

REGULAR ITEM (24-12-68)

December 5, 2024

Tab 4

Consideration of 2025-26 Tuition and Fees Schedule

Brief Description

The State Board has responsibility for adopting tuition and fees (operating fees, building fees, and the maximum allowable student activity fees) for the community and technical colleges, as well as the tuition for upper division courses in the system's applied baccalaureate programs. The legislative tuition policy stems from the College Affordability Program of 2015, which allows resident tuition to increase by an inflation factor linked to median wages in Washington.

How does this item link to the State Board's Strategic Plan?

Maintaining affordable tuition and fee rates is key to student access. Tuition is also an important component of quality instruction as the state budget continues to rely on tuition revenue to support a share of operations.

Background information and analysis

Since 2017-18, the tuition policy has been tied to an inflationary formula based on median hourly wage increases and has increased by an average of 2.8% over the last three years. Students and their families have benefited from the modest and predictable tuition increases brought about by this policy. Specifically, as required by [RCW 28B.15.067\(2\)](#), tuition operating fees for resident undergraduates may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous fourteen years, as determined by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

[SB 5079](#), passed by Legislature in 2023, requires the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to provide the maximum annual increase in tuition operating fees for resident undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education by October 1st of each year for the following academic year.

Based on the May 2023 data released by BLS, the percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous fourteen years is 3.3%. Therefore, as documented by OFM on October 1, 2024, tuition operating fees for the public community and technical colleges and the public four-year institutions may increase by no more than 3.3% in the 2025-26 academic year. For illustrative purposes, a full-time, resident, lower division student taking 15 credits per quarter, would pay an additional \$54.35 per quarter, \$163.05 per year (tuition and fees) with a 3.3% tuition operating fee increase.

Presidents and State Board staff recommend the State Board continue the policy of increasing resident and non-resident tuition operating fees by the percentage legislature allows. While the State Board is rightly cautious about any increases in tuition, this modest, predictable increase is significantly lower than inflation.

Recommendation/preferred result

Adopt Resolution 24-12-68, establishing the 2025-26 tuition and fees schedules for resident and non-resident, upper and lower division students.

Policy Manual Change Yes No

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STATE OF WASHINGTON STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES RESOLUTION 24-12-68

A resolution relating to 2025-26 Tuition and Fees.

WHEREAS, RCW 28B.15.067 grants the State Board authority to set tuition and fees for non-resident students to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, legislature authorized resident undergraduate tuition increases in 2025-26 up to 3.3 percent consistent with the formula in the College Affordability Program passed in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has the authority to adopt resident tuition up to the amount set by the legislature through the College Affordability Program; and

WHEREAS, for the 2024-25 academic year, the State Board increased resident, lower- and upper-division (applied baccalaureate degree programs) tuition by 3%; and

WHEREAS, 2025-26 building fee rates for lower- and upper-division tuition are required to be increased by the Seattle CPI inflation factor.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges:

- Adopts the community college lower division course tuition and fee schedule and rates for 2025-26 as set forth in Attachment A – FY 2025-26 Lower Division Tuition Schedule; and
- Adopts the community college upper division course tuition and fee schedule and rates for 2025-26 as set forth in Attachment A – FY 2025-26 Upper Division Tuition Schedule; and
- Requires the deposit of 2% of operating fee revenues into the Community and Technical College Innovation Fund.

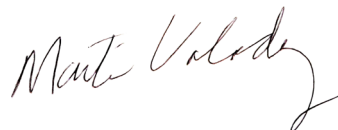
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to this action, including any necessary changes to the State Board’s Policy Manual, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, Legislature, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal law.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on December 5, 2024

Attest



Chris Bailey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair