

**Fully-Online and Hybrid Online Undergraduate Programs -**

**Tuition and Fee Recommended Actions**

**Intent**

* Increase the number of new learners pursuing University of Wyoming online programs.
* Ensure UW is the first choice for Wyoming residents. They are currently choosing out-of-state online competitors at the 2nd highest rate in the nation (Alaska is 1st).
* Attract nonresident students due to a superior learning experience and a competitive price point compared to the out-of-state online universities they are most commonly attending.
* Grow the number of available online programs by increasing revenue shared to colleges and academic departments.
* Increase revenue to colleges, academic departments, and the central budget.
* Ensure the on-campus experience is the first choice for Wyoming residents and, when useful, online programs are chosen because of flexibility, not because of affordability.
* Ensure in-person sections are the more affordable choice for in-person program seekers.

**Recommended Actions**

* Action 1: Increase resident online program seeker tuition from $160 to $199 per credit.
* Action 2: Decrease nonresident online program seeker tuition from $345 to $289 per credit.
* Action 3: Increase the distance delivery fee from $14 to $44 per credit.

**Assumptions**

* In-person program seekers pay the in-person schedule of tuition and fees regardless of if they enroll in an online course. The only additional charge for an online enrollment is the current $14 per credit distance delivery fee (an increase to this fee is recommended in this document). Block tuition applies regardless of the blend of enrollments.
* Online program seekers pay the online schedule of tuition and fees regardless of if they enroll in an in-person course, a rare occurrence. Block tuition applies regardless of the blend of enrollments.
* The existing share model which provides colleges 70% of online program seeker tuition remains the same.
* The established tuition rates of specific undergraduate programs do not change due to this proposal.

**Rationale for Action 1:**

**Increase Resident Online Program Seeker Tuition from $160 to $199 Per Credit**

1. Pursuing a UW online program is currently more affordable than an in-person program for Wyoming residents.

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| **Credits** |  | **CURRENT Undergraduate Resident In-Person Program Seeker**  | **CURRENT Undergraduate Resident Online Program Seeker** | **RECOMMENDED Undergraduate Resident Online Program Seeker** |
| **1** | Tuition | $160 | $160 | $199 |
| Fees | $133 | $55 | $85 |
| **Total** | **$293** | **$215** | **$284** |
| **3** | Tuition | $480 | $480 | $597 |
| Fees | $218 | $165 | $255 |
| **Total** | **$698** | **$645** | **$852** |
| **6** | Tuition | $960 | $960 | $1,194 |
| Fees | $820 | $330 | $510 |
| **Total** | **$1,780** | **$1,290** | **$1,704** |
| **9** | Tuition | $1,440 | $1,440 | $1,791 |
| Fees | $820 | $495 | $765 |
| **Total** | **$2,260** | **$1,935** | **$2,556** |
| **12** | Tuition | $2,400 | $2,400 | $2,388 |
| Fees | $820 | $660 | $1,020 |
| **Total** | **$3,220** | **$3,060** | **$3,408** |
| **15** | Tuition | $2,400 | $2,400 | $2,985 |
| Fees | $820 | $825 | $1,275 |
| **Total** | **$3,220** | **$3,225** | **$4,260** |

1. Colleges are not receiving the needed tuition revenue to support online programs.
2. The recommended actions increase revenue to colleges, academic departments, and the central budget.

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| **Online Course Section Scenarios** | **Undergrad Resident/ Nonresident Online Model Options** | **Total Tuition** | **Tuition From Online Learners** | **70% Online Tuition to College** | **30% Online Tuition to Central** | **Instruction Cost**  | **Net College Revenue** | **Net Dept. Fee Revenue** | **Total College/ Dept. Revenue** |
| **Scenario 1:** Current Online Section Student Mix - 15 In-Person (10 Res/5 Nonres) and 10 Online (7 Res/3 Nonres) | *$160/$345 - Current Model* | $21,240 | $6,465 | $4,526 | $1,940 | $4,500 | $26 | $0 | **$26** |
| *$199/$289 With $30 Fee* | $21,555 | $6,780 | $4,746 | $2,034 | $4,500 | $246 | $750 | **$996** |
| **Scenario 2:** Due to Increased Demand, 5 In-Person (4 Res/1 Nonres) and 20 Online (14 Res/6 Nonres) | *$160/$345 - Current Model* | $16,845 | $12,930 | $9,051 | $3,879 | $4,500 | $4,551 | $0 | **$4,551** |
| *$199/$289 With $30 Fee* | $17,475 | $13,560 | $9,492 | $4,068 | $4,500 | $4,992 | $750 | **$5,742** |

1. Based on regional community college/land grant tuition and fee ratios, the recommended actions keep UW in alignment with the rates of Wyoming community colleges and are within regional averages.

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|  | **Undergraduate Resident Online Rate - 3 Credits** | **CC Rate as % of Online Rate** |
| **University of Wyoming** | **$645** | **71%** |
| **WCC Average** | **$456** |  |
| CSU Fort Collins | $1,464 | 55% |
| CCCS Average | $801 |   |
| University of Idaho | $1,758 | 26% |
| ICC Average | $450 |   |
| Utah State University | $1,585 | 53% |
| UCC Average | $847 |   |
| Montana State University | $799 | 72% |
| MCC Average | $572 |   |
| University of Nebraska | $1,487 | 29% |
| ICC Average | $436 |   |
| Kansas State University | $1,236 | 28% |
| KCC Average | $345 |   |
| South Dakota State University | $927 | 72% |
| SDCC Average | $665 |   |
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| **Average Land Grant** | **$1,238** | **46%** |
| **Average CC** | **$572** |  |
| **Recommended University of Wyoming Rate and WCC % of Recommended Rate** | **$852** | **54%** |

1. The resident online tuition and fee rate, which is already more affordable than out-of-state competitors, is not why Wyoming residents are choosing out-of-state online institutions at the 2nd highest rate in the nation, a lack of available programs and lack of awareness about the programs UW offers is. Institutional Marketing and the Office of Online and Continuing Education are working to ensure every online program is consistently marketed. Additionally, these tuition and fee changes increase financial resources to colleges, academic departments, and central budget to make it possible to sustain existing programs and launch new programs.

