Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Tuition Waivers

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

PURPOSE

A founding principle of the Tuition Waiver Policy adopted by the Board of Higher Education is the belief that the benefits of higher education must be available to all citizens. The Board of Higher Education has developed a system of financial aid policy designed to assure and maintain access to the Commonwealth's public colleges and universities. An underlying goal of the policy is that future public sector tuition increases be matched with a concomitant increase in the maximum award for the financially neediest students. Further, financial aid provides an important tool for improving student quality and collaborations that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

The Tuition Waiver Program, originally developed in 1981 to offset tuition increases and declining federal dollars, is fundamentally designed to provide financial support to those individuals who would be denied the opportunity for higher education without such assistance. Over the years, tuition waivers have been utilized as supplemental scholarships in campus-based financial aid packaging strategies. Thus, they represent an important mechanism for campuses to assist needy students.

The Legislature, following the principles of the financial aid policy outlined in the Task Force Report on Financial Aid, mandated that a single Tuition Waiver Program be developed. The single Tuition Waiver Program consists of several components designed to ensure maximum access for Commonwealth residents and provide incentives for improving student quality and institutional collaboration as follows: need based waivers, categorical waivers, graduate tuition waivers, and additional categories of waivers as approved by the Board of Higher Education.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Career Advancement Program Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The nine Massachusetts State Universities and the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts.

- **Eligible Student:**
  Massachusetts public school teachers who have passed all three components of the Massachusetts Teachers Test and who are not in default of any federal or state student loans or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received. Eligibility is restricted to one state-supported graduate course tuition waiver for each of the first three years of teaching. An eligible student must be a public school teacher in the year they are using the award.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a Career Advancement Tuition Waiver, a student must:

a) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

b) Not be in default of any federal or state Student Loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.

c) Have passed all three components of the Massachusetts Teachers Test.

d) Be a public school teacher in the year they are using the award.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AWARD VALUE

1) The teacher (after completing each of the first three years of teaching) must request that the Superintendent/Principal indicate that they have successfully completed that year's teaching responsibilities.

2) The teacher shall be responsible for submitting the required materials to the campus where they will enroll. The teacher must also provide evidence to the campus that they have successfully passed all three components of the Massachusetts Teachers Test.

3) The campus on which the teacher wishes to enroll for a graduate course shall notify the State Office of Student Financial Assistance of teacher's request for a tuition waiver.

4) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall allocate the tuition waiver to the campus, which in turn will award the tuition waiver to the eligible teacher.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Career Advancement Program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Career Advancement Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Career Advancement Program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Career Advancement

Program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Categorical Tuition Waivers

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any state supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university toward an undergraduate degree program or certificate program. Institutions may include or exclude non-credit courses or short-term certificate programs from any or all categorical waivers. Institutions are encouraged to extend, where appropriate, waiver eligibility to students enrolled in non-state supported courses and/or certificate programs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Categorical Tuition Waiver, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

b) not be in default on any federal loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid received;

c) be a member of an eligible category as defined below:

1. **Veteran:** As provided in M.G.L. Chapter 4, Section 7(43) including: Spanish War, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Lebanese peace keeping force, Grenada rescue mission, the Panamanian intervention force, or the Persian Gulf.

For purposes of tuition waivers, the term "veteran" shall also include any individual who served in the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard or air force of the United States for not less than ninety days at least one of which was served in the theatre of operation for the Somalia mission known as "Operation Restore Hope" and whose last discharge or release was under honorable conditions.

2. **Native American:** As certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

3. **Senior Citizen:** Persons over the age of 60.

4. **Armed Forces:** An active member of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard) stationed and residing in Massachusetts.

5. **Client of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission or Commission for the Blind:** As certified by the respective commission.

6. If it deems necessary, the institution, consistent with its mission and subject to the Board of Higher Education's approval as of September 1, 1991, may establish additional waivers for specific categories of students.

In accordance with institutional requirements, each student must present documentation of Categorical waiver eligibility to the appropriate college officials.

CATEGORICAL TUITION WAIVER CONDITIONS

- An institution's level of expenditure is determined by the value of the total number of Tuition Waivers granted to students in specific categories.

- Consistent with the Board of Higher Education's Tuition Retention Guidelines, tuition revenues that would have resulted from students receiving legislatively mandated categorical tuition waivers shall be counted toward the amount of revenue retained in the Retained Revenue Account (Refer to Tuition Retention Regulations for further details).

- Eligible students applying for a waiver under this section shall be eligible on a space available basis for a waiver of full or partial tuition charges, provided that the campus has appropriate documentation to substantiate the student's categorical eligibility. Space available shall be determined in accordance with the normal practices and procedures as published by each institution.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AWARD VALUE

Individual student awards for an award period may not exceed the actual campus tuition charges for the award period.

If the student is the recipient of need-based student financial aid resources and categorical tuition waiver awards, the combination of resources in the student's financial aid package may not exceed the student's demonstrated financial need.

If the student is the recipient of both a need-based tuition waiver and a categorical waiver, the total value of both waivers may not exceed the total cost of tuition.

Students qualifying for a categorical tuition waiver may be granted full tuition waivers consistent with the institution's policies.

Campus fees are not included in the waivers. Institutions may, but are not required to, waive specific fees for participants in various categorical waivers. If fees are waived, the campus should publicize the fees waived.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Categorical Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Categorical Tuition Waiver program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Categorical Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Categorical Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Collaborative Teachers Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The nine Massachusetts State Universities and the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts.

- **Eligible Student:**
  Massachusetts public school (collaborative) teachers who mentor a student teacher from a state university in their classroom and who are not in default of any federal or state student loans or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received. An eligible student must be a public school teacher in the year they are using the award.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Collaborative Teachers Tuition Waiver, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

b) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

c) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received;

d) agree to mentor a student teacher from a state college or university in their classroom;

e) be a public school teacher in the year they are using the award

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AWARD VALUE

The Board of Higher Education is authorized to award up to $200,000 in tuition waivers for state-supported graduate courses (in education or areas related to the teacher's subject matter) annually in support of collaborative teachers. Collaborative teachers shall be eligible for a tuition waiver for up to one state-supported graduate-level course for each student teacher mentored with a maximum of one student teacher per semester. Collaborative teachers can request waivers for up to two years after completion of the mentoring relationship for which eligibility is based. Individual student awards shall be no more than the resident graduate tuition rate at the participating institution.

AWARD PROCEDURE

1. The collaborative teacher must request that the Superintendent/Principal indicate that he/she has successfully completed his/her responsibilities of mentoring a student teacher.

2. The collaborative teacher shall be responsible for submitting the required materials to the campus where he/she will enroll.

3. The campus shall notify the State Office of Student Financial Assistance of the collaborative teacher request for a tuition waiver.

4. The State Office of Student Financial Assistance shall allocate the tuition waiver to the campus, which in turn will award the tuition waiver to the eligible student.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Collaborative Teachers Program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Collaborative Teachers Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Collaborative Teachers Program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Collaborative Teachers Program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITION

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education as identified in Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any two-year or four-year undergraduate (bachelors) degree offered by an eligible institution at a public college or university that is part of an undergraduate degree program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver program, the student must:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

e) have not earned a bachelor's degree (or the equivalent);

f) enroll, as a matriculated student, on a full-time or part-time basis in an eligible program of study;

g) be a surviving child of a parent who was an active and full-time member of the armed forces or the United States or National Guard who:
   a. died as a result of injuries sustained during active and full-time military service, occurring after 1989 while outside the United States in an armed conflict or hostility or
   b. died while deployed in direct support of military activity in a zone of armed conflict or hostility, outside the United States, occurring on or after January 1, 1989 while outside the United States; and
   c. was a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the time of entry and remained a Massachusetts resident throughout full-time military service.

h) present to the institution, documentation of eligibility for this program, as specified; and

i) maintains Satisfactory Academic Progress, according to institutional standards, while pursuing the undergraduate degree.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The following documents must be presented by the student as proof of eligibility for the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver:

1. Department of Defense form DD 1300 Report of Casualty; and/or

2. Standard Form 93 (SF93) listing the recipient as a child of a service member killed on active duty

AWARD VALUE

a) Waivers awarded under this program for an academic term of study must cover the total cost of tuition and fees. The institution must also provide room and board for any eligible student enrolled full-time and living in an on campus residential facility. Children of Fallen Service Members are to be awarded only after available financial aid from all other sources, excluding loans, have been considered.

b) All aid awarded under this program, in combination with other state, federal or institutional merit and/or need-based aid, may not exceed the recipient's cost of attendance for any academic period of study

c) Students qualifying for the Fallen Service Member Waiver must be awarded the full value of billed tuition and fees consistent with these guidelines

d) A student may not receive a waiver of tuition and fees for more than 130 undergraduate credits earned in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, which shall include those credits earned to complete an associate degree.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Children of Fallen Service Member Waiver. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

DCF Adopted Child Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

PURPOSE

In July 2008, the Massachusetts Legislature amended Chapter 15A, Section 19 of the General Laws. This law provides for full tuition and fee waivers for foster children in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and children adopted through this agency that choose to attend a Massachusetts public institution of higher education, and it requires the Board of Higher Education to establish guidelines for these waivers. Section 19 also states, "The Commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers, after all reimbursement from the federal government have been exhausted."

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any eligible state-supported undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by the institution.

- **Eligible Course:**
  Any state-supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university, excluding all graduate courses and courses in the M.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Eligible courses include those toward an undergraduate degree program, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and non-credit courses.

- **Eligible State Employee and Residents:**
  Eligible state employees shall include all individuals determined to be Massachusetts state employees at the time of adoption of the eligible student including:

- All full- and part-time employees employed at the time of the adoption by Massachusetts state government at least six months,
- Employees who are working for the state at the time of the adoption and who continue to be employed by the state for at least six months after the adoption.

- Eligible Massachusetts residents shall include all individuals determined to be Massachusetts state residents at the time of the adoption of the eligible student.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adopted Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program, the student must:

a) have been in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and
   a. was adopted by an eligible Massachusetts state employee through the Department of Children and Families; or
   b. was adopted by an eligible Massachusetts resident through the Department of Children and Families;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;[3]

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) be under the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the academic year;

e) enroll in an undergraduate degree, certificate or short-term certificate program, or is taking noncredit courses;

f) not be in default of any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received;

g) meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institution's requirements and federal standards;

h) have not earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent; and

i) comply with financial aid verification requirements.

AWARD VALUE

Subject to budgetary appropriation, the award under this program shall be equal to 100 percent of all tuition and fees at the resident rate as follows:

- a waiver of tuition for all students who qualify for a waiver of tuition under this section of the Commonwealth Tuition Waiver Program, plus 100 percent of all fees for all state supported courses or program of study.

In all cases, assistance under this program is awarded after consideration of all other federal scholarship and grant resources. Institutions may not use this tuition and fee assistance program to supplant other state, federal, or institutional aid previously awarded to the student.

Wherever possible, institutions are encouraged to use the Tuition and Fee Assistance Program to reduce student education loan debt.

AWARD DISBURSEMENT

Each participating institution must provide information to the Board of Higher Education regarding the student's financial aid award for the current academic year. This information will be used to determine the student's Tuition and Fee assistance. Institutions must disburse funds in compliance with guidelines governing all state financial aid programs.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adopted Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adopted Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance funds for eligible Adopted Children must have an active State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adopted Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adopted Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

DCF Foster Child Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

PURPOSE

In July 2008, the Massachusetts Legislature amended Chapter 15A, Section 19 of the General Laws. This law provides for full tuition and fee waivers for foster children in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and children adopted through this agency that choose to attend a Massachusetts public institution of higher education, and it requires the Board of Higher Education to establish guidelines for these waivers. Section 19 also states, "The Commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers, after all reimbursement from the federal government have been exhausted."

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any eligible state-supported undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by the institution.

- **Eligible Course:**
  Any state-supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university, excluding all graduate courses and courses in the M.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Eligible courses include those toward an undergraduate degree program, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and non-credit courses.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program, the student must:

a) have been in the custody of the Commonwealth before age 18;

a) be a current or former foster child placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and remained in custody through age 18 without subsequently being returned home, or is a child whose guardianship was sponsored by the Department of Children and Families through age 18;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) be under the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the academic year;

e) enroll in an undergraduate degree, certificate or short-term certificate program, or take noncredit courses;

f) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program;

g) meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institution's requirements and federal standards;

h) have not yet received a bachelor's degree or its equivalent;

i) comply with financial aid verification requirements.

AWARD VALUE

Subject to budgetary appropriation, the award under this program shall be equal to 100 percent of all tuition and fees at the resident rate as follows:

- a waiver of tuition for all students who qualify for a waiver of tuition under this section of the Commonwealth Tuition Waiver Program, plus 100 percent of all fees for all state supported courses or program of study.

In all cases, assistance under this program is awarded after consideration of all other federal scholarship and grant resources. Institutions may not use this tuition and fee assistance program to supplant other state, federal, or institutional aid previously awarded

to the student. Wherever possible, institutions are encouraged to use the Tuition and Fee Assistance Program to reduce student education loan debt.

AWARD DISBURSEMENT

Each participating institution must provide information to the Board of Higher Education regarding the student's financial aid award for the current academic year. This information will be used to determine the student's Tuition and Fee assistance. Institutions must disburse funds in compliance with guidelines governing all state financial aid programs.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance funds for eligible Foster Children must have an active State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Children Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution

may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Graduate Student Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, excluding Community Colleges

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any graduate degree or post-baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Graduate Student Tuition Waiver, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) not be in default on any federal loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid received;

GRADUATE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM CONDITIONS

Each institution granting full or partial tuition waivers under this category must file guidelines with the Board of Higher Education. Such Guidelines shall include but not be limited to the award value, criteria for determination of need, and eligibility criteria. Such Guidelines shall be filed with the Board of Higher Education annually on or before September 1 of each year.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Graduate Student Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Graduate Student Tuition Waiver program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Graduate Student Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Graduate Student Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Computer Information Science/Technology and Engineering programs to be reviewed and determined annually by the Board of Higher Education.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver program, the student must:

a) be enrolled in an eligible program at an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

e) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program;

AWARD VALUE

The Board of Higher Education is authorized to provide High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waivers to support enrollment in computer and information science/technology and engineering programs. Individual student awards shall match industry scholarships up to the resident undergraduate tuition at the participating institution. Campus fees are not included in the waivers. Institutions may, but are not required to, waive specific fees for participating students.

AWARD PROCEDURES

Participating institutions shall be responsible for the awarding and reporting of such waivers.

GUIDELINES

Institutions, in conjunction with participating companies, shall develop eligibility criteria and a method for selecting scholar/intern program recipients that shall be filed with the Board of Higher Education upon adoption.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the High Technology Scholar/Intern Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The nine Massachusetts State Universities and the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any liberal arts or fine arts undergraduate baccalaureate degree program that has been approved by the Department of Education for certification and is in a field with teacher shortages.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

e) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program;

f) be in their third and/or fourth year enrolled in state approved teacher education programs in fields with teacher shortages;

g) have a cumulative 3.0 grade point average in general education courses; and

h) commit to teaching for two years (one year for each year of full or partial tuition waiver received) in a public school in the Commonwealth upon successful completion of a bachelor's degree from the college or university and the appropriate certification pursuant to section 38G of Chapter 71 M.G.L.

AWARD VALUE

The Board of Higher Education is authorized to award up to $500,000 in Aspiring Teachers tuition waivers annually. Students eligible for the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers will be entitled to a tuition waiver equal to the resident tuition rate at the state college or participating university campus at which they are enrolled for two (2) years. The tuition waiver for the second year of eligibility (senior year) is contingent upon the student earning a 3.0 grade point average in the third year. Students are required to complete an agreement regarding service and/or repayment (including interest).

