

Cultural Diversity Waiver Policy

To promote enrollment of culturally diverse underrepresented students and to support Mayville State University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, Mayville State University offers the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Program.

Definition of Waiver:

The word "waiver" is used interchangeably with the word "scholarship" in communication with students. Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver will apply toward and will not exceed the amount of North Dakota in-state tuition and will not cover application fees, books, board, room, or other costs of attendance.

Administration:

The budget for the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver is allocated yearly by Mayville State University Cabinet, and the award process is administered by the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Committee that includes the Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Transitions Coordinator, and Dean of Student Affairs.

Eligibility:

- A. **Culturally diverse group affiliation:** Admitted degree-seeking students from the following culturally diverse groups may be eligible for the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver:
 - Alaskan Native
 - American Indian
 - Asian
 - Black
 - Economically disadvantaged
 - Hispanic and/or LatinX
 - Multiracial
 - Pacific Islanders
 - Refugees or Asylees

- B. **GPA:** For the initial waiver award, first-time freshman will need a minimum high school cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher; transfer students will need a minimum cumulative transfer GPA of 2.0 or higher.

- C. **Enrollment Status:** To be considered for the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver, students should be enrolled in 12 credits; students enrolled in fewer than 12 credits may receive a lesser amount if approved by the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Committee. The waiver will not apply to credits taken from another institution.

Waiver Amount:

The amount of the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver is a flat award of \$1200 per academic year or \$600 per semester based on enrollment in a minimum of 12 credits.

Students that were awarded the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver prior to January 2021, and who would be negatively affected by the change in the terms of the policy, must reapply each year until graduation and meet award GPA criteria established prior to January 2021 to continue to receive previously awarded amounts.

Application Process:

Interested applicants may apply at any time by filling out the application available on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion website. Applications will be considered in the order of their receipt until funds are exhausted.

Renewal Requirements:

- A. **GPA:** To remain eligible for the waiver, students should maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. GPAs will be evaluated yearly at the end of Spring semester until graduation.
- B. **Enrollment:** Students should continue to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each semester; students enrolled in fewer than 12 credits may receive a lesser amount if approved by the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Committee. The waiver will not apply to credits taken from another institution.
- C. **Involvement:** Each semester, students must attend or participate in community-building events organized by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Alternative ways of involvement may be offered to online students when needed.

Special Considerations for Students in Teacher Education Programs:

To increase enrollment and retention of diverse candidates in teacher education programs, an additional yearly amount of \$300 may be available to declared education majors with cumulative GPAs of 2.75 or higher.

Exceptions:

Exceptional impeding circumstances may be considered through an appeal to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver Committee that consists of a representative from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Dean of Student Affairs. Appeal decisions will be documented and forwarded to the student and the Office of Financial Aid for verification and execution.

Revised: August, 2014; November, 2014; February, 2015; September, 2015, April 2021, November, 2021.

Sponsor: Dean of Student Affairs