

DATE: May 17, 2018

SUBJECT: Tuition and Fee Ranges

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 2010, the Complete College Tennessee Act has required the Commission to make student fee and state appropriation recommendations concurrently. Numerous factors impacted the tuition recommendation, including affordability and financial aid, the income profile of students attending Tennessee public institutions, and institutional revenues and cost inflation. The FOCUS Act expanded THEC’s authority on student fee levels, requiring that the Commission issue binding tuition ranges each year. These ranges apply only to resident, undergraduate students on the tuition (maintenance fee) rate, as well as the total maintenance and mandatory fee charge.

TENNESSEE’S TUITION AND FEE PROFILE

Average full-time, annual tuition and mandatory fees for 2017-18 is \$9,233 at public universities, \$4,335 at community colleges, and \$3,737 at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs). Over the last five years, tuition and mandatory fees have increased an average of three to four percent annually, while state appropriations have increased an average of nearly six percent per year.

Tennessee’s financial aid resources are among the highest in the U.S., according to the National Association of State Student Grant Aid Programs. Tennessee has the ninth largest financial aid program and the fourth largest per capita. Funding for the lottery scholarship and Tennessee Student Assistance Award comprises the majority of financial aid in Tennessee. Due in part to these funding levels, Tennessee’s bachelor’s degree graduates have the 17th lowest debt level in the nation, according to the Project on Student Debt.

RECOMMENDATION

At the November 2017 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a tuition and fee guidance range of zero to three percent, incorporating a budget increase request of \$55 million in new state funds.

On April 18, both chambers of the 110th General Assembly passed the 2018-19 General Appropriations Act, granting formula units the full THEC-recommended \$55 million (inclusive of increases for outcomes productivity and a partially-funded 2.5 percent salary pool). THEC staff, therefore, maintain the initial recommendation of a tuition binding range of zero to three percent at universities, community colleges, and TCATs and a combined total tuition and mandatory fees binding range of zero to three percent at universities, community colleges, and TCATs. Scenarios for minimum and maximum tuition and mandatory fee increases for 2018-19 are presented and summarized in Attachment I for each university and community college, as well as the TCAT system.

Attachment II details the comparison of 2017-18 tuition and mandatory fee rates with the maximum allowed increase (i.e., three percent) for each university and community college, as well as the TCAT system. If all institutions increased maintenance and mandatory fees by three percent (the maximum allowed), the average full-time, annual tuition and mandatory fees for 2018-19 would be \$9,510 at public universities, \$4,465 at community colleges, and \$3,849 at TCATs—increases of \$277, \$130, and \$112, respectively.

2018-19 Binding Tuition Ranges

Maximum Increase of Maintenance (Tuition) and Maintenance + Mandatory Fees: 3.00%

Institutions	2018-19 Binding Ranges			
	Maintenance Fee		Maintenance + Mandatory Fees	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Austin Peay	\$0 or Less	\$ 201	\$0 or Less	\$ 247
East Tennessee	\$0 or Less	\$ 217	\$0 or Less	\$ 270
Middle Tennessee	\$0 or Less	\$ 215	\$0 or Less	\$ 268
Tennessee State	\$0 or Less	\$ 202	\$0 or Less	\$ 233
Tennessee Tech	\$0 or Less	\$ 230	\$0 or Less	\$ 266
University of Memphis	\$0 or Less	\$ 242	\$0 or Less	\$ 291
Chattanooga	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 131
Cleveland	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Columbia	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 131
Dyersburg	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Jackson	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Motlow	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Nashville	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 129
Northeast	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Pellissippi	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 131
Roane	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Southwest	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 131
Volunteer	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
Walters	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130
UT Chattanooga	\$0 or Less	\$ 207	\$0 or Less	\$ 260
UT Knoxville (admitted after 2013-14)	\$0 or Less	\$ 333	\$0 or Less	\$ 389
UT Martin (Part-Time & Full-Time w/ 60+ SCH) ¹	\$0 or Less	\$ 216	\$0 or Less	\$ 259
UT Martin (Full-Time w/ less than 60 SCH) ¹	\$0 or Less	\$ 235	\$0 or Less	\$ 277
TN Colleges of Applied Tech	\$0 or Less	\$ 105	\$0 or Less	\$ 112
University Average²	\$0 or Less	\$ 230	\$0 or Less	\$ 277
Community College Average	\$0 or Less	\$ 121	\$0 or Less	\$ 130

1 - The tuition rate for full-time students who have completed fewer than 60-credit hours is a flat rate for 12 hours per semester, regardless how many hours the student is enrolled. Full-time students who have completed more than 60-credit hours are also charged a flat rate for 12 hours, regardless how many hours the student is enrolled. Part-time students are charged on a per-credit hour basis at the 60+ credit hour rate.

