



February 17, 2023

## Technical Education Affordability – Tuition and Fees

Technical education in Utah is affordable by the design of the Utah Legislature. The Legislature has written into statute principles of affordability and has funded technical colleges well to ensure that those affordability principles are achievable.

Utah Code section 53-B-2a-106(1) requires that “Each technical college shall ... offer technical education programs ... at ... no tuition to secondary students.” Statute further requires that each technical college “ensure that secondary students in the public education system have access to technical education at the technical college.”

During Fiscal Year 2022, 10,286 secondary students attended courses at Utah’s technical colleges as part of their high school experience. These students saved over \$4.6 million in tuition as a result of tuition being free to secondary students. This does not include secondary students who attended degree-granting institutions as part of the concurrent enrollment programs at those institutions.

Utah Code section 53-B-2a-106(1) also requires that “Each technical college shall ... offer technical education programs ... at ... low cost to adult students.” Low cost tuition at technical colleges has historically been charged as a membership hour rate, or rate per hour of instruction. The Fiscal Year 2023 membership hour tuition rates by technical college are as follows:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Tuition/Hour</u>
Utah State University – Tech Ed	\$2.25
Snow College – Tech Ed	\$2.00
Salt Lake Comm. College – SLTC	\$2.45
Bridgerland Technical College	\$2.00
Davis Technical College	\$2.10
Dixie Technical College	\$2.25
Mountainland Technical College	\$2.10
Ogden-Weber Technical College	\$2.00
Southwest Technical College	\$2.00
Tooele Technical College	\$2.00
Uintah Basin Technical College	\$2.00

During Fiscal Year 2022, 22,614 adult students attended courses at Utah’s technical colleges. Many of these students attend college part-time and many of them also work while attending college. This resulted in 5,010 full-time equivalent (FTE) adult students attending as certificate seeking students. Average

annual tuition paid per full-time adult student was \$1,859. This does not include adult students who attended degree-granting institutions which also have a technical education mission.

As a result of the low cost of tuition, Utah’s technical colleges do not offer student loans. Pell Grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and sponsorships are available to many students, making student loans unnecessary for technical education students.

In the September 2022 meeting, the Board revised Board Policy **R516, *General Student Fees***. This revised policy provides that general student fees should not be charged to students at technical colleges.

In September 2022, the Board also revised Board Policy **R517, *Course and Program Fees***. This policy makes it clear that course fees are intended to be used primarily for consumable items for students. In accordance with this revised policy, and as a part of the course alignment initiative, technical colleges are examining course fees to reduce the cost of attendance.

Technical colleges have been working diligently to transition from membership hours to credit hours. The Technical Education Committee has been very involved in this process. As a part of this initiative, tuition will move from being charged based on a membership hour rate to a credit hour rate.

The various technical colleges will present credit-based tuition rates for Board review and action in the March 2023 Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) Board meeting. This move to a new credit-based tuition model is intended to be essentially revenue neutral. This is accomplished by reducing student fees to offset the increase in the tuition rate. Therefore, this initiative will continue to move forward and not be impacted by the freeze in tuition rates.

Credit-based tuition rates anticipated to be presented in the March Board meeting are as follows:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Tuition/ Credit Hour</u>
Utah State University – Tech Ed	\$95
Snow College – Tech Ed	\$85
Salt Lake Comm. College – SLTC	\$90
Bridgerland Technical College	\$95
Davis Technical College	\$95
Dixie Technical College	\$105
Mountainland Technical College	\$120
Ogden-Weber Technical College	\$95
Southwest Technical College	\$95
Tooele Technical College	\$85
Uintah Basin Technical College	\$100

These rates will be presented for further discussion and action in the March Board meeting. Each institution will prepare a presentation for the rate request for that institution.

**Commissioner’s Recommendation**

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.