

ATTACHMENT A: ESFCOM AY24-25 Tuition Increase

ESFCOM Tuition AY24-25

Justification.

The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) is proposing a 3.0% tuition increase for resident medical students across various campus locations such as Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and Everett. The intention behind this increase in revenue is multi-fold:

- Offsetting inflationary cost rises
- Enhancing students' access to academic and career advising
- Supporting community-based education costs and the volunteer physicians serving as clinical preceptors
- Facilitating faculty recruitment and retention to fulfill roles such as small group facilitators, research mentors, and career-focused track guides
- Additionally, there is a request for a fee increase to support the standardized patient program, vital for imparting clinical skills through teaching, practice, direct observation, and feedback to students.

Our original pro-forma of the college incorporated an annual 3% tuition increase. The proposed increase in tuition is aimed at providing sustainable financial backing for both ESFCOM and its students. Despite implementing cost reduction strategies, sustaining programs and meeting accreditation requirements seems unattainable without this tuition increase.

Supporting data highlights that the overall cost of attendance at ESFCOM remains below the national average of similar community-based medical schools listed by the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) in their 4-year Average Total Costs of Attendance.

Table 1: Tuition Increase AY24-25

	Resident
Current Rate (Annual)	40,891
Proposed Rate (Annual)	42,118
\$ Increase	1,227
% Increase	3.0%

Describe the timeline and process used to communicate the proposed increase to students and gather student feedback.

ESFCOM submitted an online survey in January to all MD students to collect feedback on the proposed 3.0% tuition increase. Approximately 11% of students responded. A majority of respondents expressed concern with the proposal's effect on program affordability and student debt load. Respondents also expressed a need for increased scholarship aid to be provided by the college, including offerings for under-represented students. The college is working with the WSU College of Medicine Medical Student Council to provide a forum for the college to follow up on feedback received in the survey.

Table 2: 2024 Total Cost of Attendance, All Classes: Source: AAMC Tuition and Fees Survey

Community Based Medical Schools, Average: \$74,613

Community Based Medical Schools	4-year Average Total Costs of Attendance
California Northstate	\$116,140
TCU-Burnett	\$104,526
Morehouse	\$100,044
Geisinger Commonwealth	\$99,364
Zucker Hofstra Northwell	\$99,058
Ponce	\$97,511
Northeast Ohio	\$89,585
FIU-Wertheim	\$80,493
Wright State-Boonshoft	\$77,183
Hawaii-Burns	\$76,037
Mercer	\$76,704
San Juan Bautista	\$71,889
South Carolina Columbia	\$75,581
Nevada Reno	\$73,374
Washington State-Floyd	\$72,587
East Tennessee-Quillen	\$70,900
Caribe	\$71,085
Central Michigan	\$69,683
Florida State	\$65,557
Eastern Virginia	\$69,208
CUNY	\$69,039
Florida Atlantic-Schmidt	\$67,942
South Dakota-Sanford	\$64,879
Southern Illinois	\$73,277
Michigan State	\$74,798
North Dakota	\$60,915
UTAustin-Dell	\$59,135
UCF	\$59,248
Houston-Fertitta	\$60,033
UTRio Grande Valley	\$53,919
Marshall-Edwards	\$55,184
Texas Tech	\$54,449
Texas Tech-Foster	\$52,911

Historical and Anticipated Future Increases in ESFCOM Operating Fees

To further support students, we are offering comprehensive financial counseling services and capping tuition increases at 3%. Our projections indicate that the total cost of attendance over four years will remain below the national average, pending confirmation from the 2023 AAMC Tuition/Fees Survey data soon to be released. Furthermore, we are equipping students with a comprehensive external scholarship database to broaden their financial opportunities. Additional efforts to mitigate student debt involve multifaceted approaches. Firstly, we are initiating scholarship funds for every graduating class, alongside ongoing annual fundraising efforts. Moreover, we are strategically channeling some of these funds towards establishing long-term endowments. Additionally, we've successfully acquired significant scholarships for students committed to serving in rural or underserved areas of Washington state. These collective efforts aim to alleviate the burden of student debt and promote financial stability for our students.

Table 3: Historical and Anticipated Future Increases in COM Operating Fees

Annual Tuition Increase % Fiscal year	Operating Fee							
	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	278 Students	298 Students	318 Students	320 Students	320 Students	320 Students	320 Students	320 Students
WSU Operating Fee	38,334	38,334	38,334	39,676	40,866	42,092	43,355	44,656
4% Fin. Aid	36,800	36,800	36,801	38,089	39,232	40,409	41,621	42,869
Gross Tuition	10,230,447	10,966,451	11,702,701	12,188,474	12,554,128	12,930,752	13,318,674	13,718,235
89% Distribution to ESFCOM	9,105,098	9,760,141	10,415,404	10,847,742	11,173,174	11,508,369	11,853,620	12,209,229
Additional Net Tuition to ESFCOM		655,043	655,263	432,338	325,432	335,195	345,251	355,609

According to our projections, starting with the class of 2025, the estimated student debt for COM is expected to surpass the national average by 20%, based on the following assumptions. COM tuition will have annual increases of 3%. Living expenses within the COM are set at a 5.9% rate, determined by the January 2022 SSAN COLA. Additionally, the national average debt for public school stands at 1.0%, calculated based on the average of the past five years.

Table 4: The average projected per-student medical school education debt for indebted individuals as of January 2023 stands at the mean value.

	College of Medicine Mean Debt	Public School National Mean Debt	Mean +/- National Average
Class of 2021	\$194,526	\$177,897	9.35%
Class of 2022	\$172,804	\$179,679	-3.83%
Class of 2023	\$183,602	\$181,476	1.17%
Class of 2024	\$191,007	\$183,291	4.21%
Class of 2025	\$226,276	\$185,123	22.23%
Class of 2026	\$233,388	\$186,975	24.82%

