



**DIRECTIVE 2017-089**

September 26, 2017

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE REGISTERED NURSE TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (RN TO BSN) ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAM

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education (the “Chancellor”). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 as well as Directive 2009-011, the University of Akron (“UA”) has requested for academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to continue to waive standard tuition rates for students participating in the RN to BSN online degree program. UA has demonstrated the following:

- UA’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing a continuation of the tuition waiver at its meeting on August 16, 2017. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- UA has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition to \$8,940 for the 32 credit-hour degree program, or \$279.38 per credit hour. This is a waiver of \$79.72 per credit hour.
  - UA will waive an additional \$2,000 for Ohio resident RN students participating in this program for a total of \$6,940 or \$216.88 per credit hour. This is a waiver of \$142.21 per credit hour.
    - The standard 12 to 18 credit hour plateau will not apply to this program.
  - Additional standard fees that will be associated with the UA Online RN to BSN program are:
    - General Service Fee - \$35.70 per credit hour
    - Administrative Fee - \$30 per semester regardless of number of credit hours

- Non-resident surcharge - \$1 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents (pursuant to approval of renewal of Directive 2015-047)
- UA proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be July 1, 2017 through academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- UA expects the tuition waiver will affect approximately 100 students per academic year.
- UA's goal for this waiver is to enable working nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. The additional waiver for Ohio residents is to specifically enable Ohio working nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing in order to benefit Ohio residents.
- The previous tuition waiver was very effective. UA reported an enrollment increase of 135.55% from June 2016 to June 2017. Additionally there was a 38.46% increase in the RN to BSN program fall cohort enrollment from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017.
- UA will monitor student courses and degree completion data to determine if the goals from this waiver are being met.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the Ohio Department of Higher Education's website for purposes of providing a period of public comment before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based upon my review and staff recommendations, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from the University of Akron as set forth above for academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

This directive will take immediate effect.

  
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John Carey  
Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**

**RESOLUTION 8-16-17**

**Continuation of RN-BSN Online Program Tuition Waiver and Program Pricing**

WHEREAS, The University of Akron's Board of Trustees at its meeting on April 15, 2015 approved resolution 4-4-15 authorizing and requesting the Chancellor's approval of a waiver of standard tuition and fee rates; and

WHEREAS, The College of Health Professions seeks to continue to price the online RN-BSN program at \$8,940 with authorization to offer up to a \$2,000 scholarship per student for Ohio RNs only; and

WHEREAS, That tuition waiver was approved by the Chancellor on June 15, 2015 through Directive 2015-034, to become effective beginning in the 2015 fall semester and continuing through any summer 2017 term that starts prior to June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, §375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly requires any waiver of tuition for a student or class of student not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education to be approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the online RN-BSN program will continue effective July 1, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as required by law, the administration will obtain approval from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for the associated fee waiver.



M. Celeste Cook, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

August 16, 2017



**Department of  
Higher Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
John Carey, Chancellor

**TUITION WAIVER REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

The following request has been posted for a 2-week public comment period and is recommended for approval. No public comments were received.

Recommender: Amy Shaffer

September 26, 2017

**University of Akron**

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Comments received:  
None