



## DIRECTIVE 2020-005

January 16, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO REDUCE TUITION BY 10% FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS ENROLLING WITHIN THREE SEMESTERS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

§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. 166 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 and Directive 2009-011, Cuyahoga Community College (“Tri-C”) has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to reduce tuition by 10% for qualifying high school graduates continuing enrollment with the college

- Tri-C has demonstrated the following:
- Tri-C’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- Tri-C has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition for high school graduates that enroll within three academic terms (fall, spring, fall) upon graduation if the student while in high school completed one or more Tri-C credit courses or one or more career technical courses.
  - Students wishing to participate in this program would be subject to the College’s standard application and admission process.
  - Earned discounts would be refunded at the end of term in which the discount was earned, provided the student did not have an open or delinquent balance with the College. If a student has an open or delinquent balance, the refund would first be applied to the amount owed.
- Tri-C’s current tuition rates are as follows:

Residency Status	Current Instructional Fee	Current General and Technology Fee	Current Surcharge	Current Total Tuition Rates	Current Tuition with Waiver
Cuyahoga County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	-	\$114.54	\$103.09
Out of County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$29.54	\$144.08	\$132.63
Out of State Students*	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$156.65	\$271.19	\$259.74

- Any increase in tuition rates in any term or academic year will result in increasing the specific amount to be waived such that the waiver remains 10% of the total tuition rate.
- This tuition waiver would encourage current Tri-C College Credit Plus and career technical students to enroll in courses at Tri-C within three academic terms after their graduating year thereby encourage timely college enrollment while providing students with a significant savings during their education journey.
- Tri-C proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, including summer terms beginning before June 30, 2021.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will continue to affect approximately 400-500 students.
- The goals of this waiver are:
  - Increases in recent high school graduates' access as well as increases in degree, certificate, and program completion;
  - Decreases in time from enrollment to completion;
  - Educational costs savings for students
- Tri-C will track access rates, graduation rates and student loan debt of program participants and compare those to students not participating in the program.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the ODHE website for the purpose of providing a public comment period before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

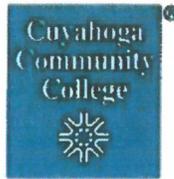
Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the continuation of the tuition waiver request from Cuyahoga Community College for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to reduce tuition by 10% to qualifying high school graduates that enroll at Tri-C within three academic terms after high school graduation.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

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## Where Futures Begin

June 3, 2019

Mr. Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) proposes the implementation of a tuition waiver program for students who successfully completed Tri-C credit courses or state approved career technical courses at any time during their high school career and subsequently enroll in one or more Tri-C credit courses within the first three semesters after graduation. The tuition waiver would begin in fall of 2019 and would continue through summer terms that begin prior to June 30, 2021; however, we anticipate the waiver to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority of the Chancellor to approve such waivers. Our formal request for the tuition waiver, including an explanation of eligibility, is outlined below.

### Specific tuition waiver request:

Students who successfully complete one or more Tri-C credit courses or one or more state approved career technical courses at any time during their high school career would be given a ten percent (10%) discount on instructional and general and technology fees, equivalent to \$11.45 per credit hour, provided the student continues to meet the requirements of the tuition waiver program. Out of County and out of State students in this population would also be provided with the 10% discount but would still be required to pay appropriate out of county and out of state surcharges as noted below using Tri-C's 2019/2020 per credit hour tuition and fees as an example:

Residency Status	Instructional Fee	General and Technology Fee	Surcharge	Total Tuition	Waiver – Ten Percent	Tuition with Waiver
Cuyahoga County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	-	\$114.54	(\$11.45)	\$103.09
Out of County Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$29.54	\$144.08	(\$11.45)	\$132.63
Out of State Students	\$95.04	\$19.50	\$156.65	\$271.19	(\$11.45)	\$259.74

Earned discounts would be refunded at the end of term in which the discount was earned, provided the student did not have an open or delinquent balance with the College. If a student has an open or delinquent balance, the refund would first be applied to the amount owed.

Office of the President  
District Administrative Services | 700 Carnegie Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878  
216-987-4850 | Fax 216-987-4848

**Rationale for this request:**

This tuition waiver would encourage current Tri-C College Credit Plus (CCP) and career technical (Tech Prep) students to enroll in courses at Tri-C within the first three academic terms after their graduating year, thereby encouraging timely college enrollment while providing students with a significant savings during their education journey. This waiver aligns with the recommendations set forth by the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education to incentivize timely graduation as well as to help students attain a college degree or credential while accumulating less student debt.

**Time period during which the waiver would be in effect:**

This tuition waiver program would be implemented beginning in the 2019 fall semester and would continue through summer terms that begin prior to June 30, 2021; however, as previously stated, we anticipate the waiver to remain ongoing subject to the continuing authority and approval of the Chancellor. Students, provided they maintain eligibility, could participate in the Program provided they are enrolled for three consecutive semesters.

**Number of students that are anticipated to be served under the request:**

In FY18, 2,662 high school students took credit courses at Tri-C while enrolled in high school. Of those, 432 enrolled in courses at Tri-C within the first three semesters after graduation from high school. Based on this information, we estimate this waiver would immediately impact 400-500 students.