AWARD PROCEDURE

Persons who participate in the program but do not complete their college education within four years of entering the certification program or who fail to complete their two year teaching commitment within four years following graduation from college, shall be obligated to pay the Commonwealth the full amount of the tuition waivers granted through the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers, prorated according to the fraction of the teaching not completed with interest, as determined by the Board of Higher Education.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the {Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

MassTransfer Tuition Credit Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  Any two-year or four-year institution within the system of public institutions of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any state-supported undergraduate degree program offered by an institution. Institutions are encouraged, where appropriate, to extend waiver eligibility to students enrolled in non-state-supported degree programs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver program, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) enrolled in a state college or University and has completed one of the following:
   a. an associate degree at a public community college approved under the MassTransfer program;
   b. MassTransfer Pathways 60-credit map; or
   c. An associate degree under an Additional Transfer Articulation Agreement program.

b) meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institution's requirements and federal standards and meet the minimum required 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) for continued eligibility;

c) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

d) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

e) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

f) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program

AWARD VALUE

Eligible students under the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver Program will be entitled to a tuition waiver equal to 100 percent of the resident tuition rate at a state college or University for the two (2) years of matriculation which immediately follow their community college enrollment. The tuition waiver for the second year of matriculation is contingent upon the student maintaining a cumulative 3.0 grade point average for the first two semesters of enrollment at the state college or University.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the MassTransfer Tuition

Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority – Prepaid Tuition Program Waivers

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, that participates in the MEFA Prepaid Tuition Program.

- **Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority:**
  Authority established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 15c.

- **Prepaid Tuition Program:**
  Program established by Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) pursuant to M.G.L. c. 15c S 5(f 1/2).

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any graduate degree or post-baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Massachusetts Educational Authority (MEFA) Prepaid Tuition Waiver program, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) be an owner or a qualifying beneficiary of a MEFA Prepaid Tuition Program;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually; and

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

MEFA PREPAID TUITION PROGRAM WAIVER CONDITIONS

Any participating public institution of higher education shall waive the amount of tuition that would otherwise be due from the eligible student if the tuition charged by the participating public institution exceeds the amount received as a tuition credit pursuant to the Prepaid Tuition Program for the year the tuition credit is redeemed, in direct proportion to the eligible student's participation in the MEFA Prepaid Tuition Program.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Massachusetts Educational Authority (MEFA) Prepaid Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Massachusetts Educational Authority (MEFA) Prepaid Tuition Waiver must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Massachusetts Educational Authority (MEFA) Prepaid Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Massachusetts Educational Authority (MEFA) Prepaid Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the

Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Need-Based Tuition Waivers

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any state supported undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by an institution. Institutions are encouraged, where appropriate, to extend waiver eligibility to students enrolled in non-state supported degree or certificate programs. The institutional definition of "certificate" program shall apply.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Need Based Tuition Waiver, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

b) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

c) not be in default on any federal loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid received;

d) enroll for at least three undergraduate credits per semester in an eligible program;

e) maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institutional standards developed for federal financial aid programs, with at least an annual review;

f) has not earned a baccalaureate or professional degree;

NEED BASED TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM CONDITIONS

- **Base Allocation**: Each institution shall receive an allocation that is calculated using the same methodology as the Cash Grant. Allocations are determined by a formula which utilizes three-year enrollment and financial aid data. Institutions may petition the Commissioner for a base allocation adjustment due to extenuating circumstances. All petition approvals are at the sole discretion of the Commissioner.

- **Supplemental Allocation**: In recognition of the need to offset increased tuition costs, the Commissioner may provide a campus with a supplemental allocation. Requests for a supplemental allocation must be received by the Commissioner on or before October 1 of the academic year for which the allocation is requested. Any supplemental allocation granted shall not exceed the established rate of increase in tuition for that academic year.

