



College of The Albemarle Procedure

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Title: Salary Plans

Related Policy: Policy 3.1.7 Salary Plan

Division of Responsibility: Human Resources

I. SALARY PLAN – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

A. Overview

1. The salary plan is applicable to all non-instructional personnel. The plan provides for salaries which will attract and retain qualified individuals. The goal is to provide salaries on the basis of the external market, internal equity, and individual performance.
2. The plan establishes the following: a) an appropriate classification system for college positions; and b) a salary range for each position which will result in equitable treatment of employees within the College and assist in attracting and retaining qualified personnel.
3. The plan is based on the following: a) a job description for each position defining the major responsibilities and the minimum requirements; b) establishment of a salary range for each grade; c) analysis of the positions and assignment to pay grades and respective salary ranges in accordance with internal equity and how the market values the jobs; and defined administrative responsibilities for implementing the pay guidelines.

B. Salary Plan Administration

1. The president has ultimate authority and responsibility for the salary plan including distribution of salary adjustments and salary administration changes. Any exceptions to, or major revisions in, the plan must be approved by the president, or designee.
2. To provide the opportunity for proper objectivity, coordination and control of classification and salary matters, the director of human resources will have ongoing responsibility for the direction and administration of the salary plan and will: a) be responsible for maintaining and updating the plan; b) evaluate all positions for appropriate placement in the salary structure; and c) ensure the College has job descriptions for all non-instructional positions: d) maintain documentation supporting all FLSA exemption determinations.
3. All management personnel have responsibility for being fully educated on the salary plan so as to interpret policy fairly for their employees. Managers should: a) communicate with employees regarding the salary plan and work with the director of human resources on program guidelines and individual pay issues; b) evaluate their employees with regard to their performance; and c) work with the Human Resources Department to update position duties when changes



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have occurred and address any potential impact on compensation, including potential compression, inversion, or equity implications.

C. Annual Salary Schedule Review and Individual Salary Increases

1. Each year the president will recommend whether the salary structure will be revised and, if so, the amount based on market and budgetary factors.
2. As part of this process, data will be reviewed relative to market trends and the College will strive to revise the salary ranges annually to keep pace with market conditions. If the structure is adjusted, the range minimums and maximums will increase by the same amount. Range adjustments are normally effective on July 1 of each year.
3. The College will decide how much to budget for employee salary increases each year based on the amount appropriated by the state legislature and the College's budget.
4. If budgeted for, employees who fulfill the requirements of the job may be eligible to receive a performance based bonus or increase. Employees subject to an individual performance development plan may not be eligible to receive performance based bonus or increase until performance objectives have been met.
5. Employees having questions or concerns about their individual salary, including the increase, should speak with their immediate supervisor. If there are further concerns, the matter should be discussed with the department head prior to discussion with the director of human resources.
6. The College will also conduct periodic reviews to identify pay compression, inversion, or inequities affecting protected classes, consistent with federal and state employment laws.

D. Salary Determination or Adjustments

1. New Appointment
 - a. New employees will be placed between the minimum and midpoint of their respective salary range. Appointments above the midpoint may be recommended by the director of human resources with presidential review and approval.
 - b. Exceptions for salaries above the midpoint of the salary range must be documented. The request shall provide appropriate documentation indicating the rationale for hiring above the midpoint. Consideration for such a request shall be based upon factors such as the qualifications of the candidate, number of qualified applicants identified, length of time in recruiting for the position, the difficulty in filling the position and/or other market issues. When determining the starting salary for a new hire, consideration will also be given to the current salaries of other



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employees in the same or comparable jobs who possess similar qualifications.

2. Promotion. The salary of an employee promoted to a position in a higher grade will be adjusted by a fixed percentage of up to 9% for a one grade move and up to the greater of an increase equal to the 9% percent differential between the position levels or the salary as computed on the Staff Salary Computation Worksheet. If the salary assignment is determined by the Staff Salary Computation Worksheet, the maximum salary allowed may not exceed the midpoint of the new position level range.

In instances where an employee's job duties may significantly expand or increase to the point that the position is reassigned to a higher pay grade, the amount of the increase will be the same as that for a promotion, subject to the range minimum.

3. Demotion. When an employee moves, either voluntarily or because of a performance related reason, from a higher graded position to one assigned to a lower pay grade, the salary will normally be decreased. The College will evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis and strive to maintain salary at an equitable level. Decreases in salary will be determined on a case-by-case basis based on the specific circumstances and budget limitations. However, in no case shall the salary be above the maximum of the pay range for the new grade.

In instances where a demotion is involuntary and non-performance related, the employee's salary shall be maintained at its current level so long as it is not above the maximum of the pay range for the new grade.

4. Transfer. When an employee makes a lateral move from one position to another within the same pay grade, the current salary shall remain unchanged.
5. Pay Below Range Minimum. No employee shall be paid lower than the minimum of a pay range.
6. Pay Above Range Maximum . If any employee's salary is equal to or exceeds the maximum of the range to which their job is assigned, future pay increases shall be limited to the amount by which the salary ranges are adjusted; these will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

E. Evaluation of Positions

The College's evaluation system is based on achieving market equity and internal equity. Where available, market data will serve as a gauge to placing jobs within the grade that best captures each job's market rate as defined by the College. Where market data is



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unavailable, internal equity factors will determine where a position is graded. Internal equity will ensure that positions possessing comparable skills and responsibilities are evaluated equally while market equity will ensure that the salary ranges of all positions are set competitively with the College's defined markets.

