



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

VIII-2.61 - POLICY ON OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

(Approved by the Board of Regents, December 1, 1995; Technical amendments by the Board, December 12, 2014)

PREAMBLE

The University System of Maryland is committed to providing access for all citizens to high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs. This entails extending its academic programs, as need and demand require and as resources permit, to serve students in all regions of the State. In many instances, program offerings will be extended beyond the bounds of what is traditionally thought of as the campus.

The following principles will guide the decision of an institution to offer both an off-campus program and/or individual courses for credit.

- A. Off-campus programs will be consistent with the approved mission of the institution.
- B. An institution may only offer off campus a program leading to a degree or certificate that is authorized for that campus.
- C. Standards of program quality and student performance will be comparable to those of the on-campus program.
- D. The institution will determine the method of program delivery that is best suited to the educational backgrounds, experience, and learning styles of the students.

Institutional Responsibilities

Institutions that offer off-campus programs have the following responsibilities:

- A. To provide necessary services at the off-campus site at times convenient to students.
- B. For degree/certificate seeking students, to schedule courses to permit completion of the degree or certificate in a reasonable amount of time.
- C. To keep students fully informed of program requirements and/or changes, program costs, and financial aid information.

- D. To provide learning resources for off-campus students that are comparable to those provided to on-campus students.
- E. To ensure that guidelines for the selection and assignment for faculty teaching at the off-campus site are comparable to those used on campus.

I. Definitions

Program: A sequence of courses that leads to the awarding of an approved degree or certificate.

On-Campus Program: Any program offered in any format by a USM institution at its own main campus.

Off-Campus Program: Any program delivered in any format to a site other than that of the main campus of the institution offering the program.

Closed Site: A program offered for a particular organization or constituency that is not open to the general public, e.g. military base, hospital, or business organization.

Open Site: A program site that is open to the general public, i.e. access to program offered at an open site is not restricted to members of any particular group or organization.

Tuition: The price students pay for their education, including those mandatory fees that do not fund auxiliary enterprises or other self-funded activities.

II. Policy: Tuition and Fees for Off-Campus Programs

- A. Applicability. This policy applies to all degree-granting institutions of the University System of Maryland. It applies to all courses and programs offered at open sites only. It does not apply to non-credit courses or to credit courses or programs offered under a contract for which there may be a different negotiated tuition.

B. Tuition Levels

1. Tuition for both in-state and out-of state UNDERGRADUATE students who are enrolled either full- or part-time in an off-campus program will be the same as that for the on-campus program (see BOR Policy VIII-2.01, A).
2. Tuition for both in-state and out-of-state GRADUATE students who are enrolled either full- or part-time in an off-campus program will be the same as that for the on-campus program as defined by BOR Policy VIII-2.01, B.

3. The total cost (tuition and mandatory fees) to the student enrolled in an off-campus program will not exceed that for the student enrolled in the on-campus program, unless a waiver is granted. Where an institution can demonstrate that to deliver a quality off-campus program necessitates an additional delivery or specific program fee, such a fee may be requested. Off-campus programs for which a differential fee is requested will be approved by the Chancellor and reported to the Regents in the annual report on tuition.

III. Policy Implementation

- A. Each president will submit tuition and fee recommendations for off-campus programs and related data in accordance with the schedule and format set by the Chancellor. Supporting documentation will be provided for policy exceptions requested under section II.B.3. above.
- B. The Chancellor will recommend to the Board of Regents a tuition and fee schedule for off-campus programs offered by each institution as part of the annual operating budget request. Should the Chancellor's recommendation differ from that of the presidents, the Chancellor will make both recommendations available to the Committee on Finance of the Board of Regents.

(To be reviewed Fall, 1996 for possible revision and/or extension.)