***Questions & Answers***

1. **What is this alliance?**

Pace University has created an alliance with the Federal Government to provide scholarships to eligible Federal employees across the country. Through Pace’s alliance with the Federal government, Pace recognizes a Federal workforce not only in New York, but around the country.

1. **How much is the discounted rate?**

The discount rate varies by online program level. Federal employees enrolled in OPM approved online programs at the graduate level, receive a 30 percent reduction in tuition from the posted, Pace University onsite graduate tuition for that program. Federal employees enrolled in OPM approved online programs at the undergraduate level, are offered to Federal employees at the already discounted iPace rate, which is approximately 50 percent of the Pace University onsite per credit rate.

1. **Does this discount apply to all undergraduate and graduate programs?**

The Federal employee discount applies to only select fully online programs on the Pace Online Federal Alliance Portal: http://ipaceinfo.pace.edu/pace-federal-portal.

1. **Why does the discount not include some programs?**

Pace is offering the tuition discount for their degree programs that are fully online. The traditional program on campus are not discounted at this time.

1. **How will Federal employment be verified for those who participate in this opportunity?**

Upon admission you will need to provide a recent Federal Leave and Earnings Statement so Pace University can verify your eligibility. Please email this document to Paceonlineadm@pace.edu

1. **Through this Alliance, Federal SMEs can collaborate with curriculum developers to infuse a public sector perspective into their curriculum. Who is chosen for this and what does this look like?**

Please contact Dr. Nancy Hale, Executive Director of Pace Online (nhale@pace.edu) to discuss this possibility. Many programs are designed with public sector and private sector perspectives into their curriculum already.

1. **How is OPM and Pace University training agency human resources officials on how employees can take advantage of this opportunity? How is this accomplished?**

If there is interest in working with Pace University to enable human resources officials from the Federal Government to provide training opportunities for Pace University students, Dr. Nancy Hale, Executive Director of Pace Online should be contacted at nhale@pace.edu.

***For Federal employees interested in this opportunity:***

1. **How do I get started?**

Go to the Pace Online Federal Alliance Portal: <http://ipaceinfo.pace.edu/pace-federal-portal> to find out more information about programs, admissions criteria, tuition, and to apply.

1. **If I have problems completing the application, who can guide me through the application steps?**

Email ipace@pace.edu or call 914-923-2835 and an admissions counselor will be able to assist you.

1. **Am I eligible for the discount? (Who qualifies)?**

All Federal employees are eligible to take advantage of this opportunity.

1. **How do I receive the tuition discount?**

Upon admission you will need to provide a recent Federal Leave and Earnings Statement so Pace University can verify your eligibility.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Pace Online admissions (ipace@pace.edu) or call Lisa Slingerland at 914-923-2835.

1. **Where do I get information about financial aid?**

Pace University Online students may apply for Federal Direct Stafford Loans and Pell Grants by filing a FAFSA each year. Our FAFSA code is 002791.

Federal loans are subsidized or unsubsidized depending on need. Pell Grants are also awarded based on financial need. For more information about Federal financial aid, please visit the U.S. Department of Education’s Financial Student Aid web site.

Pace University is also proud to be a participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which supports veterans of the Armed Forces.

1. **How do I know if my previous course work will be transferred to Pace University?**

Virtually all Pace University Online students come to us with some previous college experience. That is why we operate under a flexible University transfer credit policy that aims to give you the maximum amount of transfer credit for your desired program.

While each applicant’s prior work is considered on a case-by-case basis, we generally accept:

* Courses completed with a grade of 2.0 (C) or higher at an accredited institution (or at another institution at the discretion of Pace University)
* Credit from standardized examinations you have successfully passed, e.g. CLEP tests.

The Pace University Online Admission Committee evaluates transcripts for transfer credit in collaboration with the chairperson of your program. We evaluate credit based on your official transcripts from past institutions. Transfer credit evaluation typically takes 2-3 weeks.

In some cases, e.g. international students, we may also require you to send us specific course descriptions and syllabi. We will note if this is required after we admit you. To expedite the process, you should submit course description documents as soon as possible.

### Transfer Credit Limits

Pace University Online will accept a maximum number of credits from your previous institutions:

* No more than 68 credits may be transferred from two-year institutions.
* No more than 90 credits may be transferred from a four-year institution

Not all of the courses you took may be eligible for transfer credit depending on their relevance to the program you pursue at Pace University Online.

Use our [Transfer Credit Equivalencies web tool](https://appsrv.pace.edu/tceweb/) to get an idea of whether your classes will count for transfer. Note that the decision to accept transfer credit is ultimately up to our department chairpersons.

1. **Does Pace University offer online and face-to-face courses?**

Although Pace University does offer face-to-face courses, the Alliance with Pace University is only for selected fully online programs, not for face-to-face programs or courses.

1. **Where can I find information about Federal Student Loan Repayment Program (FSLRP)?**

The Federal student loan repayment program permits agencies to repay federally insured student loans as a recruitment or retention incentive for candidates or current employees of the agency. The program implements 5 U.S.C. 5379, which authorizes agencies to set up their own student loan repayment programs to attract or retain highly qualified employees. This is offered strictly by each individual agency.

For more information visit: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/student-loan-repayment/>

1. **What is the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and do I qualify?**

The PSLF Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their Direct Loans after they have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full time by certain public service employers.

For further information on qualification visit: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/public-service#what-is-the-public>

1. **What is the difference between an academic degree program and a tuition assistance program?**

An academic degree program is part of a planned, systemic and coordinated agency employee development program linked to accomplishing the strategic goals of the agency, meeting an identified agency training need or accomplishing goals in the strategic plan. Employees must undergo a competitive process, consistent with 5 CFR 410.308(c), before selection to an academic degree program.  Agencies should only establish academic degree programs under the conditions of 5 U.S.C 4107. Agencies may NOT select employees for academic degrees for the sole purpose of providing the degree or to qualify for appointment to a position where the academic degree is a basic requirement.

Tuition assistance programs, including individual courses, are NOT considered part of an agency’s academic degree program. Within a tuition assistance program, agencies pay for individual courses/classes. Employees are not required to undergo a competitive process. Supervisors should adhere to the definition of training (5 U.S.C 4101(4)) when choosing which classes/courses to pay for.

For more information on academic degree programs and tuition assistance, go to pp. 17-21 in the Training Policy Handbook.