

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
TUITION BENEFITS PLAN FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Application For Credit Courses Taken at the University of Rochester

Questions regarding the Tuition Benefits Plan should be directed to the Benefits Office @ 275-7013

Tuition Waiver Procedure

Step # 1 Employee:

- ♦ Completes Application for Tuition Waiver (one application per individual for each term)
- Completes Employee Section (**Student ID and Employee ID number is required to process this application**)
- Lists all courses for which a tuition waiver is requested (maximum of 2 courses per semester or quarter) and signs the application
- ♦ If taking graduate courses, employee reviews the attached flow chart on **page 4** for determining whether graduate tuition benefits will be taxable and checks the appropriate box under the “Employee Section” of the application. If not taxable, employee completes the *University of Rochester Graduate Tuition Waiver/Reimbursement Tax Exemption Form* on **page 5 and 6**.
- ♦ Takes Application for Tuition Waiver (and tax exemption form (page 5 & 6), if not taxable) to supervisor or department head

Step # 2 Supervisor or Department Head:

- ♦ Reviews application in terms of employee’s ability to complete course(s) without interfering with normal work schedule; completes Department Certification section and signs and dates application
- ♦ Completes and signs Supervisor/Dept. Head Certification section of the tax exemption form on page 6, if applicable
- ♦ Returns application (and tax exemption form, if applicable) to employee

Step # 3 Employee:

- ♦ Keeps Tuition Waiver Procedure and Tuition Waiver Information pages
- ♦ If registering for courses using paper, takes waiver to Registrar’s Office when registering for the course(s)

Step # 4 Registrar’s Office for paper registration only (Skip this step if registering for courses online):

- ♦ Verifies accuracy of course information on the Application for Tuition Waiver
- ♦ Certifies that course(s) listed on the Application for Tuition Waiver match the course(s) for which employee is registered
- ♦ Enters term/year code on form
- ♦ Stamps Application for Tuition Waiver and returns to employee

Step # 5 Employee:

- ♦ Keeps a copy of the completed application (and tax exemption form, if applicable) for their records
 - ♦ Returns completed application to the Tuition Benefits Office at Brooks Landing, Box 278955
- It is recommended that applications be completed and approved prior to the start of the course. (Completed applications must be received by the Benefits Office for authorization no later than 30 days after the start of the course(s).)**

Step # 6 Benefits Office:

- ♦ Confirms eligibility, authorizes the Application for Tuition Waiver for an anticipated credit and notifies the Bursar’s Office of the authorization
- Please allow two weeks for the Benefits Office to process and authorize application. (Note: If registering for courses using paper, applications cannot be authorized until stamped by the Registrar’s Office.)**

Step # 7 Bursar’s Office:

- ♦ Upon successful completion of the course(s), posts actual tuition credit to the student’s account

Step # 8 Benefits Office:

- ♦ For taxable tuition assistance benefits, authorizes applicable Federal and State income taxes and FICA taxes to be deducted from the employee’s paycheck when the waiver is approved.

Tuition Waiver Information

- ◆ If the supervisor **requires** an hourly paid staff member to take job-related course(s), class time is considered as working time and will be paid as such by the staff member's department. If a course occurs outside the normal work hours, additional pay will be required for hourly paid staff (including overtime premium) if work exceeds 40 hours in a week.
- ◆ Tuition Waiver benefits are provided for the cost of tuition for credit-bearing courses only. Cost of supplies, textbooks and the like will not be covered. Courses taken on audit basis will not be covered.
- ◆ ***In all instances, tuition benefits are contingent upon successful completion of the course and continuation of eligibility for tuition benefits based on employment status with the University. If these criteria are not met, the employee will be responsible for payment of the course and any related fees, i.e., late fees. The approved waiver is only for the course(s) listed. Any change in course(s) listed (add/drop/withdrawal), will result in the employee being responsible for payment of the course(s) as stated in the University Bursar's Office Refund Schedule.***
- ◆ In no instance is an employee eligible for more than 2 courses per semester or quarter. (The limit applies to all courses taken at a given time, whether at the U of R or other colleges or universities.)
- ◆ **Grandparenting of Tuition Benefits.** Employees matriculated in a degree program as of 9/1/96 and receiving tuition benefits from the University can elect to maintain the tuition benefit level prior to 9/1/96 of 100% waiver for two courses per semester or quarter. Grandparenting at this level applies only to the degree for which an employee was matriculated as of 9/1/96. When applying for the tuition waiver, the employee may need to provide written proof of matriculation in a degree program.