**Goals to be realized by virtue of the implementation of the waiver and methods that will be used to gather data and make determinations about whether such goals are accomplished:**

The College expects to realize three main goals associated with the implementation of this Program:

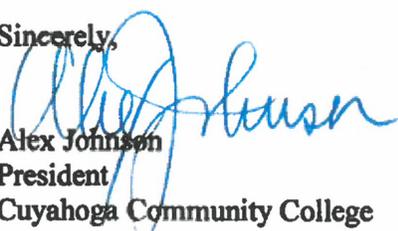
- Increases in student degree, certificate and program completion
- Decreases in time from enrollment to completion
- Educational cost savings for students

Retention rates, graduation rates and student debt of program participants will be closely monitored and compared to those students not participating in the program.

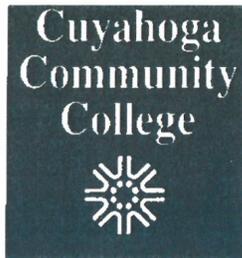
A document outlining additional terms and requirements for participation in the tuition waiver program is attached, as is the certified Board of Trustees resolution.

Thank you for taking the time to review our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Alex Johnson  
President

Cuyahoga Community College



**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**R2019-99**

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

- (A) The Board authorizes the implementation of a ten-percent tuition waiver to be applied to instructional and general and technology fees for eligible students participating in the College Credit Plus Tuition Waiver Program.
- (B) This tuition waiver will be implemented subject to the authority of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District on May 23, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Cuyahoga Community College District

*Board of Trustees*

**District Administrative Services**

**700 Carnegie Avenue**

**Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878**

**216-241-0032**

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## ***College Credit Plus Tuition Waiver Program***

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### **General Provisions:**

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C<sup>®</sup>) offers the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program to encourage students who successfully complete one or more Tri-C credit courses during their high school career (including qualifying credit earned through Tech Prep) to enroll as a student at Tri-C within the first three semesters after high school graduation. This program provides a ten percent (10%) discount on tuition and general fees for credit courses that are successfully completed. All students who were enrolled in a Tri-C credit course during their high school career and enroll in Tri-C for credit courses within three terms of graduating high school and meet the program criteria are eligible to participate in the program.

To participate in the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program, students must enroll in at least one credit course within the first three semesters after high school graduation. Eligible students can take advantage of this program for three consecutive academic semesters, with summer as an optional semester.

To participate in the program, students must sign an agreement accepting the following terms:

- Enroll in at least one credit course each semester for three consecutive academic semesters, summer optional;
- Successfully complete the Tri-C course(s) with a grade of C (2.0 GPA) or better or receive a passing grade for pass/no pass courses
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Students whose tuition and fees are paid for by a third party sponsor and students who are receiving remission of fees are not eligible for this program. Students who are receiving College Credit Plus completion scholarships or other full-tuition scholarships may not be eligible for this program.

Participation in this program does not preclude students from participating in other tuition incentive programs, provided the student meets the specified eligibility requirements for the incentive programs.

The College acknowledges that there may be exceptions to the general provision of the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program. As such, the following known exceptions have been outlined:

### **Procedures for Known Exceptions:**

#### **Military Service Leave**

- Students who have withdrawn from school due to military call-up will not be impacted by the consecutive semester requirement provision of the program. Military leaves of absence are beyond a student's control and may take place for an extended period of time. Therefore, students who have entered the program and have had to withdraw from the college due to military call-up will be afforded the opportunity to return to the College and re-engage in the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program to complete remaining semesters (up to 3 consecutive semesters total).
- Provided that the College is a continued participant in the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program, the student will be provided the 10% discount on the tuition and general/technology fees that are in effect at the time of the student's return.
- Students will be required to provide sufficient proof of military leave.

#### **Cancelled Courses**

- On occasion, the College may cancel courses due to institutional factors that are beyond students' control. The College will make every effort to contact students to assist with enrollment in alternate courses to ensure students can maintain enrollment in at least one credit course.

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- Students who demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made, yet the student is unable to maintain enrollment in at least one credit course will not be penalized for cancelled courses for which they had previously enrolled. The college will ensure appropriate and timely communication to students following assurance dates and notification of course cancellations.
  - These situations will be handled on an exception basis and documented by the Deans of Student Affairs Office or designee.

#### **Outstanding Balance from Prior Term**

- Students who have an outstanding balance are required to resolve their balance in order to register for the upcoming term. Any refund due to a student as a result of the tuition waiver benefit will be applied to the prior term's charges. In accordance with the College's procedures for registration, students will have to resolve any outstanding charges prior to registering for subsequent semesters.

#### **Withdrawal Exception (One-Time)**

- In accordance with the College's withdrawal exception procedure, students who have withdrawn from all courses or take an approved leave of absence for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control (i.e. illness, personal family reasons, etc.) may be afforded a one-time separation from the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program and regain eligibility to continue participation upon their return.
- Students who return to the program after such a leave will be provided no more than the equivalence of three academic semesters of enrollment under the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program.
- Provided that the College is a continued participant in the College Credit Plus tuition waiver program, the student will be provided the 10% discount on the tuition and general/technology fees that are in effect at the time of the student's return.