



Policy Chapter: Chapter 10 Fiscal Management

Policy Number and Title: 10.001 Exemptions and Waivers from Tuition and Fees

I. Policy Statement

This policy defines tuition and fee exemptions and waivers for which statutory authority is provided to the University of North Texas. The provisions of this policy apply to all tuition, fees and charges imposed by the university on students, employees and the public, in accordance with Chapter 54, Subchapter D of the Texas Education Code. All waivers and exemptions are subject to change by action of the Texas Legislature and/or the UNT System Board of Regents.

II. Application of Policy

Students. All University.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Waiver

“Waiver,” in this policy, means that non-resident statutory tuition is waived, and the student is assessed a rate equal to the resident statutory tuition rate.

B. Exemption

“Exemption,” in this policy, means the student is exempt from paying a portion or all of tuition and/or fees.

C. Resident Tuition

“Resident Tuition,” in this policy, means the amount of tuition paid by a person who is a resident of this state.

D. Nonresident Tuition

“Nonresident Tuition,” in this policy, means the amount of tuition paid by a person who is not a resident of this state and who is not entitled or permitted to pay resident tuition in accordance with Chapter 54, Subchapter D of the Texas Education Code.

E. Census Date

“Census Date,” in this policy, means the date in an academic term on which an institution of higher education is required to certify a student’s enrollment to the coordinating board for purposes of determining formula funding for the institution.

F. Spouse

“Spouse,” in this policy, means a person in a legally recognized union of two individuals in a marital relationship, including a common law marriage as recognized by the law of the State of Texas.

G. Parent

“Parent,” in this policy, means a natural or adoptive parent, managing or possessory conservator, or legal guardian of a person.

H. Dependent

“Dependent,” in this policy, means the legal spouse of an employee; unmarried child under 26 years of age including the natural child of a parent; a legally adopted child; a stepchild, foster child, or other child who has a legally recognized parent-child relationship with the employee; or any child, regardless of age, who lives with or whose care is provided by an employee on a regular basis if the child is physically or mentally disabled to such an extent as to be dependent on the employee for care and support.

I. Child or Children

“Child or Children” in this policy, means persons who are the stepchildren, biological or adopted children of the parent; or were claimed as dependents on the federal income tax return of the parent filed the preceding year or will be claimed as dependents on the parent’s federal income tax return for the current year.

J. Teaching Assistant (TA)

“Teaching Assistant,” (TA) in this policy, means a graduate student who assists a faculty member in a class or laboratory but does not have primary responsibility for teaching a course for credit; they perform under the instructor’s direct supervision and provide general assistance to the instructional process, such as grading, tutoring, etc. Teaching assistants may not be listed as instructor of record.

K. Teaching Fellow (TF)

“Teaching Fellow,” (TF) in this policy, means a graduate student who is responsible for teaching a course for credit under the direct supervision of a faculty member or chair, receiving regular in-service training and planned and periodic evaluations. The TF is the instructor of record and is responsible for assigning of grades.

L. Research Assistant (RA)

“Research Assistant,” in this policy, means a graduate student employed in a part-time research position, in which the student’s academic training is based in part on the research performed or in which the research duties being performed will assist the student in fulfilling his or her degree requirements.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Party Responsibilities

1. The Vice President for Finance and Administration provides management oversight on the waivers and exemptions available to students, including review of appeals for

eligibility.

2. When applicable, the student must complete the designated application form and provide the required documentation.
3. Student Accounting administers all waivers and exemptions. University divisions, colleges, and academic and/or administrative departments may recommend students for waiver or exemption eligibility and provide documentation to Student Accounting for the waiver or exemption to be applied to eligible students.

B. Exemptions and Waivers for Tuition and Fees

The University will apply exemptions and waivers for tuition and fees based upon applications and supporting documents that meet the criteria of the exemption or waiver pursuant to Chapter 54, Subsection D of the Texas Education Code.

