



Georgetown University
Office of the Provost

Balancing Needs and Tuition Rate-setting: FAQs for Graduate Students January 2017

1. *What considerations go into setting tuition, and what does the process look like?*

There are a variety of factors taken into consideration in setting tuition rates, which require thoughtful study and careful balance. Factors include the true costs of delivering the education we value -- including available sources of financial aid, projected costs for competitive faculty and staff salaries, student services, compliance services, technology updates. We study the macroeconomic climate for financial burdens on our students and families, and projected fund-raising dollars. Tuition rates are discussed by university leadership, including Finance, Operations, Advancement, the Provost and the President's office, and the Board, looking to balance the variety of factors in consideration in setting tuition.

2. *How are tuition dollars allocated to University expenses?*

Tuition revenue is added to other revenue such as fundraising, gifts and grants, and services revenue, and allocated to divisions and schools across the University. Within a school budget, funding is then allocated to individual departments and programs. Departments and programs have various agreements within the university that take into account variable tuition rates, variable costs of services, variable costs of faculty and other costs and needs specific to that unit.

3. *How are operating costs of programs determined, and what determines the funding amount available for scholarships?*

Graduate program operating costs are determined by the individual program based upon resources needed to deliver the curriculum successfully to students. Scholarship support is provided to a program from a variety of sources - fundraising, faculty grants, Graduate School merit based aid, and the individual program operating costs.

4. *How does Georgetown University communicate with students about expected tuition increases?*

Based upon engagement with our students the University communicates in advance of tuition increases with students in four ways: 1. A yearly notice is posted on My Access from the Provost to students and families. 2. An e-mail is sent from the Office of the Provost to undergraduate and graduate students outlining the factors taken into consideration and balance of needs resulting in any tuition increase. 3. An FAQ sheet developed by students and staff to address common questions is posted and updated on the University's website. 4. Ongoing dialogue includes a Hoya Roundtable at which University leadership will address student's questions about tuition rate-setting.

5. *Is the University likely to increase tuition over the next few years?*

The University seeks to limit increases to tuition. Difficult decisions have to be made with regard to providing for our students, updating infrastructure, improving teaching practices and meeting growing student services-based needs. Balancing these competing demands is an ongoing process and includes consideration of the rising costs of providing services and attracting strong faculty. While a specific percentage increase can not be predicted in advance, in the current economic environment, students and families should plan for annual increases to tuition and fees.