



The University System of Georgia: Tuition – Key Points

“Creating A More Educated Georgia”

GEORGIA'S HISTORIC LOW-TUITION POLICY

- ◆ Tuition at Georgia’s public colleges and universities, year after year, has been priced below market rates and has enabled more Georgians to pursue a college education.
- ◆ Among the 16 states that make up the Southern Regional Education Board, **Georgia’s current resident undergraduate tuition and fees rank 16th lowest among the SREB states at four-year institutions and 13th lowest among the SREB states at two-year colleges.**

TUITION’S SHARE OF TOTAL EDUCATIONAL COSTS

- ◆ In-state tuition does not cover the total costs of instruction. The State of Georgia and the University System share those costs. A long-standing compact between the State and the Board of Regents has enabled the Board of Regents to set tuition rates based on a split of approximately 75 percent of state funds to be matched with 25 percent from tuition revenues.

TUITION - A POLICY IMPLEMENTING TOOL

- ◆ Policy drives tuition decisions -- tuition must meet instructional costs but above all, meet the Board of Regents’ objectives of maintaining affordability, access, and providing predictability.
- ◆ Tuition also should support the Regents’ strategic goal to create a robust tier of comprehensive universities as a key mechanism to meet enrollment growth. The University System is projected to add an additional 100,000 students by 2020.
- ◆ The new tuition rate set for fall 2008 do two things: (1) meets the University System’s overall revenue requirement for this cohort of students over four years; and (2) ensures the System’s ability to meet long-term formula funding obligations while maintaining a more modest tuition rate for future cohorts.

Comprehensive/Special Mission University Tuition Rate – Fall 2008

Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, University of West Georgia, Valdosta State University – \$1,598 per semester (fixed for four years). Georgia College & State University – \$2,273 per semester (fixed for four years). Southern Polytechnic State University – \$1,751 per semester (fixed for four years).

GOALS OF GUARANTEED TUITION PLAN

- ◆ In April 2006, the Board of Regents adopted a new approach to tuition for students enrolled in the University System of Georgia’s 35 institutions. The new guaranteed tuition plan fixes tuition for four years at four-year public universities and for three years at public two-year colleges.
- ◆ **The goal of the guaranteed tuition plan is to provide students and parents a high degree of predictability when planning for college. Students know that tuition is fixed for a set rate and that there will be no increases in tuition for the period specified.**
- ◆ **A second goal of the guaranteed tuition plan is to encourage students to complete a baccalaureate degree within four years.** This is reinforced through the pricing signal that shows an increase in tuition at the beginning of the fifth year.
- ◆ **The third goal of the guaranteed tuition plan is to maintain affordability and access to public higher education.**
- ◆ The Guaranteed Tuition Plan was neither designed nor intended to be “cheaper” than the traditional model. While the tuition rate is fixed for a specified period, the tuition is set at a rate that spreads out any projected increases in costs over the guaranteed time line and locks in that price at a steady rate from year to year.

FY09 TUITION RATES

- ◆ Students enrolled prior to fall 2006:

Research Universities:	\$2,167 per semester	\$123 increase
Regional/state universities:	\$1,413 per semester	\$69 increase
State colleges:	\$928 per semester	\$40 increase
Two-year colleges:	\$868 per semester	\$34 increase

GUARANTEED TUITION PLAN –

- ◆ Students enrolling fall 2006: no change
- ◆ Students enrolling fall 2007: no change
- ◆ Students enrolling fall 2008:

Research Universities:	\$2,428 per semester
Regional/state universities:	\$1,549 per semester
State colleges:	\$997 per semester
Two-year colleges:	\$919 per semester