- **De-obligation/Reallocation:** On or before November 1 of each year, institutions needing additional waiver resources may request the Commissioner to reallocate the unused or uncommitted portions that are released by other institutions. Subject to the availability of de -obligated resources, the Commissioner may reallocate waiver resources on or before December 31.

AWARD VALUE

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Need Based Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Need Based Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to

participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Need Based Tuition Waiver must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Need Based Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Need Based Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Paul Tsongas Scholarship [Tuition Waiver]

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITION

- **Eligible Student:**
  Students who have graduated from high school within three years and who meet the one year residency requirement for tuition classification at the State Universities with a grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.75 and Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) scores of at least 1200 (or the American College Testing [A.C.T.] equivalent) are eligible to apply to a State University for the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program. Students who have graduated from high school and who meet the one-year residency requirement for tuition classification at the State Universities and who have pursued other endeavors for a minimum of five years are eligible to apply to a State University for the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program under the exceptional life experience category set forth in the Guidelines.

- **State University Scholars Program:**
  A waiver by the Board of Higher Education and a waiver of mandatory fees by the eligible institution.

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The nine Massachusetts State Universities, as identified in Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program Tuition Waiver, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) maintain a G.P.A. of 3.3 for continued eligibility for the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program Tuition Waiver for four years of study;

c) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with

Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023

d) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

e) comply with financial aid verification requirements.

PAUL TSONGAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TUITION WAIVER CONDITIONS

- Each State University may provide five new Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program Tuition Waivers per academic year.

- The State Universities shall develop eligibility criteria and a method for selecting Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program recipients, which shall be filed with the Board of Higher Education upon adoption, and upon any amendments thereto

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each State University to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Paul Tsongas Scholarship Program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Paul Tsongas Scholarship program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution

may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

September 11, 2001 Tragedy Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

- **Eligible Course:**
  Any state-supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university, excluding all graduate courses and coursed in the MD program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Eligible courses include those toward an undergraduate degree programs, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and noncredit courses. Institutions are encouraged to develop waiver programs for eligible students that would provide a 100 percent tuition waiver for any non-state supported course and/or certificate program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Commonwealth September 11, 2001 Tuition Waiver program, the student must:

a) be the spouse or child of a resident of Massachusetts who was the victim of the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, and who died or is missing and officially presumed dead as a direct result of the acts of terrorism that occurred in the United States on September 11, 2001;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State

Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements; and

e) provide the following documents to the institution:
   a. Copy of the student's legal birth certificate

   b. Certificate of Death for the spouse, parent, or legal guardian (or other official documentation of death)

   c. Proof that the death is connected to the terrorism that occurred on September 11, 2001.

AWARD VALUE

Students eligible for the Commonwealth September 11, 2001, Tuition Waiver program will be entitled to a tuition waiver equal to 100 percent of the resident tuition rate for eligible state supported courses offered at the participating public higher education institution.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Commonwealth September 11, 2001 Tuition Waiver program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Commonwealth September 11, 2001 Tuition Waiver program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Commonwealth September 11, 2001 Tuition Waiver program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Commonwealth September 11, 2001 Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Credit

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITION

- Eligible Institution:
  An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education as identified in Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Waiver program, the student must:

a) have graduated from a Massachusetts high school and awarded a Certificate of Mastery by the Massachusetts Department of Education;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements.

Initial recipients of the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Wavier shall maintain a G.P.A. of 3.3 for continued eligibility for the tuition waiver for up to eight semesters of study .

AWARD VALUE

The Board of Higher Education is authorized to award non-need-based tuition waivers for state-supported undergraduate courses to recipients of the Certificate of Mastery by the

Department of Education. Individual student awards shall be no more than the resident undergraduate tuition rate at the participating institution.

AWARD PROCEDURE

Certificate of Mastery Tuition Waivers recipients shall be responsible for submitting documentation of such award to the campus where he/she will enroll. The institution shall award tuition waivers to eligible students based on the indicated eligibility criteria and any institution-specific criteria as established by the participating college or university.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Wavier program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Wavier program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Wavier program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Wavier program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State

Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The five campuses of the University of Massachusetts

- **Eligible Student:**
  An approved degree program offered by the University of Massachusetts

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent program, the student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a) enrolled in a degree program at the University of Massachusetts;

b) eligibility criteria as established by the University of Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC TALENT PROGRAM CONDITIONS

- Campuses of the University of Massachusetts will submit to the University President waiver allocation requests and guidelines for eligibility and awarding of waivers by June 1 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded.

- The University of Massachusetts Presidents Office will be responsible for allocation of waivers to campuses, ensuring compliance with eligibility standards and award procedures, and reporting to the Board of Higher Education, prior to September 1, information pertaining to the awarding of academic and artistic talent tuition waivers for the prior academic year.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AWARD VALUE

The University of Massachusetts is authorized to award up to $1,025,000 in Academic and Artistic Talent Tuition Waivers annually.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the University of Massachusetts Academic and Artistic Talent program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

University of Massachusetts Athletic Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The five campuses of the University of Massachusetts

- **Eligible Student:**
  Student enrolled in a degree program at the University of Massachusetts who meets the following requirements:

  a) Academic and athletic eligibility criteria as established by the University of Massachusetts

AWARD VALUE

The University of Massachusetts is authorized to award up to $1,500,000 in athletic program tuition waivers annually.

ALLOCATION OF AWARDS

The University of Massachusetts President's Office shall determine the allocation of awards to campuses. By academic year 2003-2004, a minimum of $750,000 (50 percent) of the value of the athletic program tuition waiver allocation ($1,500,000) must be provided to Massachusetts' residents. Prior to academic year 2003-2004, the value of tuition waivers allocated to non resident students may not exceed that amount allocated to non-resident students in academic year 2000-2001.

Further, where the University has similar (same activity and gender participation) Division I sports at multiple campuses, tuition waivers may only be awarded to students participating in that program so designated as eligible by the University of Massachusetts President's Office and not to students in a similar Division 1 sport at another University of Massachusetts campus.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

GUIDELINES

Campuses of the University of Massachusetts will submit to the University President waiver allocation requests and guidelines for eligibility and awarding of waivers by June 1 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded. The University of Massachusetts President's Office will be responsible for allocation of waivers to campuses, ensuring compliance with eligibility standards and award procedures, ensuring compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and reporting annually to the Board of Higher Education, prior to September 1, information pertaining to the awarding of athletic programs tuition waivers for the prior academic year.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the University of Massachusetts Athletic Program Tuition Waiver. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the University of Massachusetts Athletic Program Tuition Waiver must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the University of Massachusetts Athletic Program Tuition Waiver.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the University of Massachusetts Athletic Program Tuition Waiver. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises

wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

UMass Exchange Program Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The five campuses of the University of Massachusetts

- **Eligible Student:**
  Student enrolled in a degree program at the University of Massachusetts who meets the following requirements:
  a) Eligibility criteria as established by the University of Massachusetts.

AWARD VALUE

The University of Massachusetts is authorized to award up to $650,000 in Exchange Program Tuition Waivers annually.

GUIDELINES

Campuses of the University of Massachusetts will submit to the University President waiver allocation requests and guidelines for eligibility and awarding of waivers by June 1 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded. The University of Massachusetts President's Office will be responsible for the allocation of waivers to campuses, ensuring compliance with eligibility standards and award procedures, and reporting to the Board of Higher Education, prior to September 1, information pertaining to the awarding of exchanging programs tuition waivers for the prior academic year.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the University of Massachusetts Exchange Program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the University of Massachusetts Exchange Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the University of Massachusetts Exchange Program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the University of Massachusetts Exchange Program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Valedictorian Program Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Valedictorian program, the student must:

a) be enrolled in an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

e) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program;

f) Have been designated by a public or private high school in the state as a valedictorian; and

g) Meet the eligibility criteria as established by the public higher education institution for this program.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AWARD VALUE