1. Waivers

a. Military Personnel and Dependents

Military personnel and their dependents as defined and eligible by [Texas Education Code §54.241](#) are entitled to register at UNT by paying the tuition fee and other fees or charges required of Texas residents, without regard to the length of time the officer, enlisted person, selectee, or draftee has been assigned to duty or resided in the state.

b. Academic Common Market Waiver

The UNT Board of Regents will charge nonresident students participating in the Academic Common Market and those enrolled in programs designated under [Texas Education Code §160.07](#) the same amount charged to resident students in such programs.

c. Faculty and Dependents

A teacher or professor of a Texas institution of higher education and the spouse and children of such a teacher or professor are entitled to register at UNT by paying the tuition fee and other fees or charges required for Texas residents without regard to the length of time the teacher or professor has resided in Texas. A teacher or professor of a Texas institution of higher education and the teacher's or professor's family are entitled to the benefit of this section if the teacher or professor is employed at least one-half time on a regular monthly salary basis by a Texas institution of higher education.

d. *Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, and Research Assistants*

A TA or RA of a Texas institution of higher education and the spouse and children of such a TA RA are entitled to register at UNT by paying the tuition fees and other fees or charges required for Texas residents under [Texas Education Code 54.051](#) of

this code, without regard to the length of time the assistant has resided in Texas, if the assistant is employed at least one-half time in a teaching or research assistant position which relates to the assistant's degree program under rules and regulations established by the employer institution.

e. *Mexican Citizens with Financial Need – Border Nations Waiver*

A small number of individuals that are citizens of Mexico and reside in Mexico and demonstrate financial need can enroll at UNT while paying the resident tuition rate.

f. *Competitive Scholarship Waiver*

UNT may charge a nonresident student who holds a competitive scholarship of at least \$1,000 for the academic year or summer term for which the student is enrolled resident tuition and fees without regard to the length of time the student has resided in Texas. The student must compete with other students, including Texas residents, for the scholarship. The scholarship must be awarded by a scholarship committee officially recognized by the administration and be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under criteria developed by the coordinating board.

g. *Economic Development and Diversification*

The Economic Development and Diversification In-state Tuition Incentive may be offered by the Economic Development & Tourism division of the Office of the Governor to qualified businesses that are in the decision-making process to relocate or expand their operations into Texas. The incentive allows employees and family members of the qualified businesses to pay the Texas resident tuition rate at UNT without first establishing residency if the business became established as part of the state's Economic Development and Diversification Program not earlier than five years before the relevant enrollment date.

2. Exemptions

a. Veterans and Other Military Personnel; Dependents – Hazlewood Act

The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees.

i. Hazlewood Act (Veterans)

Through the Hazlewood Exemption (Hazlewood Act) UNT will provide an education benefit to honorably discharged or separated Texas veterans and to eligible dependent children and spouses of Texas veterans.

ii. Hazlewood Act for Legacy (Child)

An eligible veteran or, if the eligible veteran has died, his or her spouse, or child's conservator, guardian, custodian, or other legally designated caretaker (if the child does not otherwise qualify for an exemption under [Texas Education Code, Section §54.341\(b\)](#)), may elect to waive the eligible veteran's right to all unused hours for which he or she is eligible (up to the maximum 150 semester credit hours) and may assign or transfer those hours to his or her child.

iii. *Hazlewood Act for Spouse/Child*

The Hazlewood Act is also extended to spouses and dependent children of eligible active duty, Texas National Guard, and Air National Guard Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of injury or illness directly related to military service, are missing in action, or who became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of a service-related injury or illness. Each child and spouse will be eligible to receive a 150-credit hour exemption.

b. *Highest Ranking High School Graduate*

The UNT System Board of Regents may issue scholarships each year to the highest-ranking graduate of each accredited high school of this state, exempting the graduates from the payment of tuition during both semesters of the first regular session immediately following their graduation. This exemption may be granted for any one of the first four regular sessions following the individual's graduation from high school when in the opinion of the institution's president the circumstances of an individual case, including military service, merit the action.

c. *Good Neighbor Program (Students from Other Nations of the American/Western Hemisphere)*

