



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

March 28, 2025

2025-26 Board Guidelines for the Review & Recommendation of Tuition & General Fee Adjustments

The Utah Board of Higher Education sets tuition and general fee schedules for Utah System of Higher Education institutions each spring. The Board requests that institutional leadership and boards of trustees review tuition and fee adjustment proposals to ensure that the changes are reasonable and justifiable and maintain affordability for all Utah students.

Each institution's board of trustees chair, president, and student body president (or applicable designees) will present recommendations to the Board as part of the tuition and fee deliberations.

[Utah Code 53B-7-101](#) requires the Board to recommend the minimum tuition rates for resident and non-resident students at each institution, as necessary to implement the Board's budget recommendation. This section of the code also grants the Board the authority to set tuition, fees, and charges for each institution at levels deemed necessary to meet budget requirements. Additionally, [Board Policy R-510, Tuition](#), establishes the processes for annual tuition reviews, rate setting, and model approvals.

Annual Tuition Review

Each year, the Commissioner's office staff prepares an annual tuition review and provides materials to support the Board and institutional leadership. These materials include budgeted expenses, current tuition and fee rates, peer comparisons, average student financial aid, inflation indices, median income, average net cost, instructional costs per student and award, tax and tuition ratios, and inflation-adjusted comparisons.

For degree-granting institutions, tuition and fee peer comparisons are made using Board-approved peers, Rocky Mountain states, and Western States (excluding California). Technical colleges do not have regional or national peer comparisons; therefore, they are compared against each other.

Institution Matching Funds

Annual legislative appropriations to degree-granting institutions are typically set to support the cost of compensation increases and internal service fund rate increases at a 3:1 ratio. This means the state covers 75% of the expected costs while degree-granting institutions are responsible for the remaining 25% share. Traditionally, that 25% share of "matching funds" has been sourced through tuition increases.

In this year's proposed FY 25-26 budget recommendation, the estimate for increases in compensation and mandatory costs at degree-granting institutions would require approximately \$12.1 million in institution matching funds. This corresponds to a simple average tuition increase of 1.16%. Annual legislative appropriations to technical colleges fully cover the expected compensation increases and internal service fund rate increases; therefore, no institution match is required of technical colleges.

Degree-Granting Tuition and Fees

The requested system-level weighted average aggregate tuition and general fee increase for FY 26 measured at 2.24% among degree-granting institutions. This requested increase is significantly lower than last year's 3.10% increase and down from the preliminary FY 26 requests of 2.43% prior to collaborations between the Commissioner's office and institutions to further refine this year's proposals. With FY 26 Consumer Price Index inflation expected to read 3.1%, all institutional tuition and fee increase proposals offer real gains in affordability to Utah students. Institutional proposals are summarized as follows:

Institution	Tuition and Fees	2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change	% Change
Research Universities					
University of Utah	Tuition	\$9,421	\$9,738	\$317	3.37%
	Fees	\$1,203	\$1,109	-\$94	-7.80%
	Total	\$10,624	\$10,848	\$224	2.10%
Utah State University	Tuition	\$7,627	\$7,783	\$204	2.68%
	Fees	\$933	\$952	\$19	1.99%
	Total	\$8,560	\$8,783	\$223	2.60%
Regional Universities					
Weber State University	Tuition	\$5,621	\$5,836	\$215	1.03%
	Fees	\$936	\$789	-\$147	-15.72%
	Total	\$6,557	\$6,625	\$68	1.03%
Southern Utah University	Tuition	\$6,186	\$6,425	\$269	4.35%
	Fees	\$776	\$638	-\$138	-17.78%
	Total	\$6,962	\$7,093	\$132	1.89%
Utah Tech University	Tuition	\$5,435	\$5,568	\$130	2.45%
	Fees	\$872	\$916	\$44	5.05%
	Total	\$6,307	\$6,484	\$177	2.81%
Utah Valley University	Tuition	\$5,818	\$6,016	\$198	3.41%
	Fees	\$689	\$658	-\$31	-4.45%
	Total	\$6,507	\$6,675	\$168	2.58%

Community Colleges					
Snow College	Tuition	\$3,930	\$4,029	\$99	2.53%
	Fees	\$408	\$408	\$0	0.00%
	Total	\$4,338	\$4,437	\$99	2.29%
Salt Lake Community College	Tuition	\$3,928	\$4,135	\$207	5.28%
	Fees	\$498	\$408	-\$90	-18.07%
	Total	\$4,426	\$4,543	\$117	2.65%

Technical Education Tuition

The tuition rates for technical education at technical colleges and degree-granting institutions with a technical college mission will remain at the current rate without increase for the coming FY 25-26.

