

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is tuition?

Tuition is what colleges charge for courses and instruction. Other costs billed to students include fees and room and board. Tuition at state colleges and universities is typically based on a student's residency. A student who is a resident of the state where the college is located is charged the in-state tuition rate; a student from another state typically pays a much higher out-of-state tuition rate. A student eligible under the RSP Tuition Break program pays a regional rate that is between the in-state and out-of-state rates. Note: Only the tuition portion of college costs is discounted by the RSP Tuition Break program, not fees, room and board and other expenses.

## How much of a discount is the RSP Tuition Break?

The Tuition Break allows an eligible student to pay a regional rate, which is significantly less than out-of-state tuition. The rate is based on a percentage (up to 175 percent) of the out-of-state college's in-state rate. Example: In-state tuition = \$3,000; Out-of-state tuition = \$12,000; Regional tuition = \$5,250 (discount of \$6,750).

## Is the RSP Tuition Break a scholarship?

No. It is a discount on the regular out-of-state tuition rate that a student pays when attending a state college or university in another New England state.

## Is a student in the RSP Tuition Break program eligible to apply for financial aid?

Yes. A student should complete the FAFSA federal application and any financial aid applications required by the college(s). For more information, check Financial Aid Resources listed in this catalog.

## Is the RSP Tuition Break for New England only?

Yes. The program is only for permanent New England residents attending out-of-state public colleges and universities in the six New England states – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

## How does a student qualify for the RSP Tuition Break?

As a permanent resident of a New England state, a student is eligible for the RSP Tuition Break when enrolled in an approved degree program offered by a specific public college or university in another New England state. Approved majors (associate, bachelor's and graduate) for residents of each New England state are listed at [www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak](http://www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak). For a list of programs, search our online database of programs or download the annual catalog.

## How does a student apply for the RSP Tuition Break?

A student must declare an approved Tuition Break major that is offered by that college and indicate, "applying for NEBHE RSP Tuition Break" on the college's application for admission.

## How is a student accepted as an RSP Tuition Break student?

The college or university notifies a student of acceptance through the RSP at the time of acceptance to the college.

## Can a student already enrolled at a college declare an RSP Tuition Break major at that college?

Usually. An enrolled student needs to contact the registrar and/or the college's RSP campus representative, listed at [www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak](http://www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak).

## What happens if a student changes from an approved RSP Tuition Break major to a major not approved?

The college bills the student for the full out-of-state tuition once he/she is enrolled in a non-RSP degree program.

## Can the RSP Tuition Break be used to attend a private college?

No. Only New England's state colleges and universities and community colleges participate.

## Why is a state of residence not listed as eligible for an approved degree program?

A state is not listed when one of the state colleges or universities in that state offers a comparable program (which in some cases has a different name).

## If an out-of-state college is closer to a student's permanent home, is the student eligible for the RSP Tuition Break?

Sometimes. A student who lives closer to an out-of-state college than an in-state college offering the same program, is eligible for the RSP Tuition Break in some cases. Most community colleges (and some four-year campuses) allow this eligibility. Refer to RSP Policies: Proximity Policy in this catalog or at [www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak](http://www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak) and contact an RSP campus representative to find out if a particular college allows this eligibility.

## Are graduate programs available with the RSP Tuition Break?

Yes. Hundreds of approved master's, doctoral and graduate certificate programs are available. In certain cases, graduate students may petition for eligibility for other unique programs. Refer to RSP Policies: Highly Specialized Graduate programs in this catalog or at [www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak](http://www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak).

## Is the RSP Tuition Break a new program?

No. The program is 50 years old. The RSP was established by NEBHE in 1957 to expand educational opportunities for New England residents and help the states avoid duplication of costly academic programs. Since 1957 the RSP has provided New England residents with savings on more than 200,000 annual tuition bills. The RSP has also saved individual New England states billions of dollars in expenditures, because they do not have to start up and operate academic programs that are offered in other New England states.