Fee-based degrees

In addition to state-supported degree programs, the University offers fee-based degree and certificate programs. Most are offered through UW Educational Outreach (UWEO), with a few exceptions. All fee-based programs are charged UW institutional overhead; those administered by UWEO also pay program and infrastructure costs charged by UWEO.

ABB Approach

An effort will be made to align overhead charges for fee-based programs more closely with the taxes imposed on tuition-based programs so that no unintended financial incentives guide the choice to determine whether a program becomes fee-based.

ABB Principles

- Provide an incentive for positive behaviors, innovation and operational efficiencies
- Be transparent
- Be as simple as possible to understand, administer and implement
- Allocate revenues to the centers that incur costs
- Account for all central revenues

Decision Statement

- Degree programs will be established in or transferred to UWEO only if they have some of the following characteristics
  - Offered in an alternative format from an existing campus-based, daytime, full-time degree program
  - Serve primarily non-traditionally aged students in undergraduate programs, professionals in masters-level programs, part-time students, or international students
  - New interdisciplinary programs in which departmental faculty as whole do not participate in offering the coursework, core coursework has been developed specifically for the program, the degree does not form the core of a sponsoring academic unit, or it is difficult to identify the home academic unit

All programs currently offered through UWEO can remain in UWEO at the discretion of the Dean for the program’s home department even if they do not strictly meet these criteria.

- The Institutional Overhead rate will be reviewed and revised. This rate (with variant rates for on-campus and off-campus programs) will be applied to revenues from fee-based degree and certificate programs.
- UWEO program and infrastructure costs will be taken from this Institutional Overhead payment.
- Fee-based programs run by the units themselves will also be subject to the Institutional Overhead rate.
The University Budget Committee will monitor activity in fee-based programs and evaluate the need for changes in policies or rates under ABB.

Rationale

- Fee-based status is intended for programs that stand apart from regular academic offerings and require more specialized support. Although self-supporting in many ways, fee-based programs require general institutional support and should bear a portion of the cost of that support.