

Agenda Item No. 1.1

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Billy Hamilton, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval of Proposed New Undergraduate Tuition and Fee Structure Effective with the Fall 2023 Semester for Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and Texas A&M Health Science Center

**Proposed Board Action:**

Approve the proposed new undergraduate tuition and fee structure at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and Texas A&M Health Science Center to be effective with the fall 2023 semester.

**Background Information:**

The Texas Education Code provides guidance on all student tuition, fees and charges allowable for collection by institutions of higher education. Many of the authorized tuition and fees require approval from the Board of Regents (Board) prior to implementation. In addition, changes to designated tuition require that the Board hold a public hearing to receive input from students prior to the changes taking effect.

As described in the attached exhibit, this proposed new undergraduate tuition and fee structure is necessary as a result of the academic realignment that was implemented at the start of the fall 2022 semester. The change in the academic college/school structure has created a need to restructure the current undergraduate “college” tuition and fee structure. This proposal would eliminate the current college undergraduate differential tuition rates, excluding those on prior guaranteed plans, and replace them with three new rates by major. The new guaranteed rate will still be set at the current 8% spread above the one-year variable rate.

In order to get the programming changes in place as well as to appropriately share these changes with both current and prospective students, approval is needed as soon as possible. With the freshman deadline of December 1, we have less than two months to ensure prospective students are properly informed of their tuition and fee rates based on our new structure before they complete the application process.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

See attached exhibit.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

This agenda item is relevant to the advancement of all the imperatives of the Strategic Plan.

Agenda Item No. 1.1

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
Office of the Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
October 14, 2022

Members, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Proposed New Undergraduate Tuition and Fee Structure Effective with the Fall 2023 Semester for Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and Texas A&M Health Science Center

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

**“All public hearings required by law have been properly conducted in accordance with the Texas Education Code.**

**The request for new undergraduate tuition and fee structure for Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and Texas A&M Health Science Center, as shown on the attached exhibit, is approved to be effective with the fall 2023 semester.”**

Respectfully submitted,

**[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]**

Billy Hamilton  
Deputy Chancellor and  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approval Recommended:**

**[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]**

John Sharp  
Chancellor

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

**[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]**

Ray Bonilla  
General Counsel

## Texas A&M University

### New Tuition & Fee Structure Based on Major

While there have been many benefits already realized from the academic realignment that was implemented at the start of the Fall 2022 semester, the change in the academic college/school structure has exacerbated the inequities that were previously identified regarding the current tuition and fee structure based on colleges, some of which no longer exist. While we attempted to mitigate some of those impacts, nevertheless, the inequities cannot be solved without a restructuring of the tuition and fees away from a college-based model. The proposal developed last year that would have changed the structure to be based on the student major being in one of three categories (Non-STEM, Science-based, and Applied/Specialized disciplines) would solve these inequities:

- Students majoring in Neuroscience which is housed in the College of Arts & Sciences having different rates based on the previous college the student was in under the old structure.
- Students getting the same University Studies degree, albeit with differing concentrations, which are all administered in Arts & Sciences, pay eight different rates that vary up to \$1000 per semester.
- Students are paying different rates even though the programs all have similar costs:
  - Biology and Biochemistry
  - Geophysics and Physics
  - Economics and Agricultural Economics
- Students in some non-Science based majors are paying tuition rates higher than some Science majors:
  - Ag Leadership majors (non-STEM) pay same as Genetics and more than Chemistry (both STEM)
  - Horticulture majors (non-STEM) pays more than Chemistry (STEM)
  - Education majors (non-STEM) pay more than Geophysics (STEM)
- STEM programs and applied, specialized programs cost more to deliver than non-STEM, but tuition and fees are not necessarily reflecting this difference.
- General Studies students are not assigned to a college and therefore pay less than Liberal Arts students even though they may end up in a STEM discipline.
- HSC programs have a different structure than main campus even though students can move between majors

At this point, it would be better for the students if we would implement the new structure with a loss in revenue for the university, especially for new students entering next fall. It would be more equitable and more consistent with our Aggie values. There is an urgency to move this forward if we are to do it in order to get the programming changes in place as well as to appropriately share these changes with both current and prospective students. With the freshmen deadline of December 1, we have less than two months to ensure prospective students are properly informed of their tuition rates based on our new structure before they apply.

As a result of The Path Forward Initiative, the university is expected to realize savings related to some of the changes implemented and has also experienced costs that were less than anticipated. As a result, the university has chosen to reduce tuition and fees in an effort to positively impact the cost of a degree for our students.

We propose the following:

- Restructure based on three categories of majors and away from college model with an estimated net decrease in average tuition and fees for programs of 0.6%.
- Apply the same tuition and fees structure across all undergraduate programs, bringing Galveston and the Health Science Center into full alignment with the College Station campus.

- Implement only for new students and allow current variable students to benefit from lower rates.
- New students in those programs with increased rates would receive a scholarship to cover the amount of the increase so that they are not getting an increase as long as they remain in their current major.
- The estimated loss in revenue is \$3M on incoming students and current variable students benefitting from the lower rate.
- The scholarship program for those new students in majors where the rates will be increasing will cost an additional \$3.2M.
- The total cost of scholarships and decreases in revenue would be about \$6.2M.
- The scholarship program will only apply to new undergrads entering that major. If a student later transfers, they will pay the full rate in effect at the time of the transfer of major.
- Additionally, \$4.5M will be set aside to expand the Aggie Assurance program so that students with family incomes below \$60,000 annually will receive an additional reduction in their net tuition and fees, up to \$1,985 per student depending on what other financial aid they receive.

