



Georgetown University
Office of the Provost

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

1. *What considerations go into setting tuition and what is the process of setting tuition?*

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 students incorporated into the budgeting and tuition rate-setting process?*

The university budgeting process focuses on the long-term financial health of the institution; typically approving the overall budget 5 fiscal years into the future. The more detailed conversations about the University's finances, investments, projected income and expenses take place at the Board level, however, the university is committed to engaging students in the dialogue about tuition costs as we all share the same goal -- to provide an exceptional Georgetown education while limiting yearly tuition increases as much as possible. We value input from students on these issues, and will continue to work with students to provide appropriate venues for discussion and outreach, including engaging the Provost's Student Advisory Committee which is made up of leaders from undergraduate and graduate student organizations.

3. *How does the University communicate with parents and students about expected 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.

4. *How is tuition revenue allocated across the University? What expenses do tuition dollars support?*

Tuition revenue is combined with other revenue such as fund-raising, gifts, grants and services revenue and then allocated to schools, departments and programs. Tuition dollars are used to

support financial aid, instructional expenses and support, student services, and other operational expenses.

5. *Has there been consideration of a fixed price model for tuition?*

A fixed rate model may not be beneficial to students relative to any negative adjustments to a student's personal financial situation. There are benefits and drawbacks to such a model and Georgetown feels that being able to address each student's needs individually each year is more beneficial to students as a whole.

6. *What causes increases to tuition and should parents and students expect annual increases to cost of attendance?*

The University seeks to limit increases to tuition. Difficult decisions have to be made with regard to providing additional services to our students, updating infrastructure and housing, 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.

7. *How is tuition calculated for full versus part time students?*

The cost of full-time attendance is higher than the cost of part-time attendance because students who are on campus full-time make use of campus facilities and services outside of the classroom to a greater degree than part-time students.