

**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**  
**TUITION BENEFITS PLAN FOR FACULTY AND STAFF**

**Application for Credit Courses Taken at the University of Rochester**

**Questions: 585-275-0476**

**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 numbers are required to process this application**)
  - Lists all courses for which a tuition waiver is requested—maximum of two (2) courses for full-time faculty/staff (one (1) course for part-time staff) per semester or quarter and signs the application
- ◆ If taking graduate courses, employee reviews the attached flowchart 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**
- ◆ Takes Application for Tuition Waiver (and Tax Exemption Form (page 5), if not taxable) to supervisor or department head

**Step # 2 Supervisor or Department Head:**

- ◆ Reviews application in terms of whether the course is job-related and the 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 5, if applicable
- ◆ Returns application (and Tax Exemption Form, if applicable) to employee

**Step # 3 Employee:**

- ◆ Keeps a copy of the completed application (and Tax Exemption Form, if applicable) for his/her records
- ◆ Returns completed application to the Benefits Office  
**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 # 4 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.**

**Step # 5 Bursar’s Office:**

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

**Step # 6 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 two (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.)

### 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 **page 5**. For **taxable** tuition assistance benefits, applicable Federal and State income taxes and FICA taxes (*approximately 39.27% 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 39.27% = **\$5,784.47** (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, UR Medicine Home Care (VNS), Visiting Nurse Signature Care, High Tech Rochester, Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital, and Jones Memorial Hospital, F.F.Thompson Health Systems, Inc.), 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)

Revised 1/18

## EMPLOYEE SECTION (PLEASE TYPE or 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** (see employee's HRMS Home Page for these numbers; URID is Student ID)

FALL  WINTER  SPRING  SUMMER Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_  
School/College CRN Course # and Title Credit Hours Graduate Level Course?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes\*\*  No  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes\*\*  No

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 flowchart on page 4 and determined that: (please check ONE)

- the graduate course(s) I am currently enrolled in (listed above) is(are) **TAXABLE**.  
 the graduate course(s) I am currently enrolled in (listed above) is (are) **NOT TAXABLE**. (Complete page 5)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employee Date

## DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by Supervisor/Department Head)

Please answer the following questions:

1. **Is/Are the course(s) job-related?**  Yes  No  
(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.)
2. **Will the course(s) interfere with work?**  Yes  No

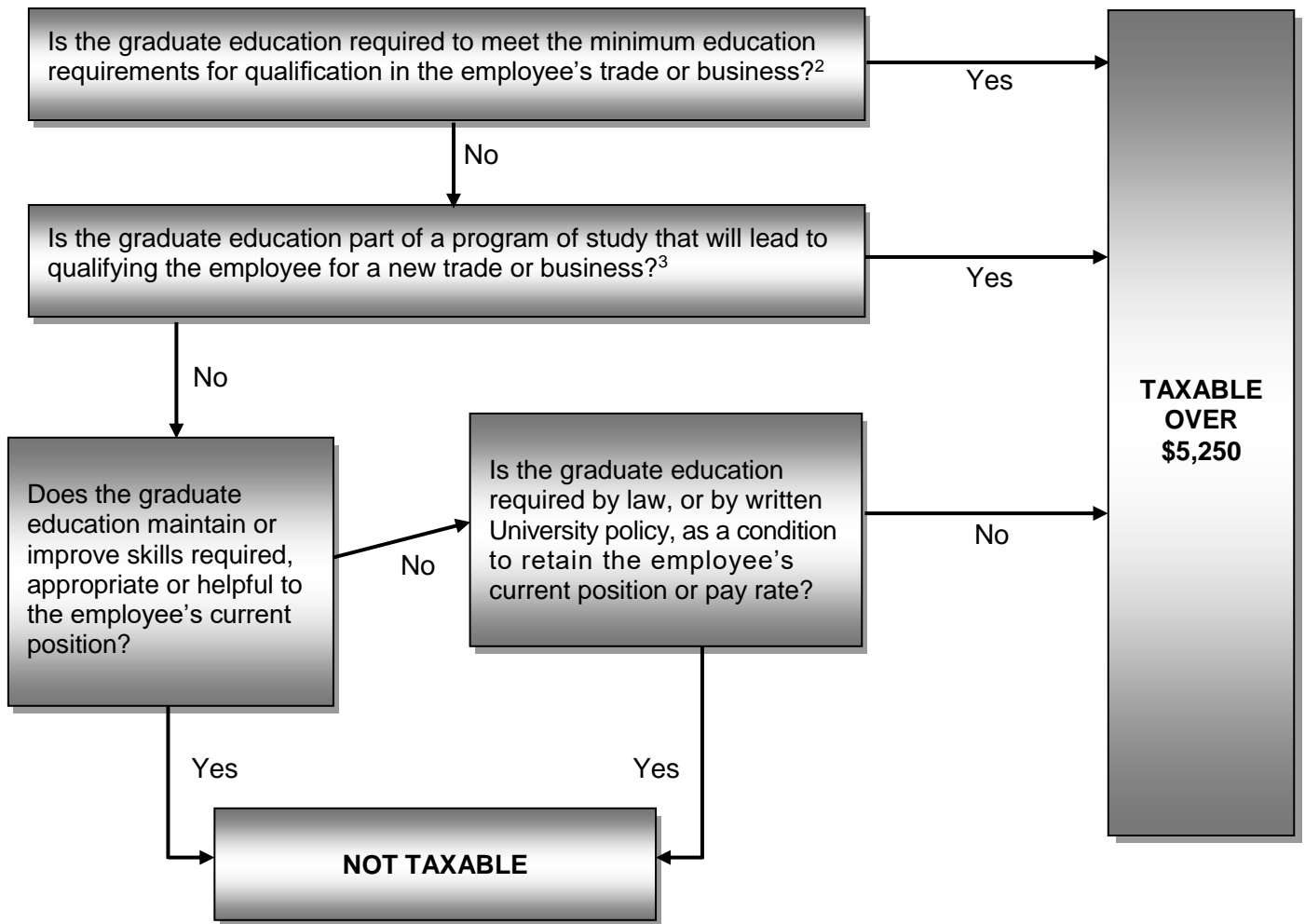
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Supervisor /Dept. Head Date Print Name of Supervisor/Dept. Head

Completed application (and Tax Exemption Form, if applicable) can be submitted to the Benefits Office by:

- **Email:** [tuitionbenefits@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:tuitionbenefits@ur.rochester.edu)
- **Fax:** 585-273-1054
- **Regular Mail:** University Office of Total Rewards, 60 Corporate Woods Ste 310, PO Box 270453, Rochester NY 14623-1457
- **Interoffice Mail:** P.O. Box 270453

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Taxable<sup>1</sup>**



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
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**To the Employee:** Please answer **ALL FOUR** 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*

## Supervisor/Department Head Certification

**To the Supervisor:** Please answer **ALL FOUR** 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/Department Head*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Extension*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Print Name of Supervisor/Department Head*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Reviewed by the Benefits Office*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*