

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Interstate Tuition Agreements

NUMBER: 5.5.5

A. PURPOSE

To establish agreements or contracts between the Board of Regents and states either individually or on a regional basis, to provide means by which South Dakota residents may be assisted to carry on or to complete fields of study. (SDCL §13-49-20)

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **WICHE:** The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) is a nonprofit organization established through an interstate compact adopted by 15 states (Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii). South Dakota joined the WICHE in 1988 as an affiliate state. States work through WICHE to provide high quality, cost effective higher education programs that meet the needs of the states and their citizens.

C. POLICY

1. WICHE Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program

- 1.1. The WICHE Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is a program through which students in participating states may enroll in designated two-year and four-year institutions and programs in other participating states at 150 percent of the resident tuition rate.
- 1.2. Each state determines which of its institutions and programs shall be available to students from other WUE states at the special rate.
- 1.3. Each participating institution determines eligibility for admission and WUE tuition status.

2. WICHE Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) Programs

- 2.1. Residents of participating WICHE WRGP states are eligible to enroll at resident rates of tuition in programs determined by individual institutions. There is no requirement that students meet financial aid criteria. An institution may limit the number of WRGP seats awarded to new students.
- 2.2. WRGP Programs are nominated by their institutions and approved by WICHE. Institutional programs participating in the WRGP agree to provide some level of preferential admission consideration to qualified applicants who are residents of

WICHE member states. Programs may limit the number of WRGP discounted seats awarded to new students.

3. Reciprocal Attendance Agreements Between South Dakota and Minnesota Boards

SDCL §13-53-6.2 permits the Board of Regents to execute a tuition reciprocity agreement between the South Dakota Board of Regents and Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board. The reciprocity agreement was not renewed beginning in Summer 2024.

4. South Dakota Dental Students

SDCL §13-49-20.1 authorizes the Board of Regents to negotiate and enter into contractual agreements with public or private colleges and universities offering the study of dentistry for the purpose of reserving spaces each year for dental students from South Dakota.

5. South Dakota Optometric Students

SDCL §13-49-20.2 authorizes the Board of Regents to negotiate and enter into contractual agreements with public or private colleges and universities offering the study of optometry for the purpose of reserving spaces each year for optometric students from South Dakota.

- 5.1. Such contractual agreements may include a provision that the Board of Regents pay a specific reservation fee for each student that is accepted for admittance, and sponsored by the Board of Regents, to the study of optometry.
- 5.2. The Board of Regents may pay a minimum reservation fee each year of the contract as a guarantee sum in the event that fewer than the stipulated number of students from South Dakota are accepted into the study of optometry.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR October 1988; BOR May 1988; BOR July 1988; BOR March 1991; BOR August 1992; BOR October 2004; BOR March 2018; October 2023 (Clerical); BOR April 2024.