EDUCATION CODE

TITLE 3. HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBTITLE A. HIGHER EDUCATION IN GENERAL

CHAPTER 54. TUITION AND FEES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 54.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:
(1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as is assigned to it by Section 61.003 of this code.
(2) "Governing board" has the same meaning as is assigned to it by Section 61.003 of this code.


Sec. 54.0015. ADOPTION OF CERTAIN DEFINITIONS BY RULE. In consultation with representatives of institutions of higher education, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by rule shall adopt definitions related to the resident status of students for purposes of this title and to tuition and fee exemptions and waivers for students under this chapter as necessary to ensure consistency in the application of this chapter and other related state laws and policies.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 888 (S.B. 1528), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 54.002. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. The provisions of this chapter apply to all institutions of higher education, except that as to junior colleges this chapter applies only to the extent provided by Section 130.003(b) of this code.


Sec. 54.003. TUITION AND CHARGES TO BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW. No institution of higher education may collect from students attending the institution any tuition, fee, or charge of any kind except as permitted by law, and no student may be refused admission to or discharged from any institution for the nonpayment of any tuition, fee, or charge except as permitted by law.

Sec. 54.004. RETENTION AND USE OF FUNDS. All tuition, local funds, and fees collected by an institution of higher education shall be retained and expended by the institution and accounted for annually as provided in the general appropriations act.


Sec. 54.005. RIGHT TO COLLECT SPECIAL FEES. The provisions of this subchapter requiring the governing board of each institution of higher education to collect tuition fees do not deprive the board of the right to collect special fees authorized by law.


Sec. 54.006. REFUND OR ADJUSTMENT OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES FOR DROPPED COURSES AND STUDENT WITHDRAWALS. (a) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit, as soon as practicable, shall refund the amount of tuition and mandatory fees collected for courses from which students drop within the first 12 days of a fall or spring semester or a summer term of 10 weeks or longer, within the first four days of a term or session of more than five weeks but less than 10 weeks, or within the period specified by the institution for that purpose for a term or session of five weeks or less that is substantially proportional to the period specified by this subsection for a longer term or session. The institution or medical and dental unit may not delay a refund under this subsection on the grounds that the student may withdraw from the institution or unit later in the semester or term.

(a-1) An institution may assess a nonrefundable $15 matriculation fee if the student withdraws from the institution before the first day of classes.

(b) Except as provided by Subsections (b-1) and (b-2), a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit shall refund from the amount paid by a student withdrawing from the institution or unit an amount equal to the product of the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged for each course in which the student is enrolled on the date the student withdraws multiplied by the applicable percentage derived from the following tables:

(1) if the student withdraws during a fall or spring semester or a summer term of 10 weeks or longer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) prior to the first class day</td>
<td>100 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) during the first five class days</td>
<td>80 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) during the second five class days</td>
<td>70 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) during the third five class days</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>(E) during the fourth five class days</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
(F) after the fourth five class days None;

(2) if the student withdraws during a term or session of more than five weeks but less than 10 weeks:
   (A) prior to the first class day 100 percent
   (B) during the first, second, or third class day 80 percent
   (C) during the fourth, fifth, or sixth class day 50 percent
   (D) seventh day of class and thereafter None; and

(3) if the student withdraws from a term or session of five weeks or less:
   (A) prior to the first class day 100 percent
   (B) during the first class day 80 percent
   (C) during the second class day 50 percent
   (D) during the third class day

and thereafter None.

(b-1) If a student has not paid the total amount of the tuition and mandatory fees charged to the student by the institution or unit for the courses in which the student is enrolled by the date the student withdraws from the institution or unit, instead of issuing the student a refund in the amount required under Subsection (b), the institution or unit may credit the amount to be refunded toward the payment of the outstanding tuition and mandatory fees owed by the student. The institution or unit shall issue a refund to the student if any portion of the amount to be refunded remains after the outstanding tuition and mandatory fees have been paid.

(b-2) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit may provide to a student withdrawing from the institution or unit a refund of a portion of the tuition and mandatory fees charged to the student by the institution or unit for the courses in which the student is enrolled on the date the student withdraws in an amount greater than the amount required by Subsection (b). The institution or unit may apply the portion of the refund authorized by this subsection toward the payment of any outstanding tuition and fees as provided by Subsection (b-1), and may refund the remainder of that portion in the form of, as the institution or unit considers appropriate:
   (1) a payment made directly to the student; or
   (2) credit toward payment of tuition and mandatory fees for a subsequent semester or other academic term at the institution or unit.

(c) Separate withdrawal refund schedules may be established for optional fees.

(d) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit
shall refund tuition and fees paid by a sponsor, donor, or scholarship to the
source rather than directly to the student who has withdrawn if the funds were
made available through the institution.

(e) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit may
terminate a student's student services and privileges, including health
services, library privileges, facilities and technology usage, and athletic and
cultural entertainment tickets, when the student withdraws from the institution.

(f) Beginning with the summer semester of 1990, if a student withdraws
from an institution of higher education because the student is called to active
military service, the institution, at the student's option, shall:

(1) refund the tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester
in which the student withdraws;

(2) grant a student, who is eligible under the institution's
guidelines, an incomplete grade in all courses by designating "withdrawn-
military" on the student's transcript; or

(3) as determined by the instructor, assign an appropriate final grade
or credit to a student who has satisfactorily completed a substantial amount of
coursework and who has demonstrated sufficient mastery of the course material.

(g) Repealed by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 546, Sec. 4, eff. June 16,
2007.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 901, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 31, 1987; Acts
1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 15, Sec. 1, eff. April 5, 1991; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch.
253, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 30, 1993.
Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 546 (S.B. 1231), Sec. 2, eff. June 16,
2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 546 (S.B. 1231), Sec. 3, eff. June 16,
2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 546 (S.B. 1231), Sec. 4, eff. June 16,
2007.

Sec. 54.0065. TUITION REBATE FOR CERTAIN UNDERGRADUATES. (a) A qualified
student is eligible for a rebate of a portion of the undergraduate tuition the
student has paid if the student:

(1) is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general academic teaching
institution within the period prescribed by Section 56.462(1)(A) or (B), as
applicable, to qualify for forgiveness of a Texas B-On-time loan; and

(2) has attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum
number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree program: