



## **Dalton State Tuition Waiver Policy**

Out-of-State Tuition Waivers were established by the Board of Regents (BOR) to allow institutions to recruit the best students to their campuses and to help to retain them. In this context, “best” typically is defined in terms of academic achievement as measured by indicators such as Freshman Index (FI) or college GPA. In some cases, merit can be determined by special talents, including (but not limited to) athletic, musical, and artistic. In all cases, students who receive Out-of-State Tuition Waivers are expected to establish and to maintain strong academic records. Out-of-State Tuition Waivers are one of the most valuable scholarship resources possessed by Dalton State College. The awards waive the differential between out-of-state and in-state tuition costs. Recipients of the waiver must pay in-state tuition and all applicable fees. Each waiver is granted for a specific period of time, ranging from a single semester to the designated length of a degree program, but maintaining a waiver always depends on a student’s success in meeting certain specified criteria. Please note: There are over a dozen waiver categories established by the BOR. This policy applies only to Presidential Out-of-State Tuition Waivers. It does not, for instance, apply to waiver categories designated by the BOR for Graduate Assistantships, the Academic Common Market, non-Georgia military personnel, Economic Development, Study Abroad, and so forth. The Board of Regents strictly limits the total number of Out-of-State Tuition Waivers that any school in the University System of Georgia (USG) can award. In light of the intended purpose of the waiver and limits on its availability, the following guidelines are established.

### **Presidential Waivers**

This category of Out-of-State Tuition Waiver is designated for high-achieving or highly accomplished domestic and international out-of-state students. Students eligible for Presidential Waivers fall into the following categories:

1. Academic Presidential Waivers: Awarded to students who have demonstrated the potential to excel within a particular program of study offered by the institution as evidenced by scoring within the top half of students matriculating at the institution or the top half of students matriculating within the particular program of study to which the student has applied. Continuing students who are performing at high-levels of academic achievement and accomplishment may also be considered for Academic Presidential Waivers.



**2. Athletic Presidential Waivers:** Awarded to students selected to participate in Dalton State's intercollegiate athletics program and who have demonstrated the potential to succeed within a particular program of study.

**3. International Presidential Waivers:** The International Presidential Waiver is for non-citizen students who are not otherwise ineligible for a tuition differential waiver under this policy and who have demonstrated the potential to succeed within a particular program of study. Potential Recipients of International Presidential Waivers include degree-seeking international students; students who are part of 2+2 articulation agreements; sponsored students, and high achieving international students facing severe economic hardship.

## **Distribution of Presidential Waivers**

By stipulation of the Board of Regents, the total number of Presidential Waivers at any one time cannot exceed 2% of the equivalent full-time (FTE) students at the institution in the fall term immediately preceding the term for which the out-of-state tuition waiver is to be applied. For waivers awarded in the spring and summer terms, availability will be based on 2% FTE of the fall term of the previous academic year. The Tuition Classification Officer will monitor the total number of Presidential Waivers assigned and, if necessary, draw a limit so that the total supply of waivers is not overly depleted in any given semester.

- Athletic waivers are limited to 1/3 of the total number of waivers.
- The number of waivers will be determined as 2% of the previous Fall semester's enrollment.
- Students who are currently receiving a SOOS or International Waiver will continue to be eligible as long as they remain continuously enrolled and continue to meet the eligibility requirements under which they were awarded. Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment can be reevaluated under the new standards.
- Students who are eligible for more than one category must choose which category they are applying for and will remain in that category until their studies at DSC are complete or they become eligible to be classified as legal residents of the state.
- Applications for Presidential Waivers will not be reviewed for eligibility until the admissions process is complete and on a first come first served basis.
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- Students admitted on a conditional basis (limited admission) are not eligible for a Presidential Waiver.



- Failure to maintain the specified level of academic performance shall result in the student being placed in a two-semester probationary period for waiver purposes.

The student shall be eligible to maintain a waiver during this probationary period but shall be ineligible for the waiver if the student is not able to achieve the specified GPA during the first probationary term or is mathematically unable to meet the required GPA by the end of the probationary period.

### **Academic Category Eligibility**

- 3.0 HS GPA from a USG recognized high school program and a minimum 450CR/500M/19ACTE/21ACTM for traditional students. Non-traditional students must exempt learning support requirements.
- 2.5 transfer GPA and exemption from learning support requirements for students with less than 30 transferable (semester) hours. Transfer students with more than 30 transferable hours must have completed ENGL 1101 or its equivalent and the appropriate Area A Math course.
- Students who receive the Academic Waiver must maintain a 2.5 GPA.

