

PROPOSAL: Fall 2024 Tuition and Required Fee Rates

Background

The University continues to allocate its financial resources to promote WMU as a destination for experience-driven holistic education in order to recruit and retain students, ensure their academic success, and diversify revenue streams. Tuition is the major revenue source for the general fund and is approximately 68% of the total budgeted revenue. It comprises approximately 51% of all university revenue.

We are recommending an increase of 4.5% on tuition and required fees for resident undergraduate students. A newly admitted full-time Michigan resident freshman will pay \$15,252 in tuition and required fees to attend WMU for the 2024-25 academic year which is an increase of \$658 for the academic year.

The 4.5% increase includes an increase to the Student Assessment fee, which provides support to student organizations and agencies. The Western Student Association held a student vote which signaled a strong interest to increase the fee due to an explosion in student organizations and a long-time interval of no increase. The fee will increase \$26 per academic year for all undergraduate students except those enrolled exclusively in fully on-line programs, and graduate students enrolled in main campus programs. The Student Assessment fee has not been increased since Fall 2015.

WMU is committed to balancing access to college with ensuring a high-quality education. The tuition and required fee increase of 4.5% will be outpaced with a 7% increase to financial aid.

A comparable rate increase is being proposed for nonresident undergraduate students, all graduate students, and students enrolled in fully on-line programs. Differential tuition rates will remain unchanged.

The proposed increase is within the anticipated State tuition restraint. A tuition increase that exceeds the constraint may result in financial penalties to the university. The State also specifies the formula for calculating a school's tuition change. Based on what we know today, our resident undergraduate tuition would rank 8th among the fifteen public universities in Michigan.

Recommend Action

It is recommended effective with the Fall 2024 semester, the Board of Trustees approves the Schedule of Tuition and Required Fee Rates as attached.