

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Proposed Increases to 2019-20 In-State Undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Fees

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will consider a proposal to increase undergraduate in-state tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate programs of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga during the Board’s meeting on June 21, 2019. Tennessee law (Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-1603) requires boards of public universities to give public notice of proposed increases to tuition and mandatory fees charged to in-state undergraduate students at least fifteen (15) days prior to holding a public meeting to adopt the increases. Individuals are permitted to provide comments during the fifteen-day period at the following website:

<https://trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposal/>

Proposed Tuition & Mandatory Fees	2018-19	2019-20	Change	
Returning In-State Undergraduates	\$8,664	\$8,880	\$216	2.5%
New In-State Freshmen & Transfer Undergraduates (Soar in Four)	NA	\$9,656	NEW	NEW

Explanation for the Proposed Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increases

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) offers students an experiential learning environment with outstanding teaching scholars in bachelors, masters and doctoral programs. UTC is proposing an increase of 2.5% to tuition and fees for returning in-state undergraduate students. The proposed increase is needed to provide revenue to cover growth in the costs of providing these programs and to maintain the quality and effectiveness of these programs in the future.

Additionally, UTC is proposing a new fee structure (Soar in Four) for new students beginning in the Fall 2019 semester. Soar in Four, similar to currently offered plans by both UT Martin and UT Knoxville, promotes students progressing faster to graduation and statistically improves student retention rates. All new full-time students will pay a flat rate for 15 hours a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. This will be 8.7% higher than the rate paid by returning in-state undergraduates. It will create a strong incentive to complete a degree within four years, provide supplemental revenues that will be targeted to investments in students services and instructional programs proven to reduce the time to graduation, and support a culture change that makes on-time graduation the top priority for students, faculty and staff.

Purposes for Which the Revenue Derived from the Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increases Will be Used

The majority of this new revenue will be used for instruction, which is the main core mission of the university. Instruction investments include multiple faculty positions, lecturers, additional courses to avoid barriers to graduating, and new programs and degrees offered. Revenue will also be used for providing additional scholarships, fee waivers, and student services support.

Efforts to Mitigate the Effect of Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increases on Students

Tuition and fee increases have been modest in recent years. Last year UTC did not increase tuition and fees for the first time in over a decade. Over the last three years (FY17 to FY19), annual tuition and fee increases have averaged 1.2%, which was well within the limits allowed by THEC. It is standard practice for UTC to provide an equal percentage amount of increase to be applied towards additional scholarships. Often, scholarships, fee waivers, grant-in-aid and graduate assistantships receive new funding, which is in excess of the equal percentage amount increased by the tuition and fees. Roughly, 70% of UTC in-state undergraduate students receive some form of scholarship, grant, discount, or waiver to offset part or all of the costs of attendance.