



University of Connecticut  
*Office of the Provost*

June 26, 2013

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Mun Y. Choi  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Richard D. Gray  
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Comprehensive Per-Credit-Hour Fee Structure for Online Graduate Certificates and Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the comprehensive per-credit-hour fee structure for Online Graduate Certificates and Programs

BACKGROUND:

**I. Proposed Action**

- A. Description of Fee:** The University has embarked on a focused strategy to expand online offerings as well as certificate programs at the graduate and post baccalaureate levels. The University has set a goal of developing and offering 10 new online certificate programs each year over the next five years. A consistent fee structure will position and promote program development, while also allow the University to respond to ever-changing market conditions and demands for specialized certificates. The proposed comprehensive fee structure follows the per-credit-hour-fee model similar to the School of Business' current structure. Matriculated students who enroll in these certificates will continue to be charged the tuition and fee rates for their degree program. The structure and cost of their UConn degree program supersedes this structure and the rates associated with it.
- B. Description of Recommended Revision:** Online graduate certificates are commonly structured in a per-credit-hour-fee model. The recommendation is for a comprehensive \$750/credit-hour-fee for online graduate certificate programs. The comprehensive fee includes the online fee, the technology fee, the graduate matriculation fee and any other appropriate fees. Additionally, we propose to increase the approved rate for the Online Graduate Certificate Programs in Survey Research, Nonprofit Management, and Geographic Information Systems in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Master of Arts in Survey Research in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, all currently at \$680 per-credit-hour, and the Post-Secondary Disability Certificate Program in the Neag School of Education, currently at in-state non-degree rates or approximately \$791 fall/spring and \$636 summer.

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- C. Basis for Requested Fee Structure:** As the University develops more certificate programs we need to be able to respond to market conditions by establishing an approved fee rate structure. We feel that most certificates will be competitively priced at this rate. For certificates costing more to deliver, those offering non-typical student experiences and/or those with higher market elasticity we will recommend higher fee rates to the Board of Trustees on a per certificate basis at that time.
- D. Students Affected:** All students in online graduate certificate programs, regardless of the term offering will be affected, except students enrolled in programs with specific approved rates, such as those offered by the School of Business. This comprehensive fee excludes the Law School, as Law students do not matriculate through the Graduate School
- E. Proposed Date of Revision Implementation:** The proposed date for implementing this fee structure is Fall 2013.

**II. Analysis**

- A. Fiscal Need for Fee Revision:** The revenues generated by certificate programs at the graduate level will be essential to sustaining and enhancing the success of the programs.
- B. Impact Statement:** These online certificate programs are designed to be self-supporting. Without this comprehensive fee structure, each school and college developing an online certificate program would develop its own rates, requiring Board approval. A comprehensive rate will allow the University to be nimble and efficient in reaching our online certificate five-year-goal. The proposed fee structure will also provide the flexibility and mobility for students wishing to incorporate elective courses from other certificate programs where appropriate.
- C. Comparative Student Costs:** Costs vary by discipline at many institutions. UConn is striving to offer online certificates that are developed and taught by UConn faculty. This is what will set us apart from other programs.

University of Virginia	\$760/credit
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	Range \$511 - \$1,243/credit
University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign	Range \$559 – \$1,050/credit
Penn State World Campus	Range \$736 - \$930/credit
Boston University	Range \$760 - \$863/credit
University of Notre Dame	Range \$990 - \$1,140/credit
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Range \$10,000 - \$16,000/certificate