

Graduate Tuition at CU Boulder

Procedural Statement

Effective Date: January 11, 2022

Approved by: Katrina Spencer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Office(s): Budget and Fiscal Planning; Office of the Provost; Graduate School; with ultimate approval of tuition by Board of Regents

Last Reviewed/Updated: January 11, 2022

Tuition Background and Timeline

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has final authority over tuition rates under Regent Law Article 12.1.A. Each spring, the University of Colorado Boulder submits tuition proposals to the Board of Regents. In the fall semester preceding this meeting, the CU Boulder Office of Budget and Fiscal Planning (BFP), in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and the Graduate School, develops preliminary graduate tuition rate proposals for the following academic year. With the endorsement of the Provost, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chancellor, these rate proposals are presented to the Board of Regents in the spring and, if approved, are implemented the following fall semester.

Campus-level graduate tuition proposals are based on factors which may include the school/college in which the graduate program is housed, market analysis, peer institution tuition, and the cost of delivering the degree program. In addition, all general fund graduate program tuition proposals will include a resident/nonresident tuition differential. Graduate tuition charged to students is based on residency (in-state or out of state/international), type of degree, and number of credit hours. Depending on the type of program, tuition may be “linear” (tuition per credit hour) or “graduated.”

Once approved by the Board of Regents in the spring, graduate tuition rates are implemented the following fall semester for all graduate students, both first-year and continuing students. The University of Colorado Boulder does not offer a tuition guarantee for graduate students.

Process

In formulating its graduate tuition proposals for professional masters programs and Law degree programs, BFP, the Office of the Provost, and the Graduate School will consult with relevant deans, chairs/directors, and graduate directors. BFP will take the lead in coordinating this consultation with PMP and Law degree programs and then discuss school/college and department/program-level input with the Graduate School and Academic Resource Management. These consultations typically occur during the fall semester in advance of the academic year in which the new tuition rates go into effect. School/college and department/program-level input informs campus tuition proposals; however, authority for the tuition proposals that are sent to the Board of Regents resides at the campus and not school/college or department/program level.



For planning purposes, graduate programs with revenue share agreements are notified in the spring of any tuition change being proposed for their specific program. However, deans, chairs/directors, and other relevant stakeholders must ensure that any communication of proposed tuition rates to faculty, staff, and students clearly indicates that the proposed rates are provisional only and pending final approval by the Board of Regents. Once the proposed rates are approved by the Board of Regents and published by the Office of the Bursar on the Bursar's website, deans, chairs/directors, and other stakeholders may communicate the rates as approved.

Approvals

Once the Board of Regents approves the campus's tuition proposals, campus leadership typically notifies the campus via a CU Boulder Today recap of the Board's decisions. In the event that the tuition rates for one or more programs are not approved, programs will be notified individually or as otherwise appropriate by BFP.