

Chapter 13. Financial Planning

Subchapter E. Tuition Rebates for Certain Undergraduates

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§13.80 Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide tuition rebates that will provide a financial incentive for students to prepare for university studies while completing their high school work, avail themselves of academic counseling, make early career decisions, and complete their baccalaureate studies with as few courses outside the degree plan as possible. Minimizing the number of courses taken by students results in financial savings to students, parents, and the state.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.80 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627*

§13.81 Authority

The program is authorized by Texas Education Code, §54.0065.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.81 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627*

§13.82 Eligible Students

To be eligible for a rebate under this program, a student must:

- (1) have enrolled for the first time in an institution of higher education in the fall 1997 semester or later;
- (2) request a rebate for coursework related to a first baccalaureate degree received from a general academic teaching institution;
- (3) have been a resident of Texas as set forth under Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.730 of this title (relating to Determining Residence Status) and have been entitled to pay resident tuition at all times while pursuing the degree;
- (4) if enrolled for the first time in fall 2005 or later, graduate within four calendar years for a four-year degree or within five calendar years for a five-year degree if the degree is in architecture, engineering, or any other program determined by the Board to require more than four years to complete; and
- (5) have attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree under the catalog under which the student graduated. Hours attempted include transfer credits, course credit earned exclusively by examination (except that, for the purposes of this program, only the number of semester credit hours earned exclusively by examination in excess of nine semester credit hours is treated as hours attempted), courses dropped after the official census date, for-credit developmental courses, optional internship and cooperative education courses, and repeated courses. Courses dropped for reasons that are determined by the institution to be totally beyond the control of the student shall not be counted. For students concurrently earning a baccalaureate degree and a Texas teaching certificate, required teacher education courses shall not be counted to the extent that they are over and above the free electives allowed in the baccalaureate degree program.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.82 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627; amended to be effective December 3, 2003, 28 TexReg 10756; amended to be effective November 22, 2005, 30 TexReg 7729*

§13.83 Affected Institutions

Effective for students who enroll for the first time in fall 2005 or later, an otherwise eligible student may be eligible for a tuition rebate without satisfying the requirements of §13.82(4) of this title (relating to Eligible Students), if the student is awarded a baccalaureate degree and the institution determines that the student has demonstrated a hardship under the policy required by §13.85(g) of this title (relating to Responsibilities of Institutions).

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.83 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627; amended to be effective November 22, 2005, 30 TexReg 7729*

§13.84 Amount of Tuition Rebates

(a) The amount of tuition to be rebated to a student under this program is \$1,000, unless the total amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution awarding the degree was less than \$1,000, in which event the amount of tuition to be rebated is an amount equal to the amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution.

(b) A student who paid the institution awarding the degree an amount of undergraduate tuition less than \$1,000 may qualify for an increase in the amount of the rebate, not to exceed a total rebate of \$1,000, for any amount of undergraduate tuition the student paid to other Texas public institutions of higher education by providing the institution awarding the degree with proof of the total amount of that tuition paid to other institutions.

(c) Tuition rebates shall be reduced by the amount of any outstanding student loan, including an emergency loan, owed to or guaranteed by this state, including the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. If a student has more than one outstanding student loan, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to the loans as directed by the student. If the student fails to provide timely instructions on the application of the amount, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to retire the loans with the highest interest rates first.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.84 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627*

§13.85 Responsibilities of Institutions

(a) Institutions of higher education shall include information regarding this program in the institution's catalog.

(b) If requested by potentially eligible students, institutions of higher education shall provide these students opportunities to enroll during each fall and spring semester in the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours that apply toward their degrees. Institutions are not required to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in specific courses or specific sections. Public two-year colleges will comply to the extent that courses for the current semester are being offered that apply to the student's baccalaureate degree program. The requirement may be met by allowing substitutions for required courses or by allowing concurrent enrollment in courses from another institution, so long as the courses are taught on the students' home campus and the students incur no financial penalty.

(c) General academic teaching institutions shall provide students with appropriate forms and instructions for requesting tuition reimbursement at the time that students apply for baccalaureate degrees.

(d) Institutions shall provide tuition rebates to students who apply within 60 days after graduation or provide the student with a statement explaining the reason the student is ineligible for the rebate.

(e) Institutions shall provide a dispute resolution process to resolve disputes related to local administration of the program.

(f) Disputes related to lower division credit transfer shall be resolved in accordance with Coordinating Board rules, §4.27 of this title (relating to Resolution of Transfer Disputes for Lower-Division Courses).

(g) Institutions shall establish policies and procedures for allowing otherwise eligible students to qualify for tuition rebates under this program, if the student receives a baccalaureate degree and demonstrates that the failure to comply with §13.82(4) of this title (relating to Eligible Students) was caused by a hardship condition. The policies and procedures shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following conditions:

(1) a severe illness or other debilitating condition that may affect the student's academic performance;

(2) an indication that the student is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and that the student's provision of care may affect his or her academic performance; or

(3) performance of active duty military service.

(h) Institutions may adopt policies and procedures for administering the program. For example, institutions may require students to declare their intent to qualify for a tuition rebate early in their careers or register prior to the beginning of the semester.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.85 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627; amended to be effective November 22, 2005, 30 TexReg 7729*

§13.86 Responsibilities of Students

(a) Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are responsible for complying with all rules and regulations related to administration of the program.

(b) Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are solely responsible for enrolling only in courses that will qualify them for the rebates.

(c) A student who has transferred from another public or independent institution of higher education is responsible for providing to the institution awarding the degree official transcripts from all institutions attended by the student.

(d) Students must apply for rebates prior to receiving their baccalaureate degrees on forms provided by the institution and must keep the institution apprized of their addresses for at least 60 days after their graduation date.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.86 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627; amended to be effective November 22, 2005, 30 TexReg 7729*

§13.87 Source of Funding

Tuition rebates shall be paid from institutional local funds. However, the enabling legislation provides that the Legislature shall account in the General Appropriations Act for the rebates in a way that provides a corresponding increase in the general revenue funds appropriated to the institution.

Source Note: *The provisions of this §13.87 adopted to be effective May 21, 2001, 26 TexReg 3627*