Institution	Tuition per Credit Hour		\$ Change	% Change
	2024-25	2025-26		
Utah State University – Tech Ed	\$95	\$95	\$0	0.00%
Snow College – Tech Ed	\$85	\$85	\$0	0.00%
Salt Lake Comm. College - SLTC	\$90	\$90	\$0	0.00%
Bridgerland Technical College	\$95	\$95	\$0	0.00%
Davis Technical College	\$95	\$95	\$0	0.00%
Dixie Technical College	\$105	\$105	\$0	0.00%
Mountainland Technical College	\$120	\$120	\$0	0.00%
Ogden-Weber Technical College	\$95	\$95	\$0	0.00%
Southwest Technical College	\$95	\$95	\$0	0.00%
Tooele Technical College	\$85	\$85	\$0	0.00%
Uintah Basin Technical College	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%

Technical Education Student Fees

Technical colleges do not charge general student fees. However, degree-granting institutions with a technical college mission charge reduced fees for students enrolled in technical education programs. Requests for increases in general student fees and the corresponding impact on total tuition and fees are shown below.

Institution	General Student Fees		\$ Change	% Change
	2024-25	2025-26		
Utah State University – Tech Ed	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Snow College – Tech Ed	\$13.60	\$13.60	\$0.00	0.00%
Salt Lake Comm. College - SLTC	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$0.00	0.00%

Institution	Tuition (see above)	Student Fees (see above)	Total Tuition and Fees
Utah State University – Tech Ed	\$95.00	\$3.00	\$98.00
Snow College – Tech Ed	\$85.00	\$13.60	\$98.60
Salt Lake Comm. College - SLTC	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$99.00

Degree-Granting Differential Tuition

The Board may authorize differential tuition schedules for programs on a case-by-case basis where increases are either above or below the regular proposed institutional tuition increase. The policy further requires institutions to use the increased revenue from the differential tuition rate to benefit the impacted program and support related campus services. Institutions requesting differential tuition schedules should consult with students in the program and consider the following:

- Student and workforce demand for the program
- Impact of differential tuition rates on student access and retention
- Tuition rates of comparable programs at other institutions
- Potential earnings of program graduates
- Societal importance of the program

The following institutions are requesting differential tuition for both new and existing undergraduate and graduate programs beginning in the 2025-26 academic year. Additional details can be found in the attachments.

University of Utah

- Bachelor of Nursing Program requests an undergraduate differential increase from \$106.35 to \$126 per credit hour (an 18.5% increase) for both resident and non-resident students. The \$19.65 increase will shift the \$243.50 in per-semester program fees to differential (net neutral), accommodating the new five or six-semester completion option instead of the currently required four semesters and ultimately lowering the total overall cost for students.
- College of Science requests an undergraduate differential increase from \$60 to \$85 per credit hour (a 41.7% increase) for resident and non-resident students. The \$25 increase will support student research, project-based learning opportunities, peer mentoring, academic support, and student engagement.
- Executive Master of Business Administration program requests a graduate differential increase from \$2,104 to \$2,250 per credit hour (a 6.9% increase) for both resident and non-resident students. The \$146 increase will support operational inflationary increases.
- Master of Accounting, Business Administration, Healthcare Administration, Real Estate Development, Business Analytics, Cybersecurity Management, Finance, and Information Systems programs request a graduate differential increase from \$1,135 to \$1,250 per credit hour (a 10.1% increase) for FY 26 and from \$1,250 to \$1,350 per credit hour (an 8.0% increase) for FY 27 for both resident and non-resident students. The \$115 and \$100 increases will support operational costs and enhance program quality.
- Master of Business Creation program requests a graduate differential increase from \$500 to \$550 per credit hour (a 10.0% increase) for FY 26 and from \$550 to \$600 per credit hour (a 9.1% increase) for FY 27 for both resident and non-resident students. These funds will be used for program operations.

