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Differential Tuition Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: Why is UMD assessing the Differential Tuition?

A: In order to continue to provide an exemplary academic experience to our students, to keep pace with our peer public institutions, to capitalize on the amazing facilities currently under construction (A. James Clark Hall and the Brendan Iribe Center for Computer Science and Innovation), to recruit and retain the best faculty in the world, and to recruit and graduate the best students, we must develop a new financial model for our programs.

When fully implemented, differential tuition will enrich the educational experience, increase financial aid, expand course access, expand specialized career services, enhance the value of degrees, attract more top in-state students and strengthen the national standing of the State's flagship university. The University's proposal phases in the increase over 4 years (reducing the impact on current students) and directs that funds will stay entirely within our programs.

We understand that any tuition increase poses concerns for some families, no matter the timing. That is why our model takes such great care to phase-in differential pricing over 4 years. We are committed to working with affected students and their families to answer any questions they may have. Our model provides increased financial aid and guarantees no net increase for our neediest students.

It is worth noting that even with differential tuition, the cost of a degree at UMD is significantly below the average of other public research institutions. We pride ourselves at providing a first-rate education at a reasonable cost. We believe we have found an appropriate balance.

Q2: Who will be charged the Differential Tuition?

A: Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, undergraduates with majors in the Smith School of Business and Management, the Clark School of Engineering or the Department of Computer Science who have 60+ credits will be charged the Differential Tuition. The 60+ credits includes any college credit earned prior to enrolling at UMD, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment and credits earned at other two and four year universities.

Graduate students will not be charged the Differential Tuition.

Q3: What is the charge for the Differential Tuition?

A: Differential tuition will be charged per term for part-time and full-time students with 60+ credits majoring in Business, Engineering and Computer Science.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the charge will be $700/semester for full time students registered for 12 or more credits. For part time students, the charge will be $58/credit. **See Q13 for details regarding the charge in past and future years.**

Q4: Are there different Differential Tuition rates charged according to students' residency?

A: No. Students are charged the same Differential Tuition regardless of residency.

Q5: Will Financial Aid be available to cover the cost of the Differential Tuition?

A: Yes. Students attending UMD who have a $0 - $8,000 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated by the Department of Education according to the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **will not be charged differential tuition (and/or, if charged, the Differential Tuition Grant will offset the charge)**. This applies to all students attending UMD on **full and partial** scholarships through Banneker/Key and Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship (TAES) programs, as well as newly admitted freshmen who transferred in 60+ Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The University will award these students the Differential Tuition Grant.

Q6: Will my Scholarship cover the cost of Differential Tuition?

A: All students attending UMD on **full and partial** scholarships through Banneker/Key and Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship (TAES) programs will receive the Differential Tuition Grant. Newly admitted freshmen who transferred in 60+ Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be awarded the Differential Tuition Grant during their first year to offset Different Tuition charges.

Q7: Will credits earned prior to enrolling at UMD count toward the 60 credit threshold to receive the Differential Tuition charge?

A: Yes, see Q1 above. However, newly admitted freshmen who transferred in 60+ credits (through AP, IB, AICE, dual enrollment, etc.) will also receive a Differential Tuition Grant during their first year, to offset these charges. These students will not receive the Grant in the second year.

Q8: Will the Tuition Remission benefit for dependents of USM faculty and staff cover Differential Tuition?

A: Each USM campus may determine whether it will pay for the Differential Tuition fee with the tuition remission benefit. Families should contact the Human Resources Office at the campus, which is providing the tuition remission for their child or dependent to determine the policy. The College Park campus will pay the differential tuition for the children and dependents of faculty/staff who are attending UMD for each semester that the student is charged the Differential Tuition.

Q9: When will the Differential Tuition be charged to students?

A: The Differential Tuition will be charged when tuition and fees are posted to the student tuition billing statement. For example, the Fall Differential Tuition was charged to the student account statement mid-July and payment is expected on August 20. The Spring Differential Tuition will be charged to the student account statement in mid-December and payment is expected on January 20. Please note, students must be registered to be assessed the Differential Tuition. For more information regarding the payment due date, please visit the **Office of the Bursar (http://bursar.umd.edu/index.php).**

Q10: When does the Differential Tuition have to be paid?

A: The Differential Tuition payment due date is established by the Office of the Bursar. For the Fall Semester, the due date is August 20. For more information regarding the payment due date, please visit the **Office of the Bursar (http://bursar.umd.edu/t_billDueDates.php)**.