2 - This average incorporates a weighted tuition for UT Martin students to reflect both differentiated tuition levels.

2018-19 Binding Tuition Ranges
2018-19 Maintenance and Mandatory Fee Increase Scenario and Comparison - 3.00% Limit

Institutions	2017-18			2018-19 Maximums		Combined Increase	Combined % Increase
	Maintenance Fee	Mandatory Fee	Combined	Maximum Maintenance Fee	Maximum Combined Fee		
Austin Peay	\$ 6,696	\$ 1,529	\$ 8,225	\$ 6,897	\$ 8,472	\$ 247	3.00%
East Tennessee	\$ 7,224	\$ 1,791	\$ 9,015	\$ 7,441	\$ 9,285	\$ 270	3.00%
Middle Tennessee	\$ 7,176	\$ 1,772	\$ 8,948	\$ 7,391	\$ 9,216	\$ 268	3.00%
Tennessee State	\$ 6,726	\$ 1,050	\$ 7,776	\$ 6,928	\$ 8,009	\$ 233	3.00%
Tennessee Tech	\$ 7,656	\$ 1,217	\$ 8,873	\$ 7,886	\$ 9,139	\$ 266	3.00%
University of Memphis	\$ 8,064	\$ 1,637	\$ 9,701	\$ 8,306	\$ 9,992	\$ 291	3.00%
Chattanooga	\$ 4,032	\$ 319	\$ 4,351	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,482	\$ 131	3.00%
Cleveland	\$ 4,032	\$ 299	\$ 4,331	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,461	\$ 130	3.00%
Columbia	\$ 4,032	\$ 327	\$ 4,359	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,490	\$ 131	3.00%
Dyersburg	\$ 4,032	\$ 299	\$ 4,331	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,461	\$ 130	3.00%
Jackson	\$ 4,032	\$ 285	\$ 4,317	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,447	\$ 130	3.00%
Motlow	\$ 4,032	\$ 307	\$ 4,339	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,469	\$ 130	3.00%
Nashville	\$ 4,032	\$ 255	\$ 4,287	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,416	\$ 129	3.00%
Northeast	\$ 4,032	\$ 311	\$ 4,343	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,473	\$ 130	3.00%
Pellissippi	\$ 4,032	\$ 339	\$ 4,371	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,502	\$ 131	3.00%
Roane	\$ 4,032	\$ 303	\$ 4,335	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,465	\$ 130	3.00%
Southwest	\$ 4,032	\$ 319	\$ 4,351	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,482	\$ 131	3.00%
Volunteer	\$ 4,032	\$ 293	\$ 4,325	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,455	\$ 130	3.00%
Walters	\$ 4,032	\$ 288	\$ 4,320	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,450	\$ 130	3.00%
UT Chattanooga	\$ 6,888	\$ 1,776	\$ 8,664	\$ 7,095	\$ 8,924	\$ 260	3.00%
UT Knoxville (admitted after 2013-14)	\$ 11,110	\$ 1,860	\$ 12,970	\$ 11,443	\$ 13,359	\$ 389	3.00%
UT Martin (Part-Time & Full-Time w/ 60+ SCH) ¹	\$ 7,200	\$ 1,418	\$ 8,618	\$ 7,416	\$ 8,877	\$ 259	3.00%
UT Martin (Full-Time w/ less than 60 SCH) ¹	\$ 7,818	\$ 1,418	\$ 9,236	\$ 8,053	\$ 9,513	\$ 277	3.00%
TN Colleges of Applied Tech	\$ 3,507	\$ 230	\$ 3,737	\$ 3,612	\$ 3,849	\$ 112	3.00%
University Average²	\$ 7,672	\$ 1,561	\$ 9,233	\$ 7,902	\$ 9,510	\$ 277	3.00%
Community College Average	\$ 4,032	\$ 303	\$ 4,335	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,465	\$ 130	3.00%

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