

Background

The Alternative Tuition Program allows residents of New York to attend Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Berkshire Community College at tuition rates set at reduced out-of-state rates. The rate currently is set at 150 percent of resident student tuition and mirrors the rate charged to students under the New England Regional Student Program through the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE). New York is not a NEBHE participant.

The number of students accepted each year under the alternative tuition arrangement is restricted.

The Alternative Tuition Program supports efforts at both institutions to increase enrollment. The program also provides an important link between the Berkshires and the Albany region as the Commonwealth and the county develop strategies to strengthen and expand the regional economy.

At Berkshire Community College, 61 New York residents are currently enrolled under the alternative tuition program. The College seeks to continue expanding the program by increasing the limit on the number of New York students enrolled from 75 to 100.