

DATE: May 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Tuition and Fee Ranges

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 2010, the Complete College Tennessee Act has required the Commission to make student fee and state appropriation recommendations concurrently. Numerous factors impacted the tuition recommendation, including affordability and financial aid, the income profile of students attending Tennessee public institutions, and institutional revenues and cost inflation. The FOCUS Act expanded THEC’s authority on student fee levels, requiring that the Commission issue binding tuition ranges each year. These ranges apply only to resident, undergraduate students on the tuition (maintenance fee) rate, as well as the total maintenance and mandatory fee charge.

TENNESSEE’S TUITION AND FEE PROFILE

Average full-time, annual tuition and mandatory fees for 2018-19 is \$9,403 at public universities, \$4,444 at community colleges, and \$3,842 at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs). Over the last five years, tuition and mandatory fees have increased an average of three to four percent annually, while state appropriations have increased an average of seven percent per year.

Tennessee’s financial aid resources are among the highest in the U.S., according to the National Association of State Student Grant Aid Programs. Tennessee has the eighth largest financial aid program and the third largest per capita. Funding for the lottery scholarship and Tennessee Student Assistance Award comprises the majority of financial aid in Tennessee. Due in part to these funding levels, Tennessee’s bachelor’s degree graduates have the 10th lowest debt level in the nation, according to the Project on Student Debt.

RECOMMENDATION

At the November 2018 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a tuition and fee guidance range of zero to two and a half percent, incorporating a budget increase request of \$64 million in new state funds.

On April 30, both chambers of the 111th General Assembly passed the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act, granting formula units \$56 million (inclusive of increases for outcomes productivity and a partially-funded two percent salary pool). THEC staff, therefore, maintain the initial recommendation of a tuition binding range of zero to two and a half percent at universities, community colleges, and TCATs and a combined total tuition and mandatory fees binding range of zero to two and a half percent at universities, community colleges, and TCATs. Scenarios for minimum and maximum tuition and mandatory fee increases for 2019-20 are presented and summarized in Attachment I for each university and community college, as well as the TCAT system.

Attachment II details the comparison of 2018-19 tuition and mandatory fee rates with the maximum allowed increase (i.e., two and a half percent) for each university and community college, as well as the TCAT system. If all institutions increased maintenance and mandatory fees by two and a half percent (the maximum allowed), the average full-time, annual tuition and mandatory fees for 2019-20 would be \$9,638 at public universities, \$4,555 at community colleges, and \$3,938 at TCATs—increases of \$235, \$111, and \$96, respectively.

Attachment I - 2019-20 Binding Tuition Ranges

Maximum Increase of Maintenance (Tuition) and Maintenance + Mandatory Fees: 2.50%

Institutions	2019-20 Binding Ranges			
	Maintenance Fee		Maintenance + Mandatory Fees	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Austin Peay	\$0 or Less	\$ 172	\$0 or Less	\$ 212
East Tennessee	\$0 or Less	\$ 186	\$0 or Less	\$ 232
Middle Tennessee	\$0 or Less	\$ 184	\$0 or Less	\$ 230
Tennessee State	\$0 or Less	\$ 172	\$0 or Less	\$ 200
Tennessee Tech	\$0 or Less	\$ 196	\$0 or Less	\$ 228
University of Memphis	\$0 or Less	\$ 202	\$0 or Less	\$ 243
Chattanooga	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Cleveland	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Columbia	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 112
Dyersburg	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Jackson	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Motlow	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Nashville	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 110
Northeast	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Pellissippi	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 112
Roane	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Southwest	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Volunteer	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
Walters	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111
UT Chattanooga	\$0 or Less	\$ 172	\$0 or Less	\$ 217
UT Knoxville (admitted after 2013-14)	\$0 or Less	\$ 278	\$0 or Less	\$ 325
UT Martin (Part-Time & Full-Time w/ 90+ SCH) ¹	\$0 or Less	\$ 185	\$0 or Less	\$ 222
UT Martin (Full-Time w/ less than 90 SCH) ¹	\$0 or Less	\$ 201	\$0 or Less	\$ 238
TN Colleges of Applied Tech	\$0 or Less	\$ 90	\$0 or Less	\$ 96
University Average²	\$0 or Less	\$ 195	\$0 or Less	\$ 235
Community College Average	\$0 or Less	\$ 104	\$0 or Less	\$ 111

1 - The tuition rate for full-time students who have completed fewer than 90-credit hours is a flat rate for 12 hours per semester, regardless how many hours the student is enrolled. Full-time students who have completed more than 90-credit hours are also charged a flat rate for 12 hours, regardless how many hours the student is enrolled. Part-time students are charged on a per-credit hour basis at the 90+ credit hour rate.