### **International Category**

- 3.0 HS GPA or its equivalent for incoming freshmen international students and a minimum 450CR/500M/19ACTE/21ACTM. GPA may be validated by SAT/ACT score.
- Students who receive the International Waiver must maintain a 2.5 GPA.
- International transfer students must have a 2.5 GPA.

### **Athletic Category**

- 2.0 HS GPA or its equivalent.
- Conditionally admitted students are not eligible for the Athletic Waiver.
- Students applying for the Athletic waiver must meet all categories of the SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) to include Quantitative and Qualitative requirements.
- Transfer students must have a 2.0 GPA.



**Students who are unable to provide proof of lawful presence in the United States are not eligible to receive an Out-of-State Tuition Waiver.**

Students not remaining continuously enrolled will be reevaluated for the purpose of awarding the out-of-state tuition waiver at the time they reenroll. Exceptions to the continuous enrollment requirement may be granted for extraordinary circumstances that might include illness, injury or family situations that prevent a student from maintaining continuous enrollment.

## **Nonresident Students Waiver**

As of the first day of classes for the term, a nonresident student can be considered for this waiver under the following conditions:

**Student under 24.** If the parent, or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian has maintained domicile in Georgia for at least 12 consecutive months and the student can provide clear and legal evidence showing the relationship to the parent or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian has existed for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes for the term. Under Georgia code legal guardianship must be established prior to the student's 18th birthday (BR Minutes, October 2008).

**Student 24 or Older.** If the student can provide clear and legal evidence showing relations to the spouse and the spouse has maintained domicile in Georgia for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes for the term. This waiver can remain in effect as long as the student remains continuously enrolled.

If the parent, spouse, or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian of a continuously enrolled nonresident student establishes domicile in another state after having maintained domicile in the State of Georgia

for the required period, the nonresident student may continue to receive this waiver as long as the student remains continuously enrolled in a public postsecondary educational institution in the state,



regardless of the domicile of the parent, spouse or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian.

## **DACA**

### **DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)**

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security began granting deferred action for a class of individuals unlawfully present in the United States and meeting certain criteria under a program known as *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*, or *DACA*. Per an August 20, 2012 memo provided by the USG Office of Legal Affairs, individuals granted DACA are not considered lawfully present in the United States. Any individual granted DACA by the Department of Homeland Security is ineligible to be classified as an in-state student, granted a USG out-of-state tuition waiver, or to be admitted to any institution falling under Policy 4.1.6, *Admission of Persons Not Lawfully Present in the United States*.

In Georgia, individuals granted DACA are eligible to receive a limited-term Georgia driver's license or state-issued ID. In some cases, an individual granted DACA may not have a license or state ID with the limited term notation, but the license/ID will be issued for a period of less than two years. As a result, a Georgia driver's license or state-issued ID with either the limited term notation or issued for a period of less than two years cannot be accepted for the purpose of verifying lawful presence for the purpose of the USG policies.

## **Economic Advantage Waiver**

As of the first day of classes for the term, an *Economic Advantage* waiver may be granted under the following conditions:

### **U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, and Eligible Non-Citizens**

#### *A. Dependent Students*

Dependent students providing clear and convincing evidence that the student's parent or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian relocated to the



state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded.

***B. Independent Students***

Independent students providing clear and convincing evidence that they, or their spouse, relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment. The relocation to the state must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded.

***C. U.S. refugees, asylees, and other eligible noncitizens as defined by the federal Title IV regulations may be extended the same consideration for the Economic Advantage waiver as citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States.***

Waiver eligibility for the above qualifying students expires twelve (12) months from the date the waiver is awarded.

****Non-Citizens (those who are not considered Eligible Non-Citizens by the U.S. Department of Education)****

***A. Dependent Students***

Non-citizen dependent students providing clear and convincing evidence that the student's parent or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment and entered the state in a valid, employment-authorized status. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded. Additionally, the non-citizen dependent student must provide clear evidence that the parent, or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian, is taking legally permissible steps to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

***B. Independent Students***

Non-citizen independent students must provide clear and convincing evidence that they, or their spouse, relocated to the state of Georgia to



accept full-time, self-sustaining employment and entered the state in a valid, employment authorized status. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded. Additionally, non-citizen independent students must provide clear evidence that they, or

their spouse, are taking legally permissible steps to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

Waiver eligibility for the above qualifying students may continue provided full-time, self-sustaining employment in Georgia and the employment-authorized status are maintained. Furthermore, there must be continued evidence of Georgia domicile and efforts to pursue an adjustment to United States lawful permanent resident status.