

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Policy Manual

CHAPTER IV – FISCAL AFFAIRS

SECTION 30: STUDENT TUITION

The Board of Trustees shall annually review and establish tuition rates as permitted by law.

IN-DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS FOR TUITION PURPOSES

The determination of Montana residency status for tuition purposes is set forth in Montana Code. To be classified a Montana resident a student must be domiciled in the state for 12 months prior to registration.

To gain in-district status, a student must be a Montana state resident for tuition purposes and domiciled in the Flathead Valley Community College District.

IN-DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION FOR TEACHERS

Any OPI certified K-12 teacher, employed by a Montana school district, or Montana resident wishing to maintain teacher licensure, may be eligible as an in-district student and exempt from mandatory student fees when they enroll in Teacher Academy summer courses. Certified K-12 teachers outside of the State of Montana will be designated as out-of-district students and exempt from mandatory student fees when they enroll in Teacher Academy summer courses. Classes or programs designed similarly to Teacher Academy and Pre-K practicing educators, including childcare teachers, shall follow the same tuition schedule.

Outside sponsored and partnership programs approved by FVCC, including Montessori, will follow the regular student tuition schedule, except out-of-state students may receive a discounted tuition rate equal to 150% of out-of-district or WUE, whichever is less. If the cost of offering the class is greater than the scheduled tuition, the outside sponsor or partner will be responsible for the difference.

SENIOR CITIZEN TUITION

A senior citizen, for tuition purposes, is defined as a person age 65 or older. Senior citizens, who meet in the In-District residency requirements and are enrolled in credit courses, will pay only student fees.

I. EMPLOYER PAID/OUT-OF-DISTRICT TUITION (INDUSTRY RATES)

The tuition classification, “Employer Paid/Out-of-District” is established in recognition that district industries, which are also ad valorem taxpayers, have certain training needs which are satisfied through credit instruction for their employees.

The “Employer Paid/Out-of-District” tuition rate will be assessed for industry employees who would otherwise be classified as out-of-state students pursuant to Montana Code. The rate will apply only in those instances in which:

- A. The employer pays the employees’ tuition pursuant to an agreement with the College, and;
- B. The student enrollments occur in an industry-related training program offered by the College pursuant to an agreement with the industry employer.

The “Employer Paid/Out-of-District tuition” rate will be established by the Board of Trustees.

II. RUNNING START/DUAL ENROLLMENT TUITION

High school students enrolled in a Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) accredited institution are eligible for Running Start/Dual Enrollment in-district tuition and excluded from mandatory fees under Chapter VII, Section 10 for their first six credits, associated course/lab fees are not waived. Students not enrolled in an OPI accredited institution will be assessed tuition based on FVCC’s normal residency requirements and mandatory fees will not be waived. Students eligible for Running Start/Dual Enrollment will be assessed the appropriate running start tuition until the student graduates from high school or home school or through age 19, whichever occurs first.

III. TUITION REFUND

The President or his/her designee will establish refund procedures, as approved by the Board of Trustees, for distribution in College publications.

History: Formerly included in Section 600 – Finances, Policy 610 Adopted July 22, 1985 and revised every time tuition fees were changed; Policy 610.1 Adopted May 10, 1988; Revised December 15, 1992; and Policy 611 Adopted February 10, 1987; New Policy Adopted September 25, 2000; Revised July 24, 2006; April 28, 2008; November 24, 2008; May 21, 2012; Revised March 24, 2014, Revised January 25, 2016, Revised May 22, 2017; Revised April 23, 2018, Revised February 25, 2019, Revised February 24, 2020; Reviewed December 20, 2021; Reviewed December 16, 2024