

R510, Tuition¹

R510-1 Purpose: To establish a tuition policy for the Utah System of Higher Education ("USHE") including identification of authorized tuition models and other tuition charges.²

R510-2 References

- 2.1** Utah Code § 53B-7-101, Combined Requests for Appropriations
- 2.2** 20 USC § 1091b, Institutional Refunds
- 2.3** Board Policy R511, Tuition Disclosures and Consultation

R510-3 Definitions

3.1 “Degree-granting Institution” means an institution of higher education described in Utah Code section 53-B-1-102(1)(a).

3.2 “Secondary Student” means a student who:

3.2.1 Is currently enrolled in grades 7-12 in a Utah public or private school, or who is eligible to enroll under Utah Administrative Code R277-419;

3.2.2 Regardless of age, has not previously been conferred a high school diploma, certificate of completion, adult education secondary diploma, high school equivalency diploma, or a secondary school completion credential for home school; or

3.2.3 Is no more than 18 years old on or before September 1 of the fiscal year in which they enrolled at the college;

3.2.4 Is a retained senior who was enrolled in less than grade 12 during the previous year and is not more than 19 years old on or before September 1 of the fiscal year in which they enrolled at the college; or

¹ Approved October 24, 1986; amended June 19, 1987, August 7, 1987, July 27, 1990, March 21, 1992, September 18, 1992, November 6, 1992, September 24, 1993, September 23, 1994, November 4, 1994, June 23, 1995, November 3, 1995, August 1, 1996, September 11, 1997, November 13, 1998, January 21, 2000, March 17, 2000, March 16, 2001, March 14, 2002, July 2, 2002 and December 14, 2007, January 11, 2012, November 16, 2012, May 16, 2014, November 16, 2018, and September 16, 2022.

² Technical edits August 30, 2024.

3.2.5 Meets the definition of a child with a disability under Utah Code section 53E-7-201(1) and is no more than 21 years old on or before September 1 of the fiscal year in which they enrolled at the college. For a student turning 22 years old after September 1 but prior to December 31, their classification as a secondary student shall extend to the beginning of the college's winter holiday. For a student turning 22 after December 31, their classification as a secondary student shall extend to the end of the fiscal year.

3.3 “Technical College” means an institution of higher education described in Utah Code section 53B-1-102(1)(b). Technical college also means a degree-granting institution with a technical college role.

R510-4 Setting Tuition

4.1 The Board of Higher Education shall set tuition, fees, and charges for each institution at levels necessary to meet budget requirements.

4.2 The president of each USHE institution, in consultation with their Board of Trustees, may recommend institutional tuition rate adjustments to the Board of Higher Education for review and action. Degree-granting institutions should also consult with student body leadership. Presidents who wish to adjust their institution's tuition rate must submit a formal proposal to the Board of Higher Education that includes the following:

4.2.1 The total tuition adjustment in both dollars and percentage increase or decrease;

4.2.2 A detailed list of how the institution plans to use the additional tuition revenue, which may include tuition adjustments required to meet Legislative funding matches for compensation and internal service fees, faculty promotion and tenure adjustments, and other operating needs identified by the institution;

4.2.3 The anticipated impact of the proposed tuition adjustment on student access, retention, and completion rates;

4.2.4 Rationale and justification for why the tuition rate adjustment is necessary, including reference to the institution's efforts to fund the proposed uses with existing resources, through internal reallocation, or institutional efficiencies;

4.2.5 Documentation which shows support from the Board of Trustees; and

4.2.6 Documentation which shows students were advised of proposed tuition rates through Truth-in-tuition Hearings and, at degree-granting institutions, Student Body Leadership Councils.

4.3 The Board shall include its projected tuition rates in its unified budget proposal to the Legislature.

4.4 In the first Board of Higher Education meeting following the legislative session, the Board shall vote on final proposed tuition adjustments, if any.

4.5 Tuition changes approved by the Board for degree-granting institutions take effect for the subsequent semester. Tuition changes approved by the Board for technical colleges take effect for course work or enrollment periods that begin on or after July 1 of the fiscal year for which the rates are approved. The Board may designate a different effective date when deemed appropriate.

R510.5 Annual Review

5.1 The Board shall annually review price competitive tuition data including: comparisons with national and regional tuition and fee data, institutional cost data, median income statistics, average student debt load data, general and course fee data, and other affordability factors the Board identifies to determine if tuition adjustments are necessary to maintain fairness and price competitiveness.

