



TO: Academic Deans, Directors, and Chairs
Student Services Collaborative

FROM: Jennifer Dickinson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success

DATE: January 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Tuition-Free Summer Course for At-Home Students

Summer 2021 registration will open on February 18. I'm writing to provide you with guidance regarding the tuition-free summer course that will be available to at-home students who meet the eligibility criteria outlined below. We anticipate that students and faculty will have questions or expectations regarding which students and which types of courses qualify for free tuition under this program, so please read through this memo carefully.

Background

In the Provost's [July 2, 2020 communication](#) to students and families, she announced that students who chose the at-home option were "eligible to register for one 3-credit summer 2021 course tuition free (meeting the eligibility criteria as detailed in the [At-Home Option for Fall 2020 Election Form](#))."

The eligibility criteria detailed on the at-home option election form noted that students:

- must have elected the at-home option by July 23, 2020 (there were subsequent at-home election periods that did *not* include the free summer course option)
- must have been an undergraduate student enrolled exclusively online/remote for the fall 2020 term
- must have remained enrolled full-time for the fall 2020 term
- must have paid the fall semester in full

Additional conditions:

- these credits cannot be transferred to another person or used for any term other than summer 2021
- students whose summer 2021 tuition is already covered by other university sources such as an athletic grant, tuition remission, etc. are *not* eligible for this tuition-free 3-credit course

Guidance to Academic Units

I am confident that we can provide a meaningful summer educational experience for at-home students with our existing summer schedule of course offerings. Some students however, may have requests for specific courses units do not plan to offer in Summer 2021. In responding to requests for additional

student-specific offerings, we need to be mindful of the demands on our faculty and academic departments during the summer by maintaining course planning efficiencies. For this reason, the following conditions will apply without exception to the use of the free 3-credit summer course:

- students eligible for the tuition-free summer course may enroll in a traditional didactic course offered as part of the unit's regularly planned schedule of courses
- the tuition scholarship may *not* be used for enrollment in undergraduate research, independent study, or other courses developed for a unique student
- if an eligible student doesn't identify a course offering they believe will be of benefit to them, they may enroll in a summer internship course via the SINT subject prefix
- students graduating in May 2021 are still able to take a free summer course as Continuing Education (non-degree) students if they meet the eligibility criteria outlined above.

We are developing a list that will allow you to identify which Fall 2020 at-home students are eligible for the summer 2021 3-credit scholarship and will make that available to you soon. If questions arise regarding why an individual student does not qualify for the free summer 2021 course, please direct the student to Student Financial Services at sfs@uvm.edu or 802-656-5700

Please share this information with faculty and staff in your unit who may be advising students on summer course selections. You may direct questions regarding qualifying courses to Vice Provost J. Dickinson (jennifer.dickinson@uvm.edu).

Thank you for your efforts to help our students make the most of summer 2021.