Tuition Benefits for Graduate Courses May be Taxable and Require Additional Taxes to be Deducted from your Paycheck

Graduate tuition assistance benefits up to \$5,250 received in a calendar year are not taxable. Graduate tuition assistance benefits that exceed \$5,250 in a calendar year are **taxable wages** unless the course satisfies the requirements for a tax deductible job-related course under IRS rules.* Generally, a job-related course will satisfy these IRS requirements if it *maintains or improves skills for the individual's present job, or if the course meets the employer's express requirements for retaining the job, and the course is not part of a program that will qualify the individual for a new trade or business.* Please refer to the flow chart on **page 4** for assistance in determining whether the graduate tuition benefits you anticipate receiving will be taxable.

If you believe that your proposed graduate level course(s) satisfies the requirements for a tax deductible job-related course under IRS rules, please complete the *University of Rochester Graduate Tuition Waiver/Reimbursement Tax Exemption Form* on **pages 5 and 6. For taxable tuition assistance benefits, applicable Federal and State income taxes and FICA taxes (*approximately 40.32% of the taxable tuition amount*) will be deducted from the employee's paycheck when the waiver is approved.** In addition, the taxable income will be reflected on the W-2 for the calendar year when the actual tuition credit is posted to the student's account. Below is an example of a calculation:

Total yearly tuition amount = \$19,980 - \$5,250 (tax-free amount) = \$14,730 x 40.32% = **\$5,939.14** (estimated amount that will be **deducted from the employee's paychecks** during the calendar year)

*If you worked at one of the members of the University's controlled group during this calendar year (Highland Hospital, Highlands at Brighton, Highlands at Pittsford, Highlands Living Center, Visiting Nurse Service (VNS), Visiting Nurse Signature Care and High Tech Rochester), and utilized employee tuition benefits, please advise the University's Benefits Office of the amount of that tuition benefit.

APPLICATION FOR TUITION WAIVER FOR COURSES TAKEN AT THE U of R

(Before completing application, please read pages 1 & 2 for instructions and important information)

EMPLOYEE SECTION (PLEASE PRINT)

*Name _____ University Telephone _____
 Division/Department _____ Home Telephone _____
 Intramural Address _____ *Student ID # _____
 Job Title _____ *Employee ID # _____ FT PT
 E-mail address _____

***Required to process this application**

_____ FALL _____ WINTER _____ SPRING _____ SUMMER Start Date _____ End Date _____

School/College _____ CRN _____ Course # and Title _____ Credit Hours _____ Graduate Level Course? Yes** No

1. _____
2. _____

I hereby acknowledge that tuition benefits will be provided to me contingent upon successful completion of the course and continuation of my eligibility for tuition benefits based upon my employment status with the University. I realize that if I do not satisfy these criteria, I will be responsible for payment of the course and any related fees, i.e., late fees.

Signature of Employee **Date**

****I certify that I reviewed the flow chart on page 4 and determined that: (Please check ONE)**

- the graduate courses I am currently enrolled in (listed above) are **TAXABLE**.
- the graduate courses I am currently enrolled in (listed above) are **NOT TAXABLE**. (Complete page 5 & 6)

Signature of Employee **Date**

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION (To be completed by Supervisor/Department Head)

_____ **Job-related course**
 (The University defines a course as job-related if it is related to the employee's job at the University or is part of a degree plan that would prepare an employee for a future job within the University.)

