



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

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CULTURAL DIVERSITY TUITION WAIVER POLICY

2020-2021



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Recognizing the educational benefit for the members of our academic communities derived from a culturally diverse student population, Valley City State University has adopted a Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Policy.

This Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Program will grant a maximum amount of waivers of tuition each year, as determined by the Vice President for Business Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs to facilitate diversity on our campus.

Tuition waivers should not be used exclusively to benefit one population, but should embrace the needs of students from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY TUITION WAIVERS SELECTION CRITERIA AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

A. DEFINITIONS

1. Cultural diversity for this policy is inclusive of all aspects of human differences, including but not limited to: age, background, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, language, political views, race, religion sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status. International students are included under a separate waiver program.
2. American Indians are defined as enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives and Villages as defined pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and as such constitute a political group officially recognized by the United States government.
3. Members of underrepresented or minority groups include individuals who identify themselves ethnically as African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or multi-racial.

B. AMOUNT OF WAIVERS

1. The amount of a waiver will not exceed the amount of tuition. Tuition waivers do not include fees, books, board, room, and other costs of attendance. Cultural Diversity Waivers may be awarded in combination with other academic and athletic scholarships. Partial Waivers may be awarded. Waivers are granted for a period of one academic year.
2. Waiver amounts are determined by residency and will renew automatically, provided all eligibility requirements are being met.

C. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following two groups of students will receive priority for consideration for Cultural Diversity Waivers:

1. Members of underrepresented groups or minority students applying for, and being considered for Cultural Diversity Tuition Waivers. Students wishing to receive priority consideration in this category must have indicated their minority cultural status when applying for admission to Valley City State University. This status will be verified with data from CampusConnection. Students may indicate more than one ethnic/minority group in CampusConnection – either the primary or secondary group status will be considered when verifying this status.
2. Native Americans who are enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages. Particular emphasis will be given to enrolled members of the Spirit Lake Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Sisseton Tribe, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Dependents of enrolled members of these tribes will also receive consideration for cultural diversity waivers, as will graduates of North Dakota tribal colleges. Applicants who wish to receive special emphasis based upon enrollment in a federally recognized American Indian Tribe and Alaska Native and Village must attach

verification of enrollment to the application.

3. Waivers are open to US Citizens and permanent residents only.

D. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

1. Minimum qualification for new freshmen is a GPA of 2.0 or higher. In order to be eligible for renewal, recipients must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
2. Past academic performance may be used in determining eligibility and awards.
3. Students placed on Financial Aid Disqualification would not be eligible for the waiver.

E. OTHER ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

1. Recipients must be enrolled full-time (12 credits). Online and collaborative credits will count toward full-time enrollment status.
2. Recipients enrolled in online or collaborative programs must be enrolled in at least nine face to face Valley City State University credits as of the last day to add for the regular session each semester to receive a diversity waiver. A waiver of tuition for any online VCSU credits will then be applied.
3. Recipients enrolled as collaborative students will not receive a waiver of tuition for any credits taken from another institution.
4. Recipients are limited to a maximum of 10 semesters as an undergraduate student.

F. APPLICATION PROCESS

1. New undergraduates should submit a Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver application form to the Vice President for Student Affairs Office prior to February 1 in order to receive top consideration. Any applicants completing processes after this date may be considered for an award, based on availability.
2. Applicants who wish to receive special emphasis based upon enrollment in a federally recognized American Indian tribe and Alaska Native and Village must attach verification of tribal enrollment to the application.
3. All applicants are encouraged to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
4. Students who have applied for a diversity tuition waiver and who have completed the admission process will be considered for an award. New freshmen or transfer students must have formally applied for admission and must be eligible for non-provisional admission before an Education Cultural Diversity Waiver can be offered.

G. AWARD AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Cultural Diversity Waivers must be applied to tuition charges; other aid such as Pell Grants, Scholarships and other gift aid may be applied to fees, or room/board charges. The Financial Aid Office will be consulted prior to the final awarding of Cultural Diversity Waivers and the total financial aid amount awarded cannot exceed the total cost of tuition.
2. Waivers will not apply to summer semester classes.
3. The final selection of all Cultural Diversity Waivers will be made by a committee annually each spring semester and/or as requested.
4. Students who have been denied a waiver may petition for reconsideration within 10 days of notification to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

