

# Simmons UNIVERSITY

*On June 30, 2020 President Drinan announced the following:*

The Tuition Exchange Program, a popular scholarship opportunity for dependents of eligible faculty and staff of participating member schools, will be capped. In recent years, we have imported more students than we have exported into the program (as many as 20-24), carrying with it a significant net budget loss. Beginning this academic year, we will cap the number of incoming students at 14. This change has no impact on employees currently using the benefit, and no restrictions will be placed on the number of Simmons dependents exported into the Exchange.

## **TUITION FAQs**

### **Why is Simmons making this change?**

The current Simmons Tuition Waiver program has a negative effect on revenue and carries with it a budget impact. In reviewing the tuition benefit at other institutions of higher education, our waiver program is more generous than many of our peers. This policy change is an attempt to right-size this benefit.

### **What are the major changes in policy?**

The major changes in policy apply to the **graduate programs**.

Spouses and children will no longer be eligible for graduate tuition waivers.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 2020 will be offered percentage discounts on graduate courses based on years of service.

- 25% discount for up to 3 years of service;
- 50% discount for between 3 to 5 years;
- 100% discount for more than five years of service

Employees hired prior to July 1, 2020 will continue to receive graduate program tuition remission at 100%.

### **Are the undergraduate programs affected by the change?**

No, tuition waivers for undergraduate programs are not affected. Spouses, domestic partners, and children will continue to be eligible for this benefit.

### **Does this change apply to me?**

If someone in your family was admitted to and matriculated into a degree-bearing program prior to July 1, 2020, the change in policy **will not apply** and they will be allowed to take classes free of charge for this matriculated degree program.

The discount on graduate courses applies to all employees hired on or after July 1, 2020.

### **What if someone in my family was taking graduate classes, but was not admitted or matriculated into a program?**

If your family member was taking graduate classes, but were not formally admitted into a graduate degree-bearing program, they will now need to pay tuition according to the changes announced.

### **Will these changes apply for the Fall 2020 semester?**

Yes, these changes took effect on July 1, 2020 and will be applied to the tuition due for the Fall semester ongoing.

### **Will I or my eligible dependents be eligible for a tuition remission benefit for an accelerated program at Simmons (Bachelor's + Master's accelerated program)?**

There is still a benefit offered for those classes that count toward your (or you family's) undergraduate degree—these classes will continue to be tuition free. Once your family member is designated a graduate student and starts receiving credits toward their Master's Degree—then those classes will be at a cost. For the employee taking these courses, if you are hired on or after July 1, 2020 then once you are designated as a graduate student and start receiving credits toward your Master's Degree you will have a cost share in accordance with the new policy.

Please remember there will be no tuition benefit offered for the graduate classes of your eligible dependent children or spouse.

### **Will I be able to take 2U enabled online courses?**

There has been no change to this portion of the policy in that 2U enabled online classes are still excluded from the tuition remission benefit.

### **What date will be used to determine my cost share for Graduate Classes?**

For employees hired on or after July 1, 2020, graduate tuition cost share will be determined based on your date of hire. Undergraduate courses will continue to be coverage at 100%.

0 up to 3 years of service = 25% discount on tuition  
3 years up to 5 years of service = 50% discount on tuition  
5 years + years of service = tuition covered at 100%