Reason for Policy

Standards for class size support strong learning outcomes, effective pedagogy, and fiscal responsibility. Curricular programs and offerings should be delivered in a timely and sequential manner that gives students the confidence that they will complete their degree/program requirements within an appropriate timeline.

Policy Statement

Acceptable class size ranges between ten (10) and twenty-five (25) students. Classes below ten (10) enrollments are subject to the policies and guidelines below. Classes which exceed twenty-five (25) students are allowable in selected programs, as determined by the academic unit.

Classes Below Ten (10) Enrollments

Academic units should restrict the number of courses below ten (10) enrollments. No more than 15% of a unit’s offerings in a schedule (term or semester) should be below ten (10) enrollments.

Alternatives to running courses of fewer than ten (10) enrollments should be explored and maximized, including:

- Canceling the course (especially elective courses)
- Deferring the course to a later term or semester
- Referring students to an online offering, if available

Courses of five (5) to nine (9) students may be authorized by the Dean of the School/College or the Office of Academic Affairs (appropriate campus or online Associate Vice President) when there is strong academic rationale.

Courses of fewer than five (5) students may be authorized for documented exceptional reasons with the approval of the Dean of the School/College or the Office of Academic Affairs (appropriate campus or online Associate Vice President).
Independent studies and directed studies are strongly discouraged where online course options are available.

**Data**

Class size is determined by institutional data (CX) on enrollments at the start date of the course.

Calculations for “15% of a unit’s offerings” should include all offered courses.

**Compensation/Instructional Costs**

Classes with at least five (5) students will be compensated at the published rates (“full compensation”).

Classes with fewer than five (5) students will be compensated at a significantly reduced rate (per student per credit hour with a cap per class).