University of Houston

Proposed Consolidation of Undergraduate Tuition and Fees

Currently, the University of Houston's tuition and fee structure is organized around both specific courses and majors. As a result, it is very difficult for students and their parents to determine the exact amount they will owe for any given semester and plan accordingly. In addition, this structure results in very long tuition and fee bills that are difficult for students and their parents to understand. To address these issues, the University of Houston proposes to consolidate tuition and fees based solely on a student's major rather than courses taken. For example, a business student would pay a single rate per semester credit hour (SCH) for all courses in which he or she enrolls. By knowing this rate, the student will be able to determine more easily the amount owed. Increasing transparency and predictability in this way will make it easier for students to plan their academic careers and, in turn, will facilitate retention and graduation. A simplified, consolidated structure will also enable the university to operate more efficiently and effectively in terms of managing resources.

The plan for consolidation includes tuition and fees used for the general operation of the university and the delivery of instruction, including:

- Statutory tuition
- General designated tuition
- Differentiated designated tuition
- Consolidated university service fees (e.g., library, technology)
- College, department and course fees

A small number of fees used for very specific purposes will not be consolidated. These include lab fees, optional fees such as parking and health insurance, and fees authorized by students themselves, including the Student Services Fee, University Center Fee, and Campus Recreation and Wellness Center Fee.

At the undergraduate level, four consolidated rates will be charged. First-time in college (FTIC) freshmen will pay one rate regardless of major. Upperclassmen will pay one of three rates based on their majors. Preliminary rates are included in the table below:

Rates	Cost per SCH
FTIC Freshmen:	$282
Upperclassmen:	
Level 1	$282
Level 2	$298
Level 3	$326

The four rates to be charges are based on the average costs of program delivery. FTIC freshmen will pay the lowest rate since they are taking relatively inexpensive core courses. Upperclassmen will pay one of three rates based on the relative costs of their respective majors. For example, students pursuing degrees in the most expensive majors (e.g., engineering) will be charged the Level 3 rate, while students pursuing degrees in the least expensive majors (e.g., English) will be charged the Level 1 rate. The table

below shows the financial impact of the consolidated rates on undergraduate students based on the number of semester credit hours they pursue:

SCH	FTIC	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1	$282	$282	$298	$326
2	$564	$564	$596	$652
3	$846	$846	$894	$978
4	$1,128	$1,128	$1,192	$1,304
5	$1,410	$1,410	$1,490	$1,630
6	$1,692	$1,692	$1,788	$1,956
7	$1,974	$1,974	$2,086	$2,282
8	$2,256	$2,256	$2,384	$2,608
9	$2,538	$2,538	$2,682	$2,934
10	$2,820	$2,820	$2,980	$3,260
11	$3,102	$3,102	$3,278	$3,586
12	$3,384	$3,384	$3,576	$3,912
13	$3,666	$3,666	$3,874	$4,238
14	$3,948	$3,948	$4,172	$4,564
15	$4,230	$4,230	$4,470	$4,890
16	$4,512	$4,512	$4,768	$5,216

Finally, it is important to note that this proposed consolidation does not constitute a tuition and fee rate increase. The consolidation is revenue neutral to the university. However, students might experience marginal cost increases or decreases depending on the combination of courses taken once the new rates apply as compared to previous semesters. Also, graduate and professional students will pay rates based on the relative costs of their majors, as well. The graduate and professional rates will be higher than the undergraduate rates since the cost of instructional delivery is higher.