Tuition & Fees

Tuition

Washington University relies on tuition income to pay more than 60 percent of the cost of undergraduate education. Most of the remaining cost is generously funded by gifts from the university’s alumni and friends and from income from the university’s endowment.

In setting the tuition rate, our emphasis is on being able to hire a high-caliber faculty and to offer extensive extracurricular opportunities.

Tuition for the 2014-15 academic year is $22,850 per semester for full-time study. Full-time study is considered to be 12 to 18 units. If students enroll in more than 21 units per semester, they will pay additional tuition of $1,904 for each credit unit beyond the 21. Freshman and sophomore architecture students who wish to enroll in more than 18 units per semester must have permission of the dean or associate dean and pay additional tuition of $1,904 for each credit beyond 18. Junior- and senior-year architecture students who wish to enroll in more than 16 units must have the permission of the dean or associate dean of the College of Architecture.

First-year, first-semester students may register over the summer or after arriving on campus in August. For all subsequent semesters, continuing students have the chance to register in April for the fall semester and in November for the spring semester. Students will be billed for tuition in July for the fall semester and in December for the spring semester. Students must pay tuition by the date specified on the bill or they will incur a late fee.

If a student cannot afford to pay the full tuition bill, he or she should explore the university’s extensive financial assistance opportunities, which are described in the Financial Support section of this Bulletin.

Many families prefer to pay educational expenses on a monthly basis. The interest-free monthly payment plan, TuitionPay, allows students and families to spread all or part of the academic year’s expenses over equal monthly payments. The Washington University Partners in Education with Parents (PEP) plan may provide tax savings for some families and offers monthly payment options over a period as long as 10 years at a competitive, fixed-interest rate. The PEP plan is described in the Financial Support section of this Bulletin.

A student’s family should begin planning for educational costs as soon as possible following the decision to enroll. It is important to allow sufficient time to complete financial arrangements prior to registration.

Fees

Student Activities: The mandatory student activities fee is 1 percent of tuition; for the 2014-15 academic year, it is $228.50 per semester. This special fee may vary from year to year. You may obtain information about the fee from the Office of Student Activities.

Student Health and Wellness: Washington University has a student health and wellness fee designed to improve the health and wellness of the entire Washington University community. The fee of $155 is billed to the student tuition statement each semester. In addition, to protect the health of our entire community, the university requires all full-time degree-seeking students to have health insurance. Students either must purchase the Washington University Student Health Insurance Plan or prove that they have adequate coverage through another plan. The cost of the Washington University Student Health Insurance Plan, as well as instructions for obtaining a waiver through proof of adequate coverage, will be provided to enrolled students.

Late Registration: Students may register for classes through the end of the second week of the semester. If students register after the second week, they must do so in person in the dean’s office, and they may be assessed a late registration fee of $100 per week. A 5 percent late payment fee also may be assessed by the dean’s office if payment in full is not made with late registration.

The late registration fee is not applicable to graduate resident and nonresident candidates. Students in University College programs will incur a flat late fee of $30. Part-time engineering students will incur a late fee of $50 per week.

Returned Checks: The university assesses a service charge for handling and processing returned checks.

Enrollment Deposit

First-year students and transfer students are required to pay a deposit upon admission to Washington University. The $200 enrollment deposit is not credited toward tuition and will be forfeited if the student does not complete one full semester at Washington University. However, after a student graduates, or if a student withdraws for any reason after the first semester, his or her deposit will be refunded (minus any unpaid bills, such as parking or library fines).

Withdrawals from the University and Refunds

The College of Arts & Sciences, the Olin Business School, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, and the School of Engineering & Applied Science have similar policies on withdrawals and refunds. During the first two weeks of a semester, a student may withdraw from all course work via the online registration system or by notifying the dean’s office in
writing. After the second week of classes, a written request to be withdrawn from courses must be received by the dean’s office.

Tuition Refund Schedule (as of Fall 2010)

Refunds are calculated based on the date the student notifies the university of withdrawal.

If a medical condition makes attendance for the balance of the semester impossible or medically inadvisable, the university will make a pro rata tuition refund, as of the date of withdrawal when that date occurs prior to the 12th week and the condition is verified by the Student Health Services or a private physician. The date of withdrawal may correspond to the date of hospitalization or the date on which the medical condition is determined.

If a Federal Title IV aid recipient withdraws from school before the end of the academic semester, Washington University must refund (send loan funds back to the lender) the unearned (amount of time in the academic semester that the student did not attend) amount of Title IV funds. Unearned Title IV funds will be returned to the Title IV program. Students will be responsible for any disbursed but unearned portion of their Title IV funds.

An example of a typical refund calculation can be obtained from Student Financial Services.

Changes in Fees

The university reserves the right to change the fees stated or to establish additional fees at any time without prior written notice. When fee changes or additions are made, they become effective with the next payment due.

Nonpayment of Fees

Nonpayment of tuition or other charges due the university or otherwise affecting the university will prohibit the student from receiving certain services. Students with outstanding financial obligations to the university will not be allowed to register or to obtain transcripts or official verification of enrollment.