

General Student Fees

For the Utah System of Higher Education

The following is in response to inquiries at the June 19, 2018 Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee about general student fees, specifically how they are determined (the process) and assurances that fees are being used for which they are assessed.

Recent Board of Regents' Policy Changes, Current Projects, and Future Audits

The Board of Regents revised its policies regarding student fees in 2012 after a Legislative Performance Audit recommended a formal process for student input, with additional policy adjustments occurring in 2014. The Board will be performing an internal audit of general student fees at each institution to validate the uses of these fees for designated purposes for the previous five years. The Board is also currently engaged in a comprehensive review of course and program fees, including policies, guidelines, and processes.

How Fees are Determined and Monitored for Intended Uses

All general student fees (sometimes referred to as mandatory fees) are subject to Board of Regents approval, normally in conjunction with annual determination of tuition rates. General fees other than tuition may vary according to specific institutional needs.

As required in R510, each USHE institution has developed a student fee policy that includes a student fee advisory board (with current student representation) to oversee the creation, review and maintenance of required student fees and processes for the student fee advisory board to follow in the creation, review and maintenance of student fees. The institutional policies all include the following principles: 1) The creation of new student fees shall be supported by a demonstrated need, clear statement describing the fee, and a sound budgetary plan. 2) The student fee advisory board shall periodically monitor and annually review student fees. Processes and discussions should focus primarily on—but not be limited to—the adequacy of the fee in accomplishing the stated objective. 3) Fee account fund balances should be minimal or, in cases where fund balances are accumulating, be supported by a plan for use of the funding.

Fee amounts may be increased or decreased as necessary to adequately accomplish the stated objective. Changes resulting from a fee increase shall be supported with adequate documentation describing the rationale for the increase and the planned uses of the additional fee revenue. The student fee advisory board may require an annual report from each student fee program manager.

If an institution is proposing to increase general student fees at a percentage rate greater than the percentage rate the system is proposing to increase 1st tier tuition, the institution shall submit a letter

to the Board regarding fee increases from student leadership at the institution. General fees other than tuition may, at the institution's option, be waived in whole or in part for students.

Current General Fee Rates

Student general fees often supplement the student experience by funding activities, facilities, and services not covered by other revenue sources. General Fees grouped by category could include the following:

- Student Activity/Support Fees - Student Government, Reading and Writing Programs, Performing and Fine Arts, Library, Publications, Recreation, Student Centers, Counseling & Psychological Services, ID Cards, Community and Civic Engagement, Tutoring Centers, Intramurals, Child Care, Testing Center, Activity Centers, Fitness, Wellness Centers, Insurance, and Student Run Media Facilities (Radio, TV)
- Building Support Fees – Building O&M (Utilities, personnel costs, other current expenses)
- Athletic Fees – Sporting events
- Health Fees – Student Health Programs including Mental Health
- Technology – Computer Labs and Communication Facilities
- Transportation – UTA pass, Shuttles, Bikes
- Other – Sustainability Programs

The following chart lists by institution the current 2018-19 general student fees for a full-time student enrolled in 15 credit hours for two semesters. Annual fees range from \$416 at Snow College to \$1,225 at the University of Utah. The next chart shows five years of general student fees by institution for a full-time student enrolled in 15 credit hours for two semesters. An amount and percent change from the prior year shows average increases ranging from \$15.37 (2.1%) to \$26.21 (3.8%).

Utah System of Higher Education 2018-19 Undergraduate Student Fees

Annual Fee Rate for a Full-time Student (15 Credit Hours for Two Semesters)

Fees	UU	USU	WSU	SUU	Snow	DSU	UVU	SLCC
Student Activity/ Support Fees	302.06	238.94	333.96	131.50	99.20	236.00	137.72	146.00
Building Bond Fees	-	276.64	245.26	182.00	-	-	186.38	118.00
Building Support Fees	348.48	17.42	72.28	140.00	176.30	303.50	107.84	60.00
Athletic Fees	165.38	274.16	145.68	206.00	75.00	162.00	209.70	73.00
Health Fees	48.96	88.34	59.14	40.00	25.60	41.50	19.34	39.00
Technology Fees	238.90	133.24	96.24	64.00	39.90	52.00	15.94	29.50
Transportation Fees	116.70	47.28	14.68	-	-	-	13.08	7.00
Other Fees	5.00	5.98	-	-	-	-	-	1.50
Total Fees	\$1,225.48	\$1,082.00	\$967.24	\$763.50	\$416.00	\$795.00	\$690.00	\$474.00

Note: Distributions refer to Main Campuses only. Branch campuses and centers may have different fee schedules (typically lower).

Utah System of Higher Education Five Year History of General Undergraduate Student Fees

Fifteen Credit Hour Load – 2 Semesters

Amounts by Institution

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
UU	\$1,066.32	\$1,067.28	\$1,109.98	\$1,127.48	\$1,225.48
USU	929.68	1,046.26	1,051.70	1,070.14	1,082.00
WSU	857.52	883.32	911.72	939.06	967.24
SUU	722.00	721.50	755.50	757.50	763.50
Snow	390.00	396.00	390.40	416.00	416.00
DSU	662.00	712.00	736.00	772.00	795.00
UVU	728.00	708.00	690.00	690.00	690.00
SLCC	428.50	438.50	450.50	461.50	474.00
USHE ⁽¹⁾	\$723.00	\$746.61	\$761.98	\$779.21	\$801.65

Amount Change from Prior Year by Institution

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
UU	\$120.00	\$0.96	\$42.70	\$17.50	\$98.00
USU	\$17.58	\$116.58	\$5.44	\$18.44	\$11.86
WSU	\$26.62	\$25.80	\$28.40	\$27.34	\$28.18
SUU	\$6.00	(\$0.50)	\$34.00	\$2.00	\$6.00
Snow	\$0.00	\$6.00	(\$5.60)	\$25.60	\$0.00
DSU	\$19.00	\$50.00	\$24.00	\$36.00	\$23.00
UVU	\$10.00	(\$20.00)	(\$18.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
SLCC	\$10.50	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$12.50
USHE ⁽¹⁾	\$26.21	\$23.61	\$15.37	\$17.23	\$22.44

Percent Change from Prior Year by Institution

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
UU	12.7%	0.1%	4.0%	1.6%	8.7%
USU	1.9%	12.5%	0.5%	1.8%	1.1%
WSU	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%
SUU	0.8%	-0.1%	4.7%	0.3%	0.8%
Snow	-	1.5%	-1.4%	6.6%	0.0%
DSU	3.0%	7.6%	3.4%	4.9%	3.0%
UVU	1.4%	-2.7%	-2.5%	0.0%	0.0%
SLCC	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%	2.4%	2.7%
USHE ⁽¹⁾	3.8%	3.3%	2.1%	2.3%	2.9%

(1) Simple averages.

Sources:

- 1) Board of Regents' Policy R510-5, Tuition and Fees:
<https://higheredutah.org/policies/r510-tuition-and-fees/>
- 2) USHE Proposed Fee Adj. for 2018-19:
https://higheredutah.org/pdf/agendas/20180330/TABD_2018-03-30.pdf
- 3) A Performance Audit of Mandatory Student Fees at the University of Utah:
https://le.utah.gov/audit/11_12rpt.pdf