2 - This average incorporates a weighted tuition for UT Martin students to reflect both differentiated tuition levels.

Attachment II - 2019-20 Binding Tuition Ranges
2019-20 Maintenance and Mandatory Fee Increase Scenario and Comparison - 2.50% Limit

Institutions	2018-19			2019-20 Maximums			Combined Increase	Combined % Increase
	Maintenance Fee	Mandatory Fee	Combined	Maximum Maintenance Fee	Maximum Mandatory Fee	Maximum Combined Fee		
Austin Peay	\$ 6,888	\$ 1,583	\$ 8,471	\$ 7,060	\$ 1,623	\$ 8,683	\$ 212	2.50%
East Tennessee	\$ 7,422	\$ 1,855	\$ 9,277	\$ 7,608	\$ 1,901	\$ 9,509	\$ 232	2.50%
Middle Tennessee	\$ 7,380	\$ 1,826	\$ 9,206	\$ 7,565	\$ 1,872	\$ 9,436	\$ 230	2.50%
Tennessee State	\$ 6,900	\$ 1,107	\$ 8,007	\$ 7,073	\$ 1,135	\$ 8,207	\$ 200	2.50%
Tennessee Tech	\$ 7,860	\$ 1,243	\$ 9,103	\$ 8,057	\$ 1,274	\$ 9,331	\$ 228	2.50%
University of Memphis	\$ 8,064	\$ 1,637	\$ 9,701	\$ 8,266	\$ 1,678	\$ 9,944	\$ 243	2.50%
Chattanooga	\$ 4,140	\$ 319	\$ 4,459	\$ 4,244	\$ 327	\$ 4,570	\$ 111	2.50%
Cleveland	\$ 4,140	\$ 299	\$ 4,439	\$ 4,244	\$ 306	\$ 4,550	\$ 111	2.50%
Columbia	\$ 4,140	\$ 333	\$ 4,473	\$ 4,244	\$ 341	\$ 4,585	\$ 112	2.50%
Dyersburg	\$ 4,140	\$ 299	\$ 4,439	\$ 4,244	\$ 306	\$ 4,550	\$ 111	2.50%
Jackson	\$ 4,140	\$ 285	\$ 4,425	\$ 4,244	\$ 292	\$ 4,536	\$ 111	2.50%
Motlow	\$ 4,140	\$ 305	\$ 4,445	\$ 4,244	\$ 313	\$ 4,556	\$ 111	2.50%
Nashville	\$ 4,140	\$ 255	\$ 4,395	\$ 4,244	\$ 261	\$ 4,505	\$ 110	2.50%
Northeast	\$ 4,140	\$ 311	\$ 4,451	\$ 4,244	\$ 319	\$ 4,562	\$ 111	2.50%
Pellissippi	\$ 4,140	\$ 339	\$ 4,479	\$ 4,244	\$ 347	\$ 4,591	\$ 112	2.50%
Roane	\$ 4,140	\$ 303	\$ 4,443	\$ 4,244	\$ 311	\$ 4,554	\$ 111	2.50%
Southwest	\$ 4,140	\$ 319	\$ 4,459	\$ 4,244	\$ 327	\$ 4,570	\$ 111	2.50%
Volunteer	\$ 4,140	\$ 293	\$ 4,433	\$ 4,244	\$ 300	\$ 4,544	\$ 111	2.50%
Walters	\$ 4,140	\$ 288	\$ 4,428	\$ 4,244	\$ 295	\$ 4,539	\$ 111	2.50%
UT Chattanooga	\$ 6,888	\$ 1,776	\$ 8,664	\$ 7,060	\$ 1,820	\$ 8,881	\$ 217	2.50%
UT Knoxville (admitted after 2013-14)	\$ 11,110	\$ 1,896	\$ 13,006	\$ 11,388	\$ 1,943	\$ 13,331	\$ 325	2.50%
UT Martin (Part-Time & Full-Time w/ 90+ SCH) ¹	\$ 7,416	\$ 1,460	\$ 8,876	\$ 7,601	\$ 1,497	\$ 9,098	\$ 222	2.50%
UT Martin (Full-Time w/ less than 90 SCH) ¹	\$ 8,052	\$ 1,460	\$ 9,512	\$ 8,253	\$ 1,497	\$ 9,750	\$ 238	2.50%
TN Colleges of Applied Tech	\$ 3,612	\$ 230	\$ 3,842	\$ 3,702	\$ 236	\$ 3,938	\$ 96	2.50%
University Average²	\$ 7,805	\$ 1,598	\$ 9,403	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,638	\$ 9,638	\$ 235	2.50%
Community College Average	\$ 4,140	\$ 304	\$ 4,444	\$ 4,244	\$ 311	\$ 4,555	\$ 111	2.50%

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