Q11: Will there be a Differential Tuition Charge for Winter Term and Summer Term?

A: The Differential Tuition will not be charged for the winter and summer terms.

Q12: If I double-major in two of the programs charging Differential Tuition, will I have to pay double?

A: No, students with a double-major in the effected programs will pay only one Differential Tuition fee.

Q13: Will the Differential Tuition Charge increase next year?

A: We understand that any tuition increase poses concerns for some students, no matter the timing. That is why our model takes such great care to phase-in differential pricing over 4 years. This model details the Differential Tuition increases; however, it is important to note that the **Differential Tuition only applies to students who have achieved 60+ credits, and who are not freshman.**

To enable students in these three majors to plan in advance, the increases will be phased in incrementally. The breakdown of the increases, for Fall and Spring terms only is the following:

- Fall 2015 & Spring 2016: $700 in 2015-2016 or $350 per semester.
- Fall 2016 & Spring 2017: $1400 or $700.00 per semester.
- Fall 2017 & Spring 2018: $2,800 or $1,400.00 per semester.

Q14: Can the Differential Tuition be refunded?

A: Yes. The Differential Tuition can be refunded. Students who change their majors to other than Business, Engineering or Computer Science prior to or during the **Schedule Adjustment Period** will receive 100% refund of the Differential Tuition for that term. Changes made to majors **AFTER** the schedule adjustment period will not be refunded for that term; however, the Differential Tuition will not be charged the following term.

For example, students who change their majors in October will continue to be charged the Differential Tuition in the Fall term but not in the Spring term. Alternatively, if an ARHU major changes to Business, Engineering or Computer Science after the schedule adjustment period, the Differential Tuition will be charged the following term. For the most current information about tuition and fees, please see the **Office of the Bursar** (**http://bursar.umd.edu/index.php)**.

Q15: When will the Differential Tuition Grant be posted as a credit to the billing statement?

A: Students enrolled for at least 12 or more credits will have the Differential Tuition Grant posted as a credit to the billing statement by August 10th. Students enrolled for less than 12 credits or part-time will have the Differential Tuition Grant posted as a credit to the billing statement after the schedule adjustment period. The schedule adjustment period is the first 10 days of classes for the fall and spring semesters. The Differential Tuition Grant will be applied before late fees are assessed by the **Office of the Bursar (http://bursar.umd.edu/index.php)**.

Waitlisted courses do not count towards registration.

Q16: Why doesn't the Differential Tuition Grant appear as a credit on the billing statement?

A: Students will be reviewed and awarded the Differential Tuition Grant when the financial aid packaged is determined. Please review your financial aid status to ensure all requested documents were received by the **Office of Student Financial Aid** (**http://www.financialaid.umd.edu)**. To receive the Differential Tuition Grant, students must meet the following criteria:

- Earned 60+ credits and majoring in Business, Engineering or Computer Science.
- $0 - $8,000 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated by the Department of Education according to the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); **or**
- Students attending UMD on **full and partial** scholarships through Banneker/Key and Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship (TAES) programs; **or**
- Newly admitted freshmen who transferred in 60+ Advanced Placement (AP) courses receive grant during their first year only.

The University will award these students the Differential Tuition Grant.

Q17: Can the Differential Tuition be paid through the Terp Payment Plan?

A: Yes. The Differential Tuition can be included and paid through the use of the Terp Payment Plan. For more information about how to enroll in the Terp Payment Plan, please visit the **Office of the Bursar** (**http://bursar.umd.edu/index.php)**.

Q18: For how many years will I have to pay the Differential Tuition?

A: Students with 60+ credits (who are not entering freshmen) and enrolled **full-time** will pay no more than four (4) semesters of differential tuition fees.

Q19: If I'm going to enroll and participate in a study abroad program, do I have to pay for the Differential Tuition?

A: The Differential Tuition will be waived for students enrolled in semester or year-long study abroad programs that are sponsored through the University. If you're not certain if your study abroad is considered a semester or year-long sponsored program, please visit **Education Abroad** (**http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/education-abroad**). Also, you may send an email to **educationabroad@umd.edu** or contact 301-314-7746.

The Differential Tuition will not be waived for Maryland Short-term study abroad programs (unless these Maryland short-term study abroad programs occur in the Winter or Summer terms).