

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

Date: February 12, 2008

REGULATION TITLE:
Tuition-Free Courses

REGULATION NO.:
6C1-1.012

SUMMARY: This regulation has been revised to conform to the requirements of Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code which generally permits employees to exclude from income up to \$5,250 per year of employer-provided educational assistance. The revision eliminates the requirement that courses must be “job related.” The revision outlines the fees for which employees are responsible and those that will be waived by the University and includes a provision clarifying that the University will pay for fees which are incurred when taking courses at another educational institution. In addition, the revision updates the application procedures and indicates that the approval form for the processing applications of employees of State agencies participating in State Agency Tuition Fee Waiver program must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office.

AUTHORITY: BOG Resolution dated January 7, 2003

COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation you are commenting on.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS: Rebecca J. Holt, Administrative Assistant, 123 Tigert Hall, Post Office Box 113125, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, 352-392-1358 office, 352-392-4387 facsimile, regulations@ufl.edu.

NAME OF PERSON WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Kyle Cavanaugh, Senior Vice President for Administration

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

REGULATIONS~~RULES~~ OF
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

6C1-1.012 ~~University of Florida;~~ Tuition-Free Courses.

(1) The University of Florida deeply values the education of its employees and strongly encourages its staff to pursue educational opportunities for professional growth and development. To this end, the university has adopted the Employee Education Program (“EEP”), which is described in section (1) of this regulation~~rule~~.

(a) Full-time University of Florida Academic Personnel (AP), Technical, Executive, Administrative and Managerial Support (TEAMS) employees and University Support Personnel System (USPS) employees in good standing who have been employed for at least six (6) months are eligible to apply for enrollment in up to 6 credit hours of instruction per semester at the University of Florida. Such employees with a principal place of employment outside of Alachua County are eligible to apply for enrollment in up to 6 hours of instruction per semester at the state university in Florida closest to the place of employment. USPS employees must have attained permanent status to participate in this program. It shall be the sole discretion of the employee’s department chair or equivalent unit administrator as to the number of credit hours, up to six, that may be registered for under this program each semester. Participation in the EEP is neither a benefit of employment nor a guaranteed right.

1. Participating employees must meet academic requirements and be in an established position on the date that fees are due. The University will establish the periods of enrollment each semester for employees registering for courses to be paid for by this program.

2. This program does not permit enrollment in thesis, dissertation, internships, directed individual study, individual performance courses, non-credit courses, and sponsored credit programs, off-book programs, and some distance education course offerings. A participating employee must be admitted to the University as a degree or non-degree seeking student. Courses taken in a non-degree seeking status may not apply to a degree program.

3. In order to continue to participate in the EEP, an employee must achieve a passing grade in and complete all courses taken in the EEP program.

(b) This program is not available to OPS or part-time personnel or employees assigned to temporary, visiting or probationary appointments. As a result, graduate assistants, residents, and some faculty members are not eligible to participate.

1. The costs associated with non-credit courses and program offerings otherwise required as an extension of regular employee training are not covered under this program. The University's fee petition and fee refund policies and procedures are not applicable to courses taken through this program. Therefore, there is no petition process for a refund of any fees paid.

2. No employee may participate in both the EEP and either the Department of Management Services' State Employee Education Voucher Program or the State Employee Fee Waiver Program in the same semester. ~~No employee may participate in both the EEP and the TEAMS Employee Development Program set forth in Rule 6C1-1.200(6), F.A.C., in the same semester.~~

(c) To the extent possible, class attendance should be scheduled during non-working hours. If any University employee enrolls for a course during working hours, all time taken during that period, including time taken in traveling to and from classes, shall be charged to

annual or compensatory leave or leave without pay, unless the work schedule has been adjusted to accommodate the class, subject to approval by the appropriate supervisor or administrator.

(d) The employee must complete the application form, available from the ~~Office~~Division of Human Resources ~~Services~~ at ~~903 W. University Avenue~~317 Stadium West and from the HRS website at www.hr.ufl.edu/education~~Division's website~~, and must secure written approval from his or her supervisor and department chair or equivalent unit administrator. The employee's department chair or equivalent unit administrator must certify ~~that each course involved is job-related~~, that the employee meets the employment requirements for participation; and that the time used is covered by appropriate leave or schedule adjustment. ~~In this regard, the department chair or equivalent unit administrator may view each course individually or as part of an overall degree program meant to improve job skills.~~ The completed form must be submitted to the University Registrar~~Financial Services~~, 222S113 Criser Hall by the published EEP application~~fee payment~~ deadline each semester. In the case of an employee with a principal place of employment outside of Alachua County who wishes to attend another state university, the completed form must be submitted to the Education Coordinator for Human Resource Services, 903 W. University Avenue~~Director, University Budgets, 223 Tigert Hall~~, by the published application deadline~~one week prior to the first day of classes~~.

