



**DIRECTIVE 2020-006**

January 16, 2020

Re CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS THAT COMPLETE AT LEAST 30 CREDIT HOURS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND ATTEND IN THE SUMMER TERM

§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 the standard tuition rates continue to be waived for students participating in the 30 Credit Hour Standard program as detailed below.

TRI-C has demonstrated the following:

- TRI-C’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on January 26, 2017. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- TRI-C has submitted a specific request to waive standard tuition rates as detailed below:
  - Students who enroll in and successfully complete at least 30 credit hours during the academic year (including hours taken in summer) and attend in summer term are eligible for a tuition waiver equaling 50% of paid tuition for every credit hour enrolled in summer term, up to 12 credit hours.
  - All new and transfer students with 12 or fewer credit hours are eligible to participate in the 30 Credit Hour Standard program. To participate and maintain eligibility in the Program, students must complete 30 hours or more in a three-semester fall, spring, and summer academic year; have a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average, and have accumulated less than 90 credit hours when they enroll in the program at the beginning of the academic year.
- Tri-C’s current tuition rates are:

- Instructional Fee (per credit hour): \$95.04  
General and Technology Fee: \$19.50  
**Total (per credit hour) Fee: \$114.54**
- OUT-OF-COUNTY SURCHARGE (per credit hour): \$29.54
  - Combined per credit hour rate of \$144.08
- OUT-OF-STATE SURCHARGE (per credit hour): \$156.65
  - Combined per credit hour rate of \$271.19
- The specific amount of the waiver for each class of students pursuant to the 30 Credit Hour Standard are as follows:
  - A Cuyahoga County resident would receive a waiver of \$57.27 per credit hour.
  - An Ohio resident pays \$144.08 per credit hour. Such student would receive a waiver of \$72.04 per credit hour.
  - An out-of-state resident pays \$271.91 per credit hour. Such student would receive a waiver of \$135.60 per credit hour.
    - *Note: these numbers are subject to change based on tuition rates for subsequent academic years with the amount waived remaining 50% of the combined per credit hour rate.*
- In addition, the following charts demonstrate how the waiver is earned (using \$100 per credit hour as an example only):
- TRI-C proposes that the duration of the waiver be for academic year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. TRI-C anticipates the program will continue past academic year 2020-2021 and will reapply at that time.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will affect approximately 100 of the 2300 eligible students per academic year.
- The goals of this waiver are as follows:
  - Increase student degree, certificate and program completion
  - Decrease time from enrollment to completion
  - Educational cost savings for students
  - Increase summer enrollment as is encouraged by the Taskforce on Affordability and Efficiency.
- In the first summer of the implementation 72 students saved over \$30,000.
- TRI-C will monitor Program participant's GPAs, retention rates, academic plans and graduation rates and compare that data to students not participating in the Program so that the goals can be measured and the Program's effectiveness determined.

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.

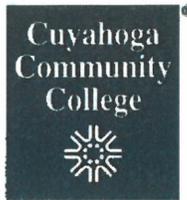
Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the continuation of the tuition waiver request from Cuyahoga Community College to reduce tuition for students participating in the 30 Credit Hour Standard Program as set forth above for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

mlc



May 8, 2019

## Where futures begin™

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

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

Cuyahoga Community College is proposing the continuation of its 30 Credit Hour Standard program to encourage students to complete 30 or more credits at Tri-C each academic year; to enroll year-round; and to graduate within two years. This program began in fall of 2017 and we are requesting continuation for the program for the FY20-21 biennium. We anticipate the program to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority and approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Our formal request for the continuation of the tuition waiver, including an explanation of eligibility and an update on the impact and effectiveness of the program, is outlined below:

### **Specific tuition waiver request:**

Students who enroll in and successfully complete at least 30 credit hours during the academic year *and* attend in the summer term are eligible for a tuition waiver equaling 50% of paid tuition for every credit hour enrolled in the summer term, up to 12 credit hours. Currently, tuition is \$114.54 per credit hour for in-county residents; \$144.08 per credit hour for residents of Ohio; and \$271.19 per credit hour for out of state residents. Tuition rates are subject to change.

All new and transfer students with 12 or fewer credit hours are eligible to participate in the 30 Credit Hour Standard program. To participate in the program, students must complete 30 or more credits in a three-semester fall, spring, and summer academic year; have a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average; and accumulate no more than 90 credits while enrolled in the program.

Rewards under the 30 Credit Hour Standard program are dependent upon credit hour enrollment, cumulative grade point average, and successful course completion. Students will receive a "credit memo" on their account after the 15th day of enrollment so that they are able to confirm their participation in the program and view the amount of the rewards they will receive upon fulfillment of the program requirements. Summer attendance is mandatory to receive the benefit. Students will receive rewards as a credit to their account if they are carrying a balance or as a cash disbursement if the account is current. Rewards will be disbursed after the last day in the summer term that students are able to withdraw with a grade of "W."

