

FY 2010 Tuition Rates and Structure Adjustments for the School of Medicine MD Program

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors adopt the following proposed changes in tuition rates for the School of Medicine MD program for FY 2010. This proposal incorporates a base tuition rate increase of 3.0 percent. The proposal, described in detail below, would be implemented at the start of the fall semester of 2009 (FY 2010).

Proposed FY 2010 Tuition Rates

Unlike the rest of the University, the School of Medicine MD program has essentially a year-round program. Over the past several years, members of the School of Medicine's Student Senate and general student body have asked the Board to approve the School of Medicine's tuition rates earlier in the year. In consideration of this request to provide more timely information to the students, the tuition rates for SOM were presented and approved by the Board of Governors at their April 2008 meeting. This action was supported by both students and the accrediting body. In addition to the timing, it was the intent to give the MD students a lower rate than the rest of the University, due to accreditors' concerns about the high levels of indebtedness of MD students. Last year the MD rates were set at 3.9 percent compared with a 7.5 percent increase for other graduate and professional programs. It is recommended that the Board of Governors again set the rates during this timeframe and at a rate that will help to address the student debt student levels at the school of medicine. The recommendation for FY 2009-10 is to increase tuition rates at 3.0 percent above the FY 2008-09 rates for the School of Medicine MD program.

In addition, SOM students, just like the rest of the WSU student population, are responsible for paying the omnibus fee. This proposal includes an omnibus base fee increase of 5.3 percent. In addition to the base fee change, the omnibus fee will be increased by \$3.25 per credit hour in order to implement a new University-wide student health clinic. The portion of the change as a result of the health clinic is contingent upon Board approval of the clinic at the April 22, 2009 meeting.

The MD program Student Support fee is unchanged from FY 2008-09. The fee is used to fund microscope rentals, photocopy expenses, teaching materials, National Board examination fees and other course related expenses.

The following schedule of credit hour and fee rates reflects these recommendations.

CREDIT HOUR ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDED SOM MD TUITION RATES

Category	FY 2009	FY 2010	\$ Variance
Resident			
--Tuition (per credit)	\$538.20	\$554.45	\$16.25
--Omnibus Base Increase (per credit)	\$18.80	\$19.80	\$1.00
--Omnibus Health Clinic Component (per credit)	\$0	\$3.25	\$3.25
--Student Support Fee (annual)	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0
Non-Resident			
--Tuition (per credit)	\$1,120.00	\$1,154.00	\$34.00
--Omnibus (per credit)	\$18.80	\$19.80	\$1.00
--Omnibus Health Clinic Component (per credit)	\$0	\$3.25	\$3.25
--Student Support Fee (annual)	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0

ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDED SOM MD TUITION AND FEES

Residency	FY 2009 Tuition & Fees	Recommended FY 2010 Tuition & Fees	\$\$ Variance	% Variance
Resident Cost	\$28,450	\$29,472.50	\$1,022.50	3.6%
Non-Resident	\$57,540	\$59,452.50	\$1,912.50	3.3%

Note: Health Insurance amount will remain at \$2,186 / yr and does not require BOG approval.

It should be noted that in addition to setting the rates early, this proposal incorporates a tuition rate increase that is projected to be lower than what other similar schools around the nation are proposing. WSU’s medical school tuition has become among the highest in the nation for both resident and non-resident students, surpassing even the University of Michigan. Moreover, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has raised the issue of high levels of student indebtedness in a recent report. Specifically,

MS-24: Medical schools should have mechanisms in place to minimize the impact of direct educational expenses on student indebtedness

Reviewer Summary: The average debt for graduating students now is well above the national average for public medical schools as tuition has increased, at times significantly (there was a 20% increase in tuition for the 2005-2006 academic year). The amount of available scholarship and grant support has not kept pace, leading to the rising debt burden. Medical student express considerable concern and dissatisfaction that the university also may establish tuition increases after students have registered, so that the financial aid officer must re-work financial aid packages after the fact to meet the demonstrated student financial need.

As part of this resolution, the Board of Governors authorizes the President or his designee to make adjustments to the rates for special programs or where otherwise appropriate.

In addition, these rate and fee increases apply only to students enrolled in the School of Medicine MD program and are not an indication of rates for the general student body or an obligation by the Board of Governors regarding the rates that will be set for the rest of the university’s programs later this year.