_____ **Course(s) will not interfere with work**

Signature of Supervisor /Dept. Head **Date** **Print Name of Supervisor/Dept. Head**

REGISTRAR CERTIFICATION (To be completed by Registrars' Office)

The above-named student has registered for the course(s) listed for

 TERM/YR

GRANDPARENTING CERTIFICATION (To be completed by employee, if applicable)

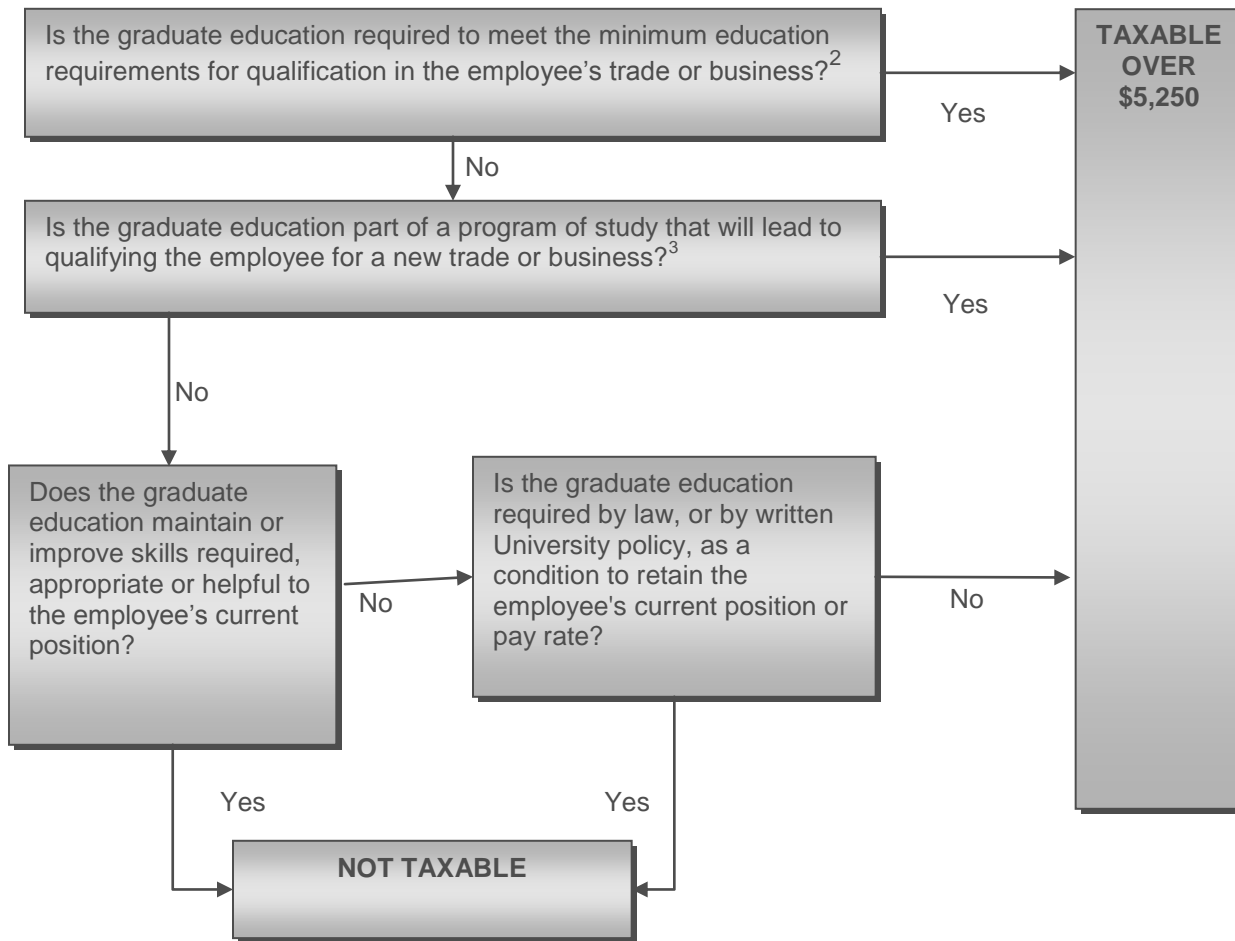
I hereby request to be grandparented at the prior to 9/1/96 tuition benefit level of 100% tuition waiver for two courses per semester or quarter. I certify that I have previously received tuition benefits from the University and was matriculated in a degree program as of 9/1/96. If necessary, I will provide the Benefits Office with proof of matriculation.

