and research roles at the UW, often serving as an undergraduate student's first point of instructional contact in a course. Additionally, the UW fulfills its research mission with the innovation and work of its graduate students and considers waiving all or a portion of their tuition a critical part of their compensation for their service to the university. Given the practices of other research institutions, these waivers are necessary to compete for the best graduate students.

WWAMI (RCW 28B.15.225) – In an interstate agreement, the UW serves as the medical school for students from Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI). Students from these states pay resident tuition rates and their home states pay the balance of the cost of instruction directly to the UW Medical School.

WICHE (RCW 28B.70.050) – WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) is also an interstate agreement and supports UW graduate and professional students from 15 participating Western states by offsetting part or all of the nonresident tuition differential. Washington residents also benefit from this program when studying in a participating WICHE state.

Over 18 Credits (RCW 28B.15.100) – UW Pharmacy, Dental, Medical, and Law students are sometimes required by their programs to take over 18 credits in a given quarter. The UW is authorized to offset the normal mandatory tuition surcharge in these cases.

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