

Policy on Tuition, Fees, and Charges

[DRAFT 20250923]

Policy Title	Policy on Tuition, Fees, and Charges
Policy #	01.019.1
Policy Owner	University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Contact Information	Questions regarding this policy can be directed to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at (401) 874-4341 or the Vice President for Administration and Finance at (401) 874-2433.
Approved By	University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Effective Date	
Next Review Date	No later than
Who Needs to Know About this Policy	All employees and students of the University of Rhode Island ("University" or "URI"), and the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees.
Definitions	<p>Differential Charge. A charge that a student is required to pay to enroll in a specific program at the University of Rhode Island due to the specific program's cost to the corresponding unit of the University to deliver and/or the market value of the resulting degree or certification.</p> <p>Executive Budget Committee. The Executive Budget Committee is subject to change but shall generally include the President, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Administration and Finance.</p> <p>Graduate Program. Degree programs for which an undergraduate degree is a pre-requisite. Graduate programs include thesis and non-thesis-based programs, master's and doctoral degree programs, and graduate certificate programs.</p> <p>Mandatory Fees. A fee that a student is required to pay to enroll at the University of Rhode Island. Fees may be specific to undergraduate or graduate students.</p> <p>Non-Mandatory Fees. A fee that is specific to a particular course or service and paid only by those students who elect to participate in the program, course, or service. Housing and Dining Rates are considered non-mandatory fees.</p> <p>Regional Exchange Program. An exchange program agreed to by the New England Board of Higher Education for out-of-state students who are resident in a New England state.</p> <p>Tuition. The price charged to students on a semester or per-credit basis for the instruction and educational services provided by the University.</p>

	<p>Undergraduate Program. A program that results in a bachelor's degree upon completion.</p> <p>URI Online Programs. Programs that are offered through URI Online, including degree, certificate, and micro-credential programs, and courses.</p>
Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy	R.I.G.L. § 16-32-2 (Board of Trustees established)
Reason for Policy / Purpose	This policy governs the setting of tuition for degree, non-degree, and certificate programs provided by the University. It replaces Board of Governors Policies F-11 and F-15 as relating to URI. This policy specifies which tuition rates are the responsibility of the URI Board of Trustees, and which rates may be set by the President of the University per this policy.
Forms Related to this Policy	None

Policy Statement

The URI Board of Trustees (“Board of Trustees” or “Board”) has among its responsibilities promoting integrity and effectiveness in all aspects of the University’s budgeting and financial management, including approval of Tuition and Mandatory Fees. The Board is committed to enabling access to educational opportunities, and to that end believes that Tuition must be set and maintained at levels that permit and encourage attendance at URI while also promoting sound management of the University’s fiscal resources.

Proposed increases in Tuition and Mandatory Fees shall consider institutional revenue and expenditure projections, enrollment projections, state budget support, available student aid from internal and external sources, and — when appropriate for non-traditional programs — market analysis.

I. Tuition and Mandatory Fees

The University shall propose — for approval by the Board of Trustees — Tuition and Mandatory Fees. Tuition for students participating in Regional Exchange Programs will be based on agreements reached with the New England Board of Higher Education.

Tuition imposed per credit will be adjusted to provide equity for full-time and part-time students, depending upon credit-hour load and the range of credit hours defining full-time status. Students who enroll for credits in excess of the upper limit for full-time status shall pay additional Tuition at the per-credit rate for those credits.

A. Delegation of Authority: The Board of Trustees has delegated authority to the President or their designee to approve Tuition for URI Online Programs and academic student exchange programs.

At all times, the Board of Trustees retains final authority over all changes to Tuition and Mandatory Fees, including the authority to set Tuition for delegated programs if they choose.

B. Procedures for Proposing New Tuition or Mandatory Fees, or Changes to or Elimination of existing Tuition or Mandatory Fees:

Any and all proposed new Tuition or Mandatory Fees, or changes to or elimination of existing Tuition or Mandatory Fees, must be submitted in writing with the endorsement of 1) the applicable Dean and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs ("Provost"), or 2) the applicable Vice President. The endorsed proposal must be submitted to the Financial Strategy and Planning office ("FSP") for presentation to the Executive Budget Committee ("EBC"), and then (upon the recommendation of the EBC) to the President for approval. Upon approval by the President, the proposal is either then considered approved (for delegated approvals), or shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

If approved by the President after consultation with the EBC, the Provost or Vice President for Administration and Finance ("VPAF") will be responsible for placing approval of non-delegated changes on the appropriate Board of Trustees meeting agenda, including the applicable committee meetings. If approved by the Board of Trustees, FSP will be responsible for posting all Tuition and Mandatory Fees on their website and communicating changes to fees to Student Financial Services for publication on their website.

FSP will publish submission deadlines at the start of each Fiscal Year for submissions related to the next Academic Year.

II. Non-Mandatory Fees and Differential Charges

A. Procedures for Approving New Non-Mandatory Fees or Changes to or Elimination of Existing Non-Mandatory Fees: Any proposed new Non-Mandatory Fee or changes to or elimination of an existing Non-Mandatory Fee related to academic activity, including program and course fees, must be approved by the Provost, submitted by the Provost's Office to FSP for presentation to the EBC, and (upon the recommendation of the EBC) submitted to the President for final approval.

Any proposed new Non-Mandatory Fee or changes to or elimination of an existing Non-Mandatory Fee that is not related to academic activity must be approved by the VPAF, submitted by the VPAF's Office to FSP for presentation to the EBC, and (upon the recommendation of the EBC) submitted to the President for final approval.

The FSP will publish submission deadlines at the start of each Fiscal Year for submissions related to the next Academic Year. If approved by the President after consultation with the EBC, FSP will be responsible for posting all Non-Mandatory Fees to their website and communicating changes to fees to Student Financial Services for publication on their website.

B. Procedure for Approving New Differential Charges or Changes to or Elimination of Existing Differential Charges: Any proposed new Differential Charge or change to or elimination of an existing Differential Charge must be submitted in writing by the applicable Dean to the Provost for approval, then (upon approval by the Provost) submitted by the Provost's Office to FSP for presentation to the EBC, and (upon the recommendation of the EBC) submitted to the President for final approval.

Differential Charges shall be set based on the costs of developing, administering, and delivering the programs and accompanying services, and may consider the competitive market and demand for each program, while also ensuring accessibility for potential students.

If approved, FSP will be responsible for posting all Differential Charges to their website.

III. Procedures for Obtaining a Mandatory or Non-Mandatory Designation

Any new fee that is not clearly mandatory or non-mandatory must first be submitted in writing by the applicable Dean with the approval of the Provost or Vice President to FSP for presentation to the EBC, requesting a determination if the proposed fee constitutes a Mandatory Fee or a Non-Mandatory Fee.

FSP shall have the responsibility for notifying the applicable Dean or Vice President of the determination and recommended next steps, in accordance with this policy.

Exceptions

None

Policy Review and Revisions

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

Policy #	Effective Date	Reason for Change	Changes to Policy
01.019.1		n/a	n/a