5.2 Under the direction of the Board Audit Subcommittee, the USHE internal auditor will select one or more institution's tuition adjustment proposals to verify accuracy, integrity, and reliability of the data provided to the Board of Higher Education at the end of the associated fiscal year.

R510.6 Tuition Cost Ratios at Degree-granting Institutions

6.1 Resident/Nonresident Tuition Cost Ratios: Undergraduate nonresident tuition shall be set at no less than three times the institutional undergraduate resident tuition rate. The Board may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

6.2 Graduate/Undergraduate Tuition Cost Ratios: Tuition for resident and nonresident graduate students will be set at no less than 110 percent of tuition for undergraduate students.

R510.7 Authorized Tuition Models

7.1 Degree-granting institutions may use either one of the following tuition models:

7.1.1 A Linear Tuition Model in which the incremental tuition charge per student credit hour is the same without regard to the number of hours for which a student is enrolled.

7.1.2 A Plateau Model in which students carrying a defined full-time load are charged a uniform rate within a defined range of credit hours. Tuition per credit hour between one credit hour and the beginning of the plateau range shall increase in linear increments.

Students enrolled for credit hours beyond the plateau range shall be charged at the same rate-per-credit-hour as the credit hours preceding the plateau range. The plateau may be any range between 10 and 20 credit hours.

7.2 Technical colleges will use the linear tuition model described in subsection 6.1.1.

R510.8 Other Tuition Charges

8.1 Registration Costs: Registration costs shall be included in tuition, not assessed as a separate fee category.

8.2 Online Tuition: The Board may authorize alternative tuition schedules for online courses on a case-by-case basis.

8.3 Differential Tuition: The Board may authorize differential tuition schedules for programs on a case-by-case basis. In addition to initially approving differential tuition rates for academic programs, differential tuition increases beyond the regular institutional tuition increase proposal shall be approved by the Board. The institution shall use increased revenues from the differential tuition rate to benefit the impacted program and to help support related campus services. Institutions requesting differential tuition schedules should consult with students in the program and consider the following:

8.3.1 The student and workforce demand for the program;

8.3.2 The impact of differential tuition rates on student access and retention;

8.3.3 The tuition rates of comparable programs at other institutions; and

8.3.4 The potential earnings capacity of program graduates.

8.4 Apprenticeship Programs: Tuition for courses offered specifically for apprenticeship programs shall be at least one-half the tuition for other credit courses at the institution but shall not exceed regular tuition rates.

8.5 Technical College Tuition

8.5.1 No Tuition for Secondary Students at Technical Colleges

8.5.1.1 As prescribed in Utah Code section 53B-2a-106(1)(b)(ii), a secondary student who is formally scheduled in an approved course or program at a technical college shall not be charged tuition.

8.5.1.2 A secondary student shall not be charged tuition at a USHE technical college regardless of the day or time of the course or program. A student who is not a secondary student shall be considered a postsecondary student and shall be charged the institution's regular tuition rate. A student whose secondary status changes while enrolled in a defined-length course or program shall be allowed to complete the course or program without paying tuition.

8.5.1.3 A referral of a student by a public, private, or home school high school shall be sufficient documentation of secondary student status for tuition purposes.

8.5.2 Postsecondary Tuition at Technical Colleges: Technical colleges shall assess low-cost tuition to postsecondary students as prescribed in Utah Code section 53B-2a-106(1)(b)(i) and as approved by the Board of Higher Education.

8.6 Other Non-Credit Instruction: Tuition for other non-credit programs and courses shall be established by each USHE institution. The total of all available funds, including tuition, shall be sufficient to pay the total direct cost of providing such programs and courses, in the aggregate, for the institution.

8.7 Summer School: Institutions may reduce tuition rates for summer school students to incentivize students to attend during summer semesters.

8.8 Contract Credit Courses: Charges for credit courses provided under contract to outside agencies shall be at least sufficient to pay the total direct costs of providing such courses, in the aggregate for the institution.

8.9 Continuing Education Credit Enrollments: Students enrolled in Continuing Education credit courses other than contract courses shall be assessed tuition at no less than the regular charge per credit hour.

8.10 Medicine and Law: The Board will consider tuition for Medicine and Law programs separate from other programs.

8.11 Course Audit Registrations: Students must register to audit any class. Such audit hours will be part of their total load and they shall pay tuition at the same rate as paid by students registering for credit in the course.

8.12 Correction Facility Program Tuition: Reduced tuition for programs provided to inmates at state correctional facilities will be considered separately. The State Board of Education advisory council overseeing corrections education and recidivism reduction issues will determine inmate eligibility for participation in Board of Higher Education authorized tuition reductions.