

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia



Next Generation Learning Challenges Initiative

Next Generation Learning Challenges

- October 2012 - University System of Georgia awarded \$1,000,000 grant for the Next Generation Learning Challenges initiative.
- Grant provides funding for model program...to explore ways to bring down the cost of instruction (affordability) and address completion.
- USG one of ten recipients (Others include: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Northern Arizona University, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and University of Washington).
- Primary funding provided by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, EDUCAUSE, and The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Program Goals

- Development of a “Breakthrough Model for College Completion”
- Program Goals:
 - Achieve a 75% six-year graduation rate for low-income students
 - Total degree cost to students of \$20,000 or less
 - Reduce actual cost of delivery approaching \$5,000 to \$7,500 by Year 5
 - Deliver at least 50% of instruction online
 - Enroll 500 students in Year 1 (Fall 2013)
 - Enroll 5,000 students total by Year 5 (Estimated 2017)
- Columbus State University selected due to its advanced role in online education, learning analytics, relationship with the military, and experience in civic learning.
- Columbus State University selected the existing Communications bachelor’s degree program with a Civic Leadership focus.
- Graduates of the program have adaptable skills to include communications and critical thinking skills in high demand by employers.

Tuition Model

- Students pursue online Bachelor's degree designed for completion in three years
 - Five 8-week sessions per year (students may take longer)
 - Cost per session is \$1,200 per 8-week session or \$6,000 per year
 - Total cost for degree is \$18,000 (compared to \$27,000 under current structure)
 - Program cost approximately \$150 per credit hour vs. Columbus State University's undergraduate in-state tuition credit hour rate of \$161.74.
 - Proposed tuition rate of \$1,200 per 8-week session applies to this program only.
 - All-inclusive tuition model to include mandatory fees within \$18,000 cost.
- Students also receive additional monitoring and support services to improve progress to graduation.
- New delivery model and exemplar project in the portfolio of Complete College Georgia efforts, progress will receive internal and external monitoring and evaluation.
- Program Potential – lower cost model with replication possible for other degree programs and at other institutions.

Requested Board Action

- Project and tuition model depends on Board approval of two items:
 - A distance learning rate that is less than the current in-state tuition rate (BOR Policy 7.3.1.6 Tuition for Distance Learning Courses and Programs); and
 - Waiver of the technology and special institutional fees for students in this degree program only (BOR Policy 7.3.4.2 Waiver of Mandatory Fees).
- **Board approval** for a request by Columbus State University to establish a flat, all-inclusive, per session tuition rate of \$1,200 per session for only those students enrolled in the Next Generation Learning Challenges degree program, effective Fall 2013.
- **Board approval** for approval of an exemption to Board Policy 7.3.4.2 to waive the mandatory Technology Fee and the mandatory Special Institutional Fee, for only those students enrolled in the Next Generation Learning Challenges degree program.
- Additionally, all current and future mandatory fees will be waived for all students enrolled in this program (currently \$870 per semester).

Other Conditions

- Institution-wide annual tuition increases would not be applicable to this rate. (Columbus may ask for special consideration)
- All students are eligible to participate as long as one meets admission requirements of on-campus Columbus State University programs.
- Program will be subject to the same oversight as other programs:
 - Program deactivation and termination
 - Review by a USG evaluator
 - External evaluation team commissioned by the Gates Foundation
 - Regular updates will be provided to the Board regarding the program's effectiveness.