Message to Students and Parents

Historically, Western Carolina University has absorbed the costs associated with accepting credit cards for tuition and fee payments. However, due to on-going budget cuts, the University can no longer absorb these costs. Rather than assessing a new fee to **all** students, a fee will be assessed to only those students and parents that pay by credit card. Therefore, **effective July 2, 2012**, the following changes will occur:

1. A **convenience fee of 2.75%** will be assessed for credit card payments made on student accounts through MyCat /Bill+Payment. The minimum fee charge is $3.00.
2. **VISA debit/credit card payments will no longer be accepted** for payments made on student accounts. VISA does not allow a fixed percentage rate convenience fee and therefore is being discontinued as a payment option for payment on student accounts through MyCat/Bill+Payment.
3. **Discover, American Express, and MasterCard** payments will continue to be accepted, subject to the convenience fee.

The following ***free*** methods of payment may continue to be used:

* **WebCheck**

Students and authorized users may have funds transferred from a checking account through MyCat /Bill+Payment.

* **Mailing a check**

Checks may be mailed to the Student Accounts Office, 119 Killian Annex, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

* **Payment at the OneStop**

Payments may be made by cash, check or money order at the OneStop in Killian Annex.

Students may also continue to sign up for a payment plan with Tuition Management Systems. There is an enrollment fee which varies according to the monthly payment plan selected. For more information and enrollment, please visit [www.afford.com/wcu](http://www.afford.com/wcu) .

The convenience fee applies to all payments made using Bill+Payment through MyCat on tuition, base meal plans, housing, fines and parking tickets. Students may continue to use VISA cards on the special payments webpage, specialpayments.wcu.edu, to make payments for catcash, orientation, and tuition and housing deposits. VISA may also be used at other departments on campus including the Bookstore, Catamount Clothing and the Aramark convenience stores.

For additional information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions at creditcardfaq.wcu.edu.