The Board of Higher Education is authorized to award tuition waivers in support of the Valedictorian Program. Campuses of the University of Massachusetts will submit to the University President waiver allocation requests and guidelines for eligibility and awarding of waivers by June 1 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded. The University of Massachusetts President's Office and individual State Universities and Community Colleges will submit to the Board of Higher Education waiver allocation requests and guidelines for eligibility and awarding of waivers by June 15 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded. The Office of Student Financial Assistance will notify each institution of annual award allocations by June 30 prior to the beginning of each academic year in which the waivers will be awarded. The University of Massachusetts Presidents Office will be responsible for allocation of waivers to campuses of the University of Massachusetts, ensuring compliance with eligibility standards and award procedures, and reporting to the Board of Higher Education prior to September 1 information pertaining to the awarding of Valedictorian Program tuition waivers for the prior academic year. State universities and community colleges will be responsible for ensuring compliance with eligibility standards and award procedures and reporting to the Board of Higher Education prior to September 1 information pertaining to the awarding of Valedictorian Program tuition waivers for the prior academic year.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Valedictorian program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Valedictorian program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Valedictorian program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Valedictorian program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

Washington Center Program Tuition Waiver

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

PURPOSE

This program provides financial assistance to support Massachusetts students who are enrolled in an eligible public higher education institution and are selected to participate in immersive internships and academic seminars offered by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (a nonprofit organization). As set forth below, subject to available funding, this program offers tuition waivers and scholarship funding to eligible students. M.G.L. c. 15A, §§ 16 and 19. This initiative seeks to enable students to explore their interests, gain valuable career insights, and build a pathway to their professional futures. By inspiring students to become informed, socially engaged citizens, this partnership seeks to empower the next generation of leaders across diverse fields, ultimately enhancing the vibrancy and sustainability of our communities.

DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  The nine Massachusetts State Universities and the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts as identified in Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  The Academic Internship Program (AIP): A semester long or summer term program offered by the Washington Center.

  Short Term Programs (STP): Short-term programs and academic seminars offered by The Washington Center. A full list and description of the eligible programs is accessible here: https://twc.edu/upcoming-short-term-experiences

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Washington Center program, the student must:

a) be enrolled in a degree program at an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) annually;

d) comply with financial aid verification requirements;

e) not be in default on any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution, or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid program;

f) have not earned a prior bachelor's degree, or the equivalent;

g) have obtained a minimum 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA);

h) meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institution's requirements and federal standards;

i) and meet other eligibility criteria as established by the institution and The Washington Center.

AWARD VALUE

- **The Academic Internship Program (AIP):**
    - A waiver of tuition by the Board of Higher Education along with a waiver of mandatory fees by the institution, to cover the costs of the credits earned by the student for participating in The Washington Center's Academic Internship Program.
    - A program fee and housing scholarship in the amount of $7,700, to reduce the student's cost to participate in The Washington Center Academic Internship Program.
        - The student may be eligible for additional scholarship funding from The Washington Center in an amount funded and determined by The Washington Center.

- **The Short Term Programs (STP):**
  Subject to appropriation and available funding, a scholarship ranging from $1,000 to $3,000 per program to support the student's participation in the STP experience. The amount of the BHE-funded scholarship is intended to fully cover the student's program fee and housing costs, as set by The Washington Center for each STP. In fiscal years where there may be a funding shortfall, the student may be eligible for a matching scholarship from The Washington Center in an amount funded and determined by The Washington Center.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

Each eligible institution may provide nine new Washington Campus Tuition Waivers per academic year for the AIP program; waivers not awarded by eligible institutions may be awarded by other institutions upon approval of the Board of Higher Education.

GUIDELINES

Eligible institutions shall develop additional eligibility criteria and a method for selecting Washington Program award recipients. Additional eligibility criteria shall be filed with the Board of Higher Education upon adoption and upon any amendments thereto.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Washington Center Tuition Waiver Program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Washington Center Tuition Waiver Program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each State University to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Washington Center Tuition Waiver Program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Washington Center Tuition Waiver program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.