- Professional and Online MBA program requests a graduate differential increase from \$1,550 to \$1,650 per credit hour (a 6.5% increase) for FY 27 for both resident and non-resident students. These funds will support operational costs and enhance program quality.
- New Master in Financial Planning and Counseling program requests a graduate differential of \$926 per credit hour for FY 26 for both resident and non-resident students. These funds will support operational costs.
- New Online Master in Construction Management program requests a graduate differential of \$1,300 per credit hour for FY 26 for resident and non-resident students. These funds will support operational costs.
- New Transportation Infrastructure Electrification certificate program requests a graduate differential of \$1,200 per credit hour for FY 26 for both resident and non-resident students. These funds will support operational costs.
- New Anatomical Health certificate program requests a graduate differential of \$900 per credit hour for FY 26 for both resident and non-resident students. These funds will support operational costs.

Utah Tech University

- New graduate program certificates in both Applied Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning and Machine Learning for Life Sciences request a differential tuition rate of \$550 per credit hour for both resident and non-resident students. This rate will fund faculty salaries and benefits, the operating budget, marketing efforts, institutional overhead, and computing resources.

Utah Valley University

- Master of Business Administration program requests a graduate differential tuition increase from \$731 to \$780 per credit hour (a 6.7% increase) for residents and non-residents. The funds will be used to finance the required international engagement trip.

Weber State University

- Requests a Freshman and Sophomore level (less than 60 hours) differential tuition decrease of -\$68 per credit hour less than Junior and Senior level students. This will be the first step of many differential proposals to increase student access, retention, and completion rates.

Institution	Program	Course Level	Per	Amount
University of Utah	Nursing	Undergraduate	Credit	\$126
	College of Science	Undergraduate	Credit	\$85
	Executive MBA (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$2,250
	Master of Accounting (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Accounting (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Business Admin. (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Business Admin. (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Business Creation (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$550
	Master of Business Creation (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$600
	Master of Healthcare Admin. (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Healthcare Admin. (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Real Estate Dev. (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Real Estate Dev. (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Business Analytics (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Business Analytics (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Cybersecurity Mgmt. (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Cybersecurity Mgmt. (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Finance (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Finance (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Master of Information Systems (FY26)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,250
	Master of Information Systems (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,350
	Professional and Online MBA (FY27)	Graduate	Credit	\$1,650
	Master in Financial Plan. & Counseling	Graduate	Credit	\$926
Online MS Construction Engineering	Graduate	Credit	\$1,300	
Trans. Infrastructure Electrification	Graduate	Credit	\$1,200	
Anatomical Health Sciences	Graduate	Credit	\$900	
Utah Tech University	AI & Machine Learning	Graduate	Credit	\$550
	Machine Learning for Life Sciences	Graduate	Credit	\$550
Utah Valley University	Master of Business Administration	Graduate	Credit	\$780
Weber State University	Freshmen and Sophomore	Undergraduate	Credit	-\$68

Technical Education Differential Tuition

The differential tuition rates for technical education programs at technical colleges and degree-granting institutions with a technical college mission remain at the current rate without an increase for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve the proposed tuition and general fee schedules as recommended by the boards of trustees of Utah's technical colleges and degree-granting institutions with technical college missions.

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve the tuition and general fee schedules as proposed by the University of Utah, Weber State University, Southern Utah University, and Utah Valley University.

The Commissioner further recommends that the Board approve tuition and general fee increases at the following rates for select institutions: Utah State University (2.46% vs. 2.60% as requested), Utah Tech University (2.66% vs. 2.81% as requested), Snow College (2.17% vs. 2.29% as requested) and Salt Lake Community College (2.55% vs. 2.65% as requested). The Commissioner's recommendations slightly differ from institutional requests related to some general fee increase proposals, where the Commissioner recommends further justification be provided to support the fees being charged to every student upon registration.

Finally, the Commissioner recommends that the Board adopt institutional differential tuition schedules as proposed.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – USHE Annual Tuition Review

Attachment 2 – Institutional Support Letters