

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Tuition Charge Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

Effective July 1, 2016, the term “curriculum fees” will become obsolete. A graduate students’ tuition and curriculum fees will be combined and called tuition. The tuition amount is approved annually by the Board of Trustees. UMass provides a credit (formerly waiver) of the tuition charge to graduate student research assistants as fringe benefits as negotiated with the Graduate Employment Organization (GEO). A portion of the average graduate tuition credited, the Tuition Charge (formerly the Curriculum Fee Waiver Charge), will be assessed to research awards at UMass Amherst as a non-overhead-bearing direct cost for credits given to students performing necessary work on federal research awards [Office of Management and Budget Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR §200) ("Uniform Guidance")]. Unlike salaries and wages, tuition waivers must be excluded from the application of indirect costs [Uniform Guidance §200.466]. Remission of the tuition charge will be recorded in account code 786910 “Tuition/Fees Benefit”.

Prior to July 1, 2016, grants had been charged a curriculum fee waiver for research assistants whose salaries were paid from grants. This policy had been instituted in FY2001. In FY2010, the actual curriculum fee increased dramatically and the campus implemented a policy whereby the annual curriculum fee waiver increase accessed to grants and auxiliaries was capped at a 5% annual increase. The current campus policy caps the annual tuition charge increase at 5% .