(e) Unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation, the value of courses in which the employee has enrolled under the provisions of this program shall not be used to compute the employee's base rate of pay or regular rate of pay; however, certain courses may be subject to taxes as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Service. Employees are responsible for any individual tax liability that may result from participation in this tuition program and should refer any tax questions to their tax advisor.

(f) The employee shall pay any additional fees including, but not limited to:

1. Application fees.
2. Out-of-State Tuition and Fees (in-state tuition rates apply for exempt TEAMS employees and faculty regardless of residency requirements).

3. Photo I.D. Fees.
4. Late Registration Fees.
5. Late Payment Fees.
6. Material and Supply Fees.

7. Off-Campus Course Fees, which include but are not limited to, distance education or online course fees.

8. Any other fees not covered by this program.

(g) The University shall be responsible for the payment of (The University shall be responsible only for the in-state portion of these fees):

1. Matriculation Fees.
2. Building Fees.
3. Capital Improvement Fees.
4. Student Financial Aid Fees ~~(the University shall be responsible only for the in-state portion of these fees).~~

(h) The University shall waive the following local fees and the employee will not be eligible for services provided by these fees. (For students attending another state of Florida public university these fees will be paid by the University). The services provided through these fees are, therefore, not available to the employee, and the employee does not have the option to

pay any of these fees to take advantage of these services. ~~Employees may not choose to pay any of these fees:~~

1. Activity and Service Fees.
2. Athletic Fees.
3. Student Health Fees.
4. Transportation Fees.

(~~ig~~) Continuation of this program of instruction is contingent upon the University's continuing ability to meet workload requirements and meeting the financial obligations of the program. At any time and with 10 days notice, the University may terminate this program. Participation in a course by an employee is contingent upon the department's continuing ability to meet workload requirements. At any time, with 5 days notice, the University may terminate an individual's participation in this program.

(~~jh~~) The ~~Office~~ ~~Division~~ of Human Resources ~~Services~~ shall be the administrator of this program and shall make available application forms ~~both in their offices and~~ on their website at www.hr.ufl.edu/education.

(2) Persons who supervise interns from the University of Florida will be given one non-transferable Certificate of Participation for completion of an approved internship experience (or its equivalent) in a program area, upon the recommendation of the President or the President's designee. A certificate will also be awarded to persons who attend a required training session for the preparation of intern supervisors provided that the training session is approved for this purpose by the President or the President's designee.

(a) For purposes of this ~~regulation~~~~rule~~ an internship experience shall be defined as a supervised field experience in an identified program area of the University which has been approved by the University's Director of Internship Programs in the Office of Academic Affairs.

(b) Verification of the supervised internship experience for all areas shall be made by the program area college or unit. All requests for Certificates of Participation shall be forwarded to the Director of Internship Programs for review and processing.

(c) Each Certification of Participation is valid for one term only except that for the Summer terms, the Certificate may be used for registration during both Summer terms. The Certificate entitles the holder to register at the University of Florida after paying only the building fee and the capital improvement trust fund fee for each credit hour attempted each term of instruction, including courses offered through Continuing Education programs of the University. Refer to ~~Regulation~~~~Rule~~ 6C1-3.0375, ~~F.A.C.~~, for the cost of said fees at the University of Florida. No Certificate will be valid after three (3) years from the date of issue.

(d) The University of Florida will honor Certificates of Participation issued by other state universities in Florida on the same terms as set forth in this section.

(3) A State of Florida employee with the approval of the agency head or equivalent is permitted to enroll at a state university for up to six (6) credit hours of courses per term on a space-available basis. Tuition and fees for these credit hours are waived pursuant to Section 1009.265, F.S.

(a) Space-available courses do not include TBA (to be arranged), directed individualized study, distance learning courses, internships, thesis and dissertation courses, individual performance courses, and non-credit courses.

(b) A state employee participating in the program must be admitted to the University of Florida as a degree or non-degree seeking student and meet all academic requirements for enrollment in the course(s).

(c) The State [Agency](#) Employee [Tuition](#)~~Registration~~ Fee Waiver Application, ~~Form~~ [Reginfo/feewaiv2.pmd](#) Rev. ~~08/0610/02~~, must be filled out, including all approvals. The form is available from the Office of the University Registrar, 222 Criser Hall [or online at](#) [www.hr.ufl.edu/education](#) and must be submitted to ~~University Financial Services, S113 Criser Hall and the~~ Office of the University Registrar, 222 Criser Hall by the published ~~fee payment~~ deadline each semester.

Specific Authority: [BOG Resolution dated January 7, 2003](#) ~~1001.74(4) FS.~~

~~Law Implemented 1001.74(19), 1009.26(2), (3), 1009.265 FS.~~

History--New 3-26-80, Formerly 6C1-7.35, Amended 3-6-85, Formerly 6C1-1.12, Amended 3-2-87, 5-19-93, 10-7-99, 5-22-01, 6-27-02, 1-19-03, [_____](#).