

PROPOSAL: Fall 2025 Tuition and Required Fee Rates

Background

In order to recruit and retain students, support their academic success and diversify revenue streams, Western Michigan University continues to allocate its financial resources to advance the University as a premier destination for a holistic, experience-driven education. Tuition is the major revenue source for the general fund, accounting for approximately 68% of the total budgeted revenue. It comprises approximately 54% of all University revenue.

We are recommending a 4.6% increase in tuition and required fees for resident undergraduate students. With this adjustment, a newly admitted full-time Michigan resident freshman will pay \$15,954 in tuition and required fees to attend WMU for the 2025-26 academic year, which is an increase of \$702 for the academic year.

WMU is committed to balancing access to college with ensuring a high-quality education for our students. The proposed tuition and required fee increase will be outpaced with a 6.2% increase to financial aid in the general fund budget. A comparable rate increase is being proposed for nonresident undergraduate students, all graduate students, and students enrolled in fully online programs.

The 4.6% increase includes an adjustment to the Student Assessment Fee, which provides support to student organizations and agencies. In fiscal year 2024, the Western Student Association held a student vote that signaled a strong interest in increasing the fee due to the flourishing growth in student organizations and a nearly decade-long period without an increase. This marks the second year of a two-year phased implementation of the total requested fee increase of \$40 per academic year. The fee increase is \$14 for the 2025-26 academic year for all undergraduate students—except for undergraduates who are exclusively enrolled in fully online programs. The fee increase would also apply to graduate students enrolled in main campus programs. Prior to last year, the Student Assessment Fee had not been increased since Fall 2015.

The proposed increase to tuition and required fees 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 in the bottom half, or 8th, among the fifteen public universities in Michigan.

Recommended Action

It is recommended, effective with the Fall 2025 semester, the Board of Trustees approves the Schedule of Tuition and Required Fee Rates as attached.