

8.015 Workforce Education Partnership Programs.

(1) A state university may establish a Workforce Education Partnership program to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate degree-seeking students who enroll at a state university and are employed by a private employer participating in the program.

(2) To be considered for a Workforce Education Partnership Program, universities must submit a completed application using the Board of Governors' approved template, a draft agreement with the private employer, and documentation that both the application and draft agreement have been approved by the university's board of trustees.

(3) The application must include the following information, at a minimum.

(a) Student eligibility criteria. At a minimum, students must meet the following requirements.

1. Enroll in a minimum of six credit hours during both fall and spring terms at a state university as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student.
2. Be a Florida resident as defined in section 1009.21, Florida Statutes.
3. Be a paid employee of the company participating in the program.
4. Apply for financial aid in the form of scholarships and grants, including federal, state, and institution financial aid.
5. Be in good academic standing at the time of application and must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain in the program.

(b) A process for the private employer to participate in the program. The process should include the minimum required hours and length of time a student is required to complete with the private employer in order to participate in the program. The private employer must establish an educational assistance program pursuant to s. 127 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and provide tuition assistance for a student enrolled at the state university while the student works for the private employer, up to the maximum amount that the employer may exclude from the employer's gross income under that section.

(c) Documentation of how the state university and the private employer plan to do the following.

1. Each designate a mentor to assist participating students and describe the role of the mentors and the frequency of interaction with the participating student(s).
2. Make a housing stipend available to participating students.
3. Provide life management and professional skills training to participating students.
4. Seek out additional sources of funding to pay for the remaining costs for participating students.

(4) Participating state universities must award the maximum amount of federal, state, and institution scholarships and grants for which the student is eligible to receive prior to disbursing any funds from the participating employers.

(5) Participating state universities must provide an annual report on activities for each Workforce Partnership Education Program using a template determined by the Chancellor.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1009.771 Florida Statutes. History: New 11-09-23.