Changes in Course Supplemental Fees

1. **What is a supplemental fee?**
   A supplemental fee is assessed to cover consumable materials used in a classroom or laboratory, as well as within online and clinical learning environments. The supplemental fee is charged in addition to the standard tuition and fees posted on my Tri-C space. The fee is not optional and must be paid in order to take the class or laboratory.

2. **Why does the College charge a supplemental fee?**
   The College provides necessary learning materials for certain courses to promote quality education; charging the student through a supplemental fee and online learning & clinical experience course fees, instead of requiring them to purchase the materials out of pocket.

3. **How do I know if a course has a supplemental fee?**
   Supplemental fees are assessed only for certain courses. For information about tuition and fees, including a course-by-course listing of supplemental fees, visit at www.tri-c.edu/tuition-and-fees.

4. **When will supplemental fees change?**
   Supplemental fee changes will go into effect on August 1, 2016. Students who have registered and made payment arrangements including confirmed financial aid, may avoid the supplemental fee increase when enrolled prior to August 1, 2016. This is an incentive for students to enroll early (prior to August 1, 2016).

5. **Why are the supplemental fees changing?**
   Supplemental fees had not been adjusted for decades. Tri-C conducted a thorough review of three years of expense data for courses and found that overall, current supplemental fees were covering only 45 percent of the actual applicable program costs. The new fees will provide approximately 68 percent of the actual costs with the College contributing the additional 32 percent.
   
   These fee changes are necessary for the College’s continued support of students’ educational experiences.

6. **How much is a supplemental fee?**
   Supplemental fees vary depending on the course and can be as low as $10. Clinical courses carry an additional fee of $50 per course. For information about tuition and fees, including a course-by-course listing of supplemental fees, visit at www.tri-c.edu/tuition-and-fees.

7. **What types of courses typically have a supplemental fee?**
   Fully online courses, creative arts courses, science laboratories and clinical courses such as Dental Hygiene and Surgical Technology typically charge supplemental fees for the materials or supplies required.
8. **How are supplemental fees assessed for an online course?**

Fully online courses are assessed a supplemental fee of $10 per credit hour. These courses allow students to complete all requirements of the course without physically coming to a Tri-C campus.

The costs of providing online opportunities to our students has increased significantly. In fiscal year 2015, the College invested more than $2.1 million for the Center for eLearning & Innovation, Blackboard costs, online support systems (online advising & workshops), online instructional designers, online security for students taking these courses and specialty software used in course design.

9. **How are supplemental fees assessed for a clinical course?**

Tri-C will see an increase in the amount paid to healthcare facilities for clinical fees in fiscal year 2017. As a result, part of the changes in supplemental fees will be to charge a clinical fee to students. The following programs will charge up to $50 for each course that requires a clinical: Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Electro-neuro-diagnostic, Nuclear Medicine, Physician Assistant, Radiography, Respiratory Care and Surgical Technology.

10. **How are supplemental fees assessed for a blended learning course?**

A blended learning course combines face-to-face classroom instruction with online learning. For blended learning courses, students will be charged the “on-campus” fee as indicated on the supplemental fee course listing, and will not be subject to an “online fee.” For information on tuition and fees, including a course-by-course supplemental fee course listing, visit www.tri-c.edu/tuition-and-fees.

11. **Will the cost of tuition go up?**

Although there is a change in the College’s course supplemental fees, tuition will remain frozen, and all other fees will remain the same.