



**April 7, 2016  
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## **ABOR Sets Tuition for 2016-17 Academic Year**

(Tucson, Ariz.) – After considering finances and operations at Arizona’s three public universities, the Arizona Board of Regents today approved [tuition and fee rates](#) for Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona.

Base tuition and fees rates for students at Arizona’s public universities main campuses range from an increase of 1.5 to 3.9 percent for resident undergraduate students and from 1.3 to 4 percent for resident graduate students. This year’s tuition increase average is 2.9 percent, trending downward from 3.7 percent last year.

Tuition guarantee programs continue this year at NAU where the Pledge program will be maintained, resulting in no tuition increase for 96 percent of continuing undergraduate students on the Flagstaff campus. At the University of Arizona, 78 percent of continuing undergraduate students who are enrolled in the tuition guarantee program will see no tuition increase. Arizona State University pledged three years ago to keep its tuition increase to less than 3 percent for the next 10 years and continues its promise this year with a 1.5 percent rise in resident undergraduate tuition and fees for 2016-17.

ASU’s resident undergraduate student surcharge that was enacted last year will be reduced for the 2016-17 academic year from \$320 to \$270 while Northern Arizona University increased their mandatory information technology fee and eliminated individualized class information technology fees.

“This year’s tuition proposals represent sound fiscal policy at our universities that are still grappling with state funding cuts of \$99 million last year alone. Combined with efficiencies instituted across all of our universities, the tuition and fee rates for the upcoming academic year are designed to keep our institutions on solid financial ground,” said Arizona Board of Regents Chair Jay Heiler. “With Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey signaling an end to an era of defunding the universities and with our new student-focused funding model garnering widespread support from Arizona’s business community and many of our legislators, we are looking toward a turning point for higher education in our state.”

The board is asking the Arizona Legislature to prioritize \$24 million in addition to the governor’s proposed \$8 million for the FY 2017 budget and invest in the board’s proposed student-focused funding model that puts state dollars squarely behind Arizona resident students.

Formulated in response to Gov. Ducey's request to update ABOR's strategic plan, the new model requests that the state grow its support of resident students to 50 percent over time. In FY 2016, the state appropriation will provide approximately 34 percent of a resident student's cost of education. In fiscal year 2008, the state funded 72.2 percent and in FY 1998, 88.4 percent. An average annual cost to educate a student is \$15,550 and the state will provide \$5,335 per resident student in FY 2016. Resident students contribute an average of \$6,554 in tuition and fees with universities covering the balance of costs at a current loss of approximately \$3,631 per resident student. This works out to a total estimated system-wide loss of \$346 million.

Arizona's public university enterprise has upended its proposed financial relationship with the state through the new model and has instituted reforms in recent years to provide more accountability and transparency in setting tuition.

Enhanced student involvement; instituting comprehensive operational and financial reviews for each university that align institutional performance and goals with tuition proposals; and a tuition workshop to examine tuition proposals in detail are recent reforms enacted by the board in the tuition-setting cycle.

At its previous meeting, the board received and reviewed the FY 2015 Student Financial Aid Report, which provides information on financial aid trends and total student aid, including sources of aid, student indebtedness, and financial aid plans for the upcoming year. The Student Financial Aid Report provides context for the board in tuition setting for how students are meeting the cost of attendance at Arizona's public universities.

In addition, students and the public offered comments on tuition proposals during a public hearing on March 29 that gave individuals an opportunity to share concerns to the board and university enterprise presidents.

"Recent reforms instituted by the board have made the tuition process more accountable and transparent, enabling our university enterprise to make decisions affecting students and families with the best information available," said ABOR President Eileen Klein. "We've worked closely with the university presidents to formulate tuition rates that minimize impact on resident undergraduates but also allow universities to stay on track with achieving critical goals for the state."

In-state tuition among Arizona's public universities remains competitive with peer institutions nationwide.

"The board is deeply vested in ensuring our universities deliver increasingly higher quality for its ever more diverse student body that literally comes to us from all over the world," said Chair Heiler. "As we not only sustain quality but improve quality across the many platforms through which we deliver education in this rapidly changing culture of competitive higher education, adequate resources are essential. It is never a simple decision to raise tuition, but I believe that our proposed student-based funding model with the state provides a sustainable path for the future of our great public universities for generations to come."

In setting tuition, the board considers numerous factors including student input; the amount of state support provided to the university system; revenues generated from tuition and fees; cost of attendance and median family income; the availability of student financial aid; and high-access and low-cost options; the tuition of peer universities across the country; and resources required to meet the universities' performance goals.

**Arizona University System Base Tuition and Mandatory Fees, 2016-17:**

	ASU		NAU Flagstaff		UA Main	
		Increase		Increase		Increase
<b>Resident undergraduate</b>	\$10,640	1.5% - one-year \$270 fee	\$10,764 - Pledge - New Student Rate *	3.9%	\$11,769 – Guarantee - New Student Rate***	3.2%
<b>Nonresident undergraduate</b>	\$26,470	4%	\$24,144 – New Student Rate**	3.4%	\$34,967 – New Student Rate****	7.2%
<b>Resident graduate</b>	\$11,756	1.3%	\$9,989	4%	\$12,383	2.8%
<b>Nonresident graduate</b>	\$28,862	4%	\$21,976	3.4%	\$32,135	5.8%

\*\$8,665 – non-pledge resident undergraduate

\*\*\$21,021 – non-pledge non-resident undergraduate

\*\*\*\$11,171 – non-guarantee resident undergraduate continuing students enrolled prior to Fall 2014

\*\*\*\*\$31,770 – non-guarantee non-resident undergraduate continuing students enrolled prior to Fall 2014

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*The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. For more information visit [AZRegents.edu](http://AZRegents.edu).*

“We are focused on ensuring our universities remain competitive for our students today and generations to come, to carry forth our strategic planning and attract the necessary talent,” said Chair Heiler. “Our pathway to success must include our state as a partner for our students.”

To pursue whatever strategic visions are in place at these important institutions. We are focused on a whole set of issues that have to do with the competitiveness of our universities and it is very difficult to have any pathway to success until we have an understanding with the state lawmaker to understand a known and reasonable funding model. It is really important for us as an enterprise for us to have a partner in the state to make decisions and carry forth planning and to seize opportunity and complete efficiency and attract the talent necessary to.

It is very important that the state is our partner. The tuition numbers are very important as we set the

The state is a partner for our students. We are working hard on your behalf. There are many people in state leadership who understand this and are helping us to achieve what I've deserved. It is not easy to raise tuition at any level. But if we were not to do that we would be damaging the prospects of our students. We are committed to work together as a team on behalf of our students.