### **Rationale for this request:**

The 30 Credit Hour Standard program aligns with the Taskforce on Affordability and Efficiency's recommendations that institutions utilize their facilities with more frequency in the summer months; establish graduation incentives; and create educational campaigns to educate undergraduates about

### **Office of the President**

District Administrative Services | 700 Carnegie Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44115-2878  
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course loads needed to graduate on time. Studies have demonstrated that enrollment intensity has a significant impact on completion statistics, with students who are enrolled exclusively full-time and who enroll in the summer completing at substantially higher rates than students who attend exclusively part time or who choose a combination of full- and part -time enrollment.

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

The 30 Credit Hour Standard was implemented beginning in the 2017 fall semester, and we are requesting continuation of the program for the FY2020 - 2021 biennium. We anticipate the program to be ongoing, subject to the continuing authority and approval of the Chancellor. Students can participate in the program until they earn 90 credits, provided they maintain eligibility.

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

In the summer of 2018, the concluding semester of the first year of the program, 72 students successfully earned rewards totaling \$30,012. This represents an average savings of \$416.83 per student. These students, in addition to staying on course to graduate within two years, saved more than 12% on the cost of FTE tuition and fees. Additionally, the College's IPEDS rate increased to 18.9% in FY18 from 15.5% in FY17, results that were achieved through the College's initiatives – including this program – to encourage students to complete course loads that result in timely graduation.

We anticipate similar results at the conclusion of FY19 and for these results to continue in the FY2020-2021 biennium.

**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 continuation of this program:

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

Student GPAs, retention rates, academic plans, and successful course completion rates, and student savings of program participants will be monitored so that we can evaluate the program's effectiveness and implementation.

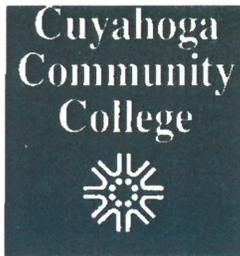
The Cuyahoga Community College District Board of Trustees affirmed the continuation of this program at their March 21, 2019 meeting. A copy of the certified resolution is attached.

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.

Respectfully,



Alex Johnson  
President



**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**R2019-83**

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

- (A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the 30 Credit Hour Standard program for the FY20-21 biennium.
- (B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President for 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 March 21, 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, 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

**CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MATERIAL FOR REVIEW  
BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee
- Community Affairs Committee
- Management Committee
- Investment Committee

**SUBJECT:** Reaffirmation of the 30 Credit Hour Standard Program

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

- Review for formal recommendation to the full Board of Trustees at the next regular scheduled Board Meeting.
- Background material for future Board of Trustees action item.
- Update information/status report. For informational purposes only.

**SYNOPSIS:**

The College is seeking approval to reaffirm the 30 Credit Hour Standard tuition waiver program.

Prepared  
by:



Vice President,  
Finance and  
Business Services

Office:

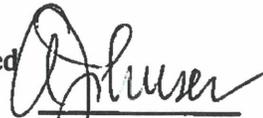
Submitted  
by:

DJL/MS

Date:

2/28/19

Approved  
by:



Date:

3/1/19

## **Reaffirmation of the 30 Credit Hour Standard Program**

### **I. SUMMARY BACKGROUND**

The 30 Credit Hour Standard program is a tuition waiver which provides a financial reward for students who complete at least thirty (30) credit hours in a three-semester fall, spring, and summer academic year. The program aligns with the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency's recommendations that institutions utilize their facilities with more frequency in summer months; that they establish graduation incentives; and that they foster campaigns to educate students about course loads needed to graduate on time. The program was approved by the College's Board of Trustees in January 2017 and implemented for students in the summer 2018 semester.

New and transfer students with twelve (12) college-level credit hours or fewer are eligible to participate. To participate in the program and receive the financial reward, students must complete at least thirty (30) credit hours in a three-semester fall, spring, and summer academic year, including mandatory summer term enrollment, and they must maintain a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average. Students no longer receive financial rewards through the program if they accumulate more than ninety (90) credit hours, including developmental courses. Rewards for successful participation in the program are equal to fifty percent (50%) of paid tuition for every credit hour for which a student is enrolled in the summer term, up to twelve (12) credit hours.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires reaffirmation of tuition waivers each biennium; therefore, the College is seeking reaffirmation and continuation of the 30 Credit Hour Standard program in the FY20-21 biennium.

### **II. BOARD RESOLUTION**

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

- (A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the 30 Credit Hour Standard program for the FY20-21 biennium.
- (B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President for Administration & Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.