Qualified native-born students from the other nations of the American hemisphere and from Latin American countries designated by the United States Department of State, excluding Cuba and members of the Communist Party, may be exempt from the payment of certain tuition and fees, including graduate-level tuition.

d. *Tuition Exemption for Blind or Deaf Students*

A blind or deaf person, who is a resident of the State of Texas for tuition purposes, is entitled to an exemption from the payment of tuition and fees at the University. This exemption does not apply to fees or charges for lodging, board, clothing, or rental fees.

e. *Children of Disabled Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers*

Any person whose parent is an eligible firefighter or law enforcement officer who suffered an injury, resulting in death or disability, sustained in the line of duty according to the regulations and criteria then in effect governing the department

or agency in which the former employee volunteered or was employed will be exempt from the payment of all dues, fees, and charges. The exemption does not apply to general deposits or to fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing.

f. *Children of U.S. Military who are Missing in Action or Prisoners of War (MIA/POWs)*

UNT, on presentation of satisfactory evidence, shall exempt from the payment of tuition and fees the dependent child of any person who is a domiciliary of Texas on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, and who at the time of the registration is classified by the Department of Defense as a prisoner of war or as missing in action. The exemption does not apply to general deposits or to fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing.

g. *Tuition for Repeated or Excessive Undergraduate Hours – Hardship Exemption*

A resident undergraduate student who exceeds his/her degree program by 45 hours (if initially enrolled in Fall 1999 –Summer 2006) or 30 hours (if enrolled in or after the Fall 2006 semester) may be charged a higher tuition rate established by the University.

Additional information about [Excessive Hours and Repeat Course Fees](#) may be found at UNT Student Accounting.

h. *Distance Learning or Off-Campus Courses – Off-Campus Fee Exemption*

The UNT System Board of Regents may waive a fee it is authorized to charge if the Board determines that:

- i. a student is enrolled only in distance learning courses or other off-campus courses of UNT;
- ii. the student cannot reasonably be expected to use the activities, services, or facilities on which the fee is based; and
- iii. the waiver of the fee will not materially impair the ability of the institution either to service any debt on which the fee is based or to offer or operate the particular activity, service, or facility supported by the fee.

i. *Students Under Conservatorship of or Adopted from Department of Family and Protective Services*

Eligible foster youth currently or formerly under the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and those adopted from DFPS may receive free tuition at state-supported colleges or universities.

j. *Preceptors for Professional Nursing Education Programs*

To encourage nurses to serve as Clinical Nurse Preceptors UNT will provide an exemption of \$500 from tuition to them and/or their children.

k. *Firefighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses*

UNT will provide tuition assistance to eligible employed and volunteer firefighters in the state of Texas enrolled in college-level fire science courses. This program applies to tuition and laboratory fees only and requires proof of employment.

l. *Senior Citizen Exemption*

UNT will provide an exemption on up to six credit hours of tuition for senior citizens, age 65 and older, to continue their education and keep involved with UNT. This benefit applies to tuition only.

m. *Peace Officers Enrolled in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Courses*

UNT will provide tuition assistance to eligible employed peace officers in the state of Texas enrolled in undergraduate criminal justice or law enforcement courses. This program applies to tuition and laboratory fees only and requires proof of employment.

n. *Education Benefits for Certain Survivors of Individuals in Specific Public Servant Positions*

UNT will provide an exemption from tuition and fees to the spouse and children of individuals in specific public servant positions who were killed in the line of duty.

V. References and Cross-References

[Hazlewood Act](#)

[40 Texas Administrative Code § 461](#)

[Texas Education Code §160.07](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.014 \(a-2\)](#)

[Texas Education Code §§ 54.211-213](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.218](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.222](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.231](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.233](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.241](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.301](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.331](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.341](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.343](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.351](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.353](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.3531](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.354](#)

[Texas Education Code § 54.356](#)

[Texas Education Code §§ 54.364-367](#)

VI. Revision History

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| Policy Contact: | Assoc. Vice President, Student Accounting |
| Approved Date: | 12/22/2011 |
| Effective Date: | 12/22/2011 |
| Revisions: | 02/01/2016, 04/08/2025 |