 

1. As a result of a lack of available programs and awareness about those that are offered, Wyoming residents are choosing out-of-state online universities at high rates. The data below is from before the pandemic, but the pandemic accelerated this trend.

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| **University** | **Wyoming Residents Attending Out-of-State Online Universities (NC-SARA, Fall 2020)** |
| Western Governors University | 1,061  |
| Grand Canyon University | 241  |
| Southern New Hampshire University | 216  |
| American Public University | 213  |
| University of Phoenix | 139  |
| Liberty University | 131  |
| Black Hills State University | 128  |
| Chadron State College | 125  |
| Colorado State University Global | 118  |
| Colorado Technical University | 111  |
| Ashworth College | 111  |
| Arizona State University | 100  |

**Rationale for Action 2:**

**Decrease Nonresident Online Program Seeker Tuition from $345 to $289 Per Credit**

1. The UW nonresident tuition and fee rate is among the highest compared to out-of-state online institutions.

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| **University** |  **Undergraduate Nonresident Online Tuition – 3 Credits** |  **Undergraduate Nonresident Online Fees - 3 Credits** | **Total** |
| **University of Wyoming - Nonresident Rate Before Recent Change** | **$1,995**  | **$165**  | **$2,160**  |
| Arizona State University | $1,473  | $360  | $1,833  |
| Grand Canyon University | $1,410  | $219  | $1,629  |
| Liberty University | $1,170  | $99  | $1,269  |
| **University of Wyoming - Current Nonresident Rate** | **$1,035**  | **$165**  | **$1,200**  |
| University of Phoenix | $1,194  | $0  | $1,194  |
| Black Hills State University | $1,071  | $114  | $1,185  |
| **Average Competitor Rate** | **$1,062**  | **$72**  | **$1,134**  |
| **University of Wyoming - Recommended Nonresident Online Rate** | **$867**  | **$255**  | **$1,122**  |
| Colorado Technical University | $1,020  | $45  | $1,065  |
| Colorado State University Global | $1,050  | $0  | $1,050  |
| Southern New Hampshire University | $990  | $0  | $990  |
| American Public University | $975  | $0  | $975  |
| Western Governors University | $930  | $42  | $972  |
| Chadron State College | $897  | $0  | $897  |
| Ashworth College | $597  | $0  | $597  |

1. Nonresident enrollments will be integral to creating a sustainable business model. The recent decrease in nonresident online program seeker tuition was significant and necessary, and the recommended additional decrease is minimal in comparison.

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| **Credits** |  | **CURRENT Undergraduate Nonresident In-Person Program Seeker**  | **CURRENT Undergraduate Nonresident Online Program Seeker**  | **RECOMMENDED Undergraduate Nonresident Online Program Seeker**  |
| **1** | Tuition | $665 | $345 | $289 |
| Fees | $133 | $55 | $85 |
| **Total** | **$798** | **$400** | **$374** |
| **3** | Tuition | $1,995 | $1,035 | $867 |
| Fees | $218 | $165 | $255 |
| **Total** | **$2,213** | **$1,200** | **$1,122** |
| **6** | Tuition | $3,990 | $2,070 | $1,734 |
| Fees | $820 | $330 | $510 |
| **Total** | **$4,810** | **$2,400** | **$2,244** |
| **9** | Tuition | $5,985 | $3,105 | $2,601 |
| Fees | $820 | $495 | $765 |
| **Total** | **$6,805** | **$3,600** | **$3,366** |
| **12** | Tuition | $9,975 | $5,175 | $3,468 |
| Fees | $820 | $660 | $1,020 |
| **Total** | **$10,795** | **$5,835** | **$4,488** |
| **15** | Tuition | $9,975 | $5,175 | $4,335 |
| Fees | $820 | $825 | $1,275 |
| **Total** | **$10,795** | **$6,000** | **$5,610** |

**Rationale for Action 3:**

**Increase the Distance Delivery Fee from $14 to $44 Per Credit**

1. Academic departments are not receiving the needed fee revenue to support online programs (see page 3 table). 100% of the recommended fee increase goes to the academic department offering the course.
2. The fee increase contributes to creating an active, vibrant on-campus experience; students pursuing in-person programs may register for online sections, but they will pay a small premium ($44 per credit, up from $14) thus ensuring enrollment in in-person sections is the more affordable choice.

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|  | **Online Program Seeker Fees (Total Schedule) – Per Credit** | **In-Person Program Seeker Fees When They Enroll in an Online Section (In Addition to In-Person Fee Schedule) – Per Credit** |
| **Fee Type** | **Current** | **Recommended** | **Current** | **Recommended** |
| Distance Delivery Fee | $14 | $44 | $14 | $44 |
| Student Services Fee | $35 | $35 |   |   |
| Advising Fee | $6 | $6 |   |   |
| **Total** | **$55** | **$85** | **$14** | **$44** |

**For Future Review**

* Analyze ramifications of these actions.
* Review tuition and fees for every online graduate program to ensure they are well-positioned compared to like programs at other institutions.