Signature of Employee **Date**

FOR BENEFITS OFFICE USE ONLY

 Benefits Office Authorization **Date**

**University of Rochester Graduate Tuition Waiver/Reimbursement Benefits
 Determination Whether Graduate Tuition Assistance Benefits
 Exceeding \$5,250 in a Calendar Year are Taxable¹**



1. **About this Chart:** Ordinarily, employer-provided graduate tuition assistance benefits that exceed \$5,250 are taxable wages, while benefits up to \$5,250 are not taxable. However, certain job-related education is not taxable over \$5,250. This chart is intended to assist in determining whether an educational benefit sought by an employee meets the exception to taxability. **This does not constitute tax advice to employees, and employees should consult their personal tax advisors.**
2. **Minimum Required Education:** For example, suppose an employee, who holds a bachelor's degree, obtains temporary employment as an instructor at the University and undertakes graduate courses as a candidate for a graduate degree. Also, suppose the employee may become a faculty member only if he/she obtains a graduate degree and may continue as an instructor only so long as he/she shows satisfactory progress towards obtaining his/her graduate degree. The graduate courses taken by the employee constitute education required to meet the minimum educational requirements for qualification in the employee's trade or business and, thus, the expenditures for such courses in excess of \$5,250 are not deductible.
3. **New Trade or Business.** For example, a program of study qualifies an employee for a new trade or business if successful completion of the program would qualify the employee to: (1) meet a new category of professional licensure or certification required to perform a particular job (e.g. nurse practitioner certification); or (2) be employed in a position that has a different educational requirement than his/her current position, either within or outside the University. NOTE: Intention or actual job change is irrelevant; even if the employee does not intend to change positions, or does not take a new position, the tuition benefit is taxable if the employee becomes qualified to do so.

University of Rochester Graduate Tuition Waiver/Reimbursement Tax Exemption Form

(You should consult with your tax advisor before completing this form).

Employee Information (please print)

Name:	University Telephone:
Student ID #:	Home Telephone:
Employee ID #:	
Job Title:	

Course Information – Please complete a separate form for each course.

College/University	Course #	Course Title	Course Start Date	Course End Date

To the Employee: Please answer the following questions to indicate whether the above course is job-related.

1. Is the course required to meet the minimum education requirements of my position?
 Yes No
2. Is the course part of a program of study that will qualify me for a new trade or business?
 Yes No
3. Will the course help me maintain or improve skills in my current position?
 Yes No
4. Is the course required as a condition to retain my current position or pay rate?
 Yes No

For the course to qualify as a tax exempt job-related course, the answers to the first two questions must be “No”, and the answer to either the third or fourth question must be “Yes”.

By signing below, I certify that I have answered the above questions accurately. I understand that if the course is found not to be job-related, I may have to pay taxes on the value of the course. If the value of the course is taxable, I also understand that I may owe income tax, FICA payments, and/or penalties and interest, and I agree to assume responsibility for paying these amounts.

Signature of Employee

Date

Over

Supervisor/Dept. Head Certification

To the Supervisor: Please answer the following questions to indicate whether the above course is job-related.

- 1. Is the course required to meet the minimum education requirements of the employee's position?
 Yes No
- 2. Is the course part of a program of study that will qualify the employee for a new trade or business?
 Yes No
- 3. Will the course help the employee maintain or improve skills in his/her current position?
 Yes No
- 4. Is the course required as a condition for the employee to retain his/her current position or pay rate?
 Yes No

For the course to qualify as a tax exempt job-related course, the answers to the first two questions must be "No", and the answer to either the third or fourth question must be "Yes".

By signing below, I certify that I have answered the above questions accurately.

Signature of Supervisor/Dept. Head

Date

Extension

Please Print Name of Supervisor/Dept. Head

Reviewed by the Benefits Office

Date

Questions: Call 275-7013.

Please submit this completed form to the Tuition Benefits Office at Brooks Landing, Box 278955.