

Policy on Online Courses/Distance Education Differential Tuition

Approved by the CLT 11/14/2016

This Policy on Distance Education Differential Tuition seeks to bring transparency and consistency to the manner in which online courses are offered and faculty members are paid for teaching these courses. The first offerings of online courses that included the distance education differential tuition occurred in the fall of 2012.

Online courses in the College of Architecture were created to increase the offerings of courses due to the limitation of space, make offerings available to students who are not in College Station, and to increase revenue for the departments. The increase of revenue comes not only from the distance education differential tuition, but also from increased SCH and WSCH production.

Each Department has the ability to offer online courses and to charge their own rate. The current rates are as follows:

- ARCH: \$250 per SCH
- COSC: \$250 per SCH
- LAUP: \$150 per SCH for undergraduate courses and \$300 per SCH for graduate courses
- VIZA \$249 per SCH.

Each spring, the University allows the Departments to request a change to their rate through a process approved by the President.

When online courses/distance education differential tuition rates were approved, they were approved with the following conditions from the College:

1. If a department offers an online course, it cannot reduce the number of traditional in-class offerings or available seats of that course.
2. If a department offers an online course in the fall or spring semester, it must also offer an in-class section of the same course. The only exception is this: if a traditional in-class course was previously only offered in the fall, then an online offering could be made in the spring (and vice versa) without the corresponding in-class offering.
3. In the summer, departments can offer online courses without the requirement to offer an in-class section.

Faculty members who are teaching an online course as part of their normal assignment should be paid in the same manner as faculty members teaching traditional courses.

Faculty members who are hired specifically to teach only online courses can be paid per the agreement with the Department Head, whether this be a percentage per course, a set amount per course, or a set amount per student registered in the course.

Faculty members who are teaching an online course as an overload can be paid per the agreement with the Department Head, whether this be a percentage per course, a set amount per course, or a set amount per student registered in the course.

Faculty members teaching an online course in the summer can be paid per the agreement with the Department Head, whether this be a percentage per course, a set amount per course, or a set amount per student registered in the course.

Revenue generated from Distance Education Differential Tuition can be used to pay instructors and graduate assistants and their tuition associated with the courses, expenses associated with the courses and any salaries or expenses associated with staff members whose job description includes helping with these type of courses. Funds remaining after these expenses can be used for other expenses associated with online courses (IT infrastructure, course development, specialists, professional development, etc.).