Proposed variable rates by category (fixed rates are 8% above the variable rate):

- Base (Non-STEM): \$5,775 per semester
- STEM Disciplines: \$6,095 per semester
- Applied, Specialized Disciplines: \$6,671 per semester
- These rates are based on TAMU Main Campus center fees. Rates will vary slightly based on other locations' center fees.

Below is a summary of the changes in rates for incoming students looking at the majors/programs on the main campus and the percent change in rates:

- 41 programs with decreasing tuition and fees ranging from 0.7%-11.4% - impacts about 24% of students (primarily Ag, Architecture, & Viz)
- 33 programs with no change in tuition and fees - impacts about 41% of students (Business & Engineering)
- 31 programs with increasing tuition and fees ranging from 1.4%-2.4% - impacts about 28% of students (primarily Arts & Sciences, Construction Science)
- 3 programs with increasing tuition and fees ranging from 3.4%-3.7% - impacts about 7% of students (primarily Geoscience related majors)
- 5 programs with increasing tuition and fees 4.8% - impacts about 0.7% of students (primarily General Studies)
- 1 program with increasing tuition and fees 6.6% - impacts about 0.5% of students (Neuroscience)

In addition, this rate structure will be applied to undergraduate students in Galveston and the Health Science Center. For Galveston, the average program cost will decrease just over 1.5% (except the Engineering at Galveston program which will remain flat) with an estimated net loss of revenue and scholarship cost of \$223,000. For the Health Science Center, Public Health and Nursing will decrease while Dental Hygiene will increase to come into alignment with the other HSC programs. The overall impact at the HSC is an estimated revenue loss and scholarship cost of \$265,000.

# Texas A&M University

## Undergraduate Majors by Category

### Base (Non-STEM) Disciplines

Ag and Life Sciences General  
 Ag Communication & Journalism  
 Ag Leadership & Development  
 Agribusiness  
 Agricultural Economics  
 Agricultural Science  
 Anthropology  
 Classics  
 Communication  
 Community Health  
 Dental Hygiene (HSC)  
 Economics  
 Education  
 English  
 Environmental Design Arch Studies  
 General Studies / Blinn TEAM  
 Geography  
 Health  
 History  
 Horticulture  
 Human Resource Development  
 International Studies  
 Kinesiology  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Modern Languages  
 Nursing (HSC)  
 Performance Studies  
 Philosophy  
 Political Science  
 Psychology  
 Public Health (HSC)  
 Rangeland Ecology & Management  
 Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences  
 Sociology  
 Spanish  
 Sport Management  
 Telecommunication Media Studies  
 Turfgrass Science  
 University Studies  
 Urban & Regional Planning  
 Women's & Gender Studies

### Math & Science Lab-Based Disciplines

Animal Science  
 Applied Math Sciences  
 Biochemistry  
 Bioenvironmental Sciences  
 Biology  
 Biomedical Sciences  
 Chemistry  
 Coastal Environmental Science & Society (GV)  
 Ecological Restoration  
 Ecology and Conservation Biology  
 Entomology  
 Environmental Geoscience  
 Environmental Studies  
 Food Science & Technology  
 Food Systems Industry Management  
 Forensic & Investigative Sciences  
 Forestry  
 General Academics (GV)  
 Genetics  
 Geographic Info Science and Tech  
 Geology  
 Geophysics  
 Marine Biology (GV)  
 Marine Fisheries (GV)  
 Marine Science (GV)  
 Maritime Business Administration (GV)  
 Maritime Studies (GV)  
 Maritime Transportation (GV)  
 Mathematics  
 Meteorology  
 Microbiology  
 Molecular & Cell Biology  
 Neuroscience  
 Nutrition  
 Ocean Studies  
 Oceanography  
 Physics  
 Plant and Environmental Soil Science  
 Poultry Science  
 Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Mgmt  
 Renewable Natural Resources  
 Spatial Sciences  
 Statistics  
 University Studies (GV)  
 Visualization  
 Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
 Zoology

### Applied Specialized Disciplines

Accounting  
 Aerospace Engineering  
 Agricultural Systems Management  
 Architectural Engineering  
 Biological & Agricultural Engineering  
 Biomedical Engineering  
 Business Administration  
 Business Honors  
 Chemical Engineering  
 Civil Engineering  
 Computer Engineering  
 Computer Science  
 Computing  
 Construction Science  
 Data Engineering  
 Electrical Engineering  
 Electronic Systems Engineering Tech  
 Engineering Academy  
 Environmental Engineering  
 Finance  
 General Engineering  
 Industrial Distribution  
 Industrial Engineering  
 Interdisciplinary Engineering  
 Management  
 Management Information Systems  
 Manufacturing & Mech Engineering Tech  
 Marine Engineering Technology (GV)  
 Marketing  
 Materials Science and Engineering  
 Mechanical Engineering  
 Multidisciplinary Engineering Technology  
 Nuclear Engineering  
 Ocean Engineering  
 Petroleum Engineering  
 Supply Chain Management  
 Technology Management

*\* Programs are assigned a category based on CIP codes and designation as a STEM discipline. Programs may be moved based on changes in curriculum with increased math and science courses or designation as a STEM program. In addition, new programs may be added.*