When position responsibilities change significantly or new positions are created, a position review will be conducted. The review may be initiated by the supervisor, department head, or the Human Resources Department to ensure that current duties and responsibilities are being appropriately reflected in the position's evaluation and pay grade assignment. Requests for re-leveling positions will normally be considered once each fiscal year prior to the annual budget process. Exceptions must be approved by the president. All increases are subject to availability of funds.

The following guidelines should be followed:

1. Request for review of an existing position.
 - a. The employee and the supervisor will complete a job description. The job description must be approved by the department head before it is submitted for review.
 - b. The director of human resources will review and confirm the accuracy of the description with the supervisor and employee.

2. Evaluation procedures.
 - a. Following review and follow-up with the requesting department, the Human Resources Department will evaluate the new or changed position based on the job description and, if needed, information gathered from discussions with the parties involved. The director of human resources will recommend to the president the grade and salary range for the position.
 - b. The Human Resources Department will provide to the appropriate department official a grade and salary range for the position.
 - c. The employee, supervisor, and department head will be notified of the decision.

When a new position is created, the supervisor shall complete a job description and the same procedure will be followed as described above. The Human Resources Department will evaluate the position and determine the grade assignment after making a recommendation to the president. Vacant positions should be re-evaluated prior to posting.

F. Application of Fair Labor Standards Act



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The director of human resources has the responsibility to carry out the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act in determining the exempt and non-exempt status of employees.

1. Exempt employees are personnel who, by virtue of their duties, can satisfy certain qualifications fixed by legal regulations and may, therefore, be determined exempt from coverage under the act. Exempt employees are defined as executive, administrative, professional and other.
2. Such exemptions are based on the specific position descriptions and duties of the employees involved.
3. The director of human resources may consult with the College's legal counsel or other appropriate consultants for guidance on the appropriate classification of employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

II. SALARY PLAN – FULL-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

A. Overview

The salary plan is applicable to all full-time instructional employees. The plan provides for salaries which will attract and retain qualified individuals. The goal is to provide salaries based on external market and internal equity factors.

The plan establishes a salary range for each employee based on their educational degree which will result in equitable treatment within the College and assist in attracting and retaining qualified personnel.

The plan is based on the following: 1) assignment to a salary range in accordance with the faculty member's educational credentials; and 2) placement within the salary range in accordance with the faculty member's relevant experience.

B. Salary Plan Administration

To provide the opportunity for proper objectivity, coordination and control of salary matters, the director of human resources will have responsibility for direction and administration of the plan and will use consistent, documented salary data sources: 1) ensure that all employees are appropriately and equitably recognized for their educational credentials and relevant experience; and 2) monitor market conditions to ensure the salary schedule remains competitive with the higher education market.

C. Instructional Employee Salary Determinations



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1. New Instructional Employees. New instructional employees shall be placed in the salary range that corresponds to their educational degree. Starting salaries will normally be set near the minimum or in the lower portion of the range for employees with limited prior teaching experience and where market factors are not an issue. The president may review and approve a starting salary to be set higher in the range in situations where one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - a. The individual has significant prior teaching experience and/or possesses special skills beneficial to the position;
 - b. There is significant difficulty in recruiting to fill the position; and/or
 - c. The teaching discipline is in high demand and the market recognizes higher pay for the teaching field.
2. Pay Below Range Minimum. No employee shall be paid below the minimum of their salary range.
3. Pay Above Range Maximum. The goal will be to manage salaries within the ranges established for the plan. Should any employee reach the maximum of his or her salary range, future pay adjustments will continue to occur; however, the percent increase will not exceed the percent increase of the respective salary range.
4. Salary Adjustments. Each year the instructional salary plan will be reviewed for adjustment based on the market and information received from the state. The goal will be to annually adjust the salary ranges to maintain the market competitiveness of the compensation plan while recognizing budgetary factors.
5. If budgeted for, employees who fulfill the requirements of the job may be eligible to receive a performance-based bonus or increase. Employees subject to an individual performance development plan will not be eligible to receive performance-based bonus or increase until performance objectives have been met.

III. ADVANCED DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- A. Full-time instructional employees in regularly allotted positions who earn an academic degree to higher than the one held at the time of employment may be considered to receive a pay increase.
- B. Full-time Instructional employees who are in good standing and earn a higher academic degree shall receive a pay increase equal to the difference in the degrees for the appropriate experience level as shown on the Faculty Salary Scale as long as the following conditions are met:



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1. The advanced degree is in the subject area in which the employee is contracted to teach; and
 2. The advanced degree enables the employee to teach additional courses for which they did not previously have credentials to teach.
 3. The employee must provide evidence of coursework completion and the degree awarded. The degree must be conferred by an institution of higher education accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and must be directly related to the employee's work at the College.
- C. Upon attaining an additional or higher degree, the salary increase will be implemented at the beginning of the next fiscal year contract period. Employees who are candidates to receive an advanced degree must notify the director of human resources by May 1st to be eligible to receive the salary increase at the next effective date, unless an approved exception is granted by the President or designee.

IV. FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

During times of financial exigency, the president temporarily may suspend all or portions of this Procedure if necessary to maintain the financial integrity of the College. Once the suspension has ended, the College will not make any retroactive payments to employees earned under this policy; however, the employee will receive prospective payments earned under this policy except where required by law.

Legal Reference: 1C SBCCC400.3; the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended.

June 13, 2023

January 5, 2026

N/A

Date Approved by President's Leadership Team

Date of Last Review

Date of Last Revision