

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Tuition Increase in Effect for 2014-2015 Academic Year**

Action Requested: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve, retroactive to July 1, 2014, the implementation of a curriculum tuition increase of \$0.50 per credit hour for the 2014-15 academic year, pending approval by the General Assembly. These rates will be effective for the 2014 Fall Term.

Background: G.S. 115D-5 states that “The State Board shall have authority with respect to individual institutions... to establish and regulate student tuition and fees within policies for tuition and fees established by the General Assembly.” Also, G.S. 115D-39 states that “(t)he State Board of Community Colleges shall fix and regulate all tuition and fees charged to students for applying to or attending any institution pursuant to this Chapter.” Through the legislative budget process, the General Assembly has debated a tuition increase as a means to offset reduced General Fund appropriations available to support community college operations. Senate Bill 744, 3rd edition did not include a proposed tuition increase, while Senate Bill 744, 7th edition proposed a \$0.50 per credit hour increase. Conversations with House and Senate budget conferees suggest that the tuition increase proposed in the 7th edition will likely be included in the final budget; however, it is unclear when a final budget will be enacted. Meanwhile, colleges urgently need 2014-15 tuition rates set in order to avoid costly supplemental tuition increase billings, to facilitate financial aid processing, and to move forward with fall semester student registration

State Board Action: Consistent with G.S. 115D-5, G.S. 115D-39, and contingent upon final General Assembly approval, the State Board of Community Colleges hereby fixes tuition charged to students for the 2014-15 academic year:

Residents: The per credit hour charge shall be increased from \$71.50 to \$72.00; up to a maximum per semester of \$1,152, based upon 16 credit hours of instruction.

Non-Residents: The per credit hour charge shall be increased from \$263.50 to \$264.00; up to a maximum per semester of \$4,224, based upon 16 credit hours of instruction.

Further, if the General Assembly adjourns without the enactment of legislation directing this tuition increase, this action shall be null and void and all students who have paid the increased rate will receive a refund for \$0.50 per credit hour up to \$8 for the semester.

Contact Person

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