

FY 2007-08 Nursing and Pharmacy Differential Tuition Adjustments

It is recommended that the Board of Governors adopt the following graduate differential tuition proposals for the College of Nursing and the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. These adjustments as described in the following proposal would be implemented in the winter 2008 term. All other tuition and fee charges will remain as approved by the Board of Governors at their July 25, 2007 meeting.

College of Nursing—Proposal for Graduate Level Nursing Programs

The proposal to increase the differential tuition for the graduate level Nursing program beginning with the winter 2008 term is based upon the social and economic need for nurses in metropolitan Detroit and Michigan in response to the current nursing shortage. The goals are to increase enrollment in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and doctoral programs, thereby providing the potential for additional nursing faculty and to increase the number of masters trained nurses for Michigan.

Nursing Shortage

The state of Michigan is in the midst of a nursing shortage crisis; this is not a short term problem. It is anticipated that within the next two and a half years Michigan will have a shortage of registered nurses totaling 7,000 and within the next seven years a shortage of 15,000. In 12 years it is expected that Michigan's nursing workforce will decrease by a staggering 20 percent. It is necessary to build the healthcare enterprise in Michigan by producing nurses and future nursing faculty. The College of Nursing (CoN) is committed to producing nurses and nursing faculty to provide relief to the current social and economic crisis.

Proposed Differential Tuition Rate Adjustment

The number of MSN students in fall 2007 is 205 who generated 1,300 credit hours. The plan is to increase the size to 225 in winter 2008, and to 250 in fall 2008. The proposed increase in graduate differential tuition per credit hour will be phased in over three years with \$20 increases each year. The current per credit hour charge is \$65. This adjustment would increase the rate to \$85 in year 1, \$105 in year 2 and \$125 in year 3. These student and differential tuition per credit hour increases will generate: FY 2008: \$35,000; FY 2009: \$75,400; FY 2010: \$188,520; FY 2011: \$353,460. The following is a peer comparison of costs to complete the entire 47-credit CoN MSN program based on FY 2007 tuition rates:

University	Amount
University of Detroit-Mercy	\$44,580
University of Michigan	\$43,963
Wayne State University	\$25,919
Michigan State University	\$25,919
Oakland University	\$22,488
Madonna University	\$19,999

Note: The above WSU tuition rate includes a base rate of \$22,864 and a differential of \$3,055.

Usage of Revenue Generated with Proposal

To accommodate the increased class sizes, additional faculty are needed. There are currently three searches underway; the goal is to add one new faculty per year over the next three years in addition to the current searches. The cost of three new faculty is approximately \$400,000. Additionally, the revenue will be used toward expanding the learning resources and technological infrastructure.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences–Proposal for Graduate Physician Assistant Studies Program

The proposal to increase tuition for the Physician Assistant Studies Program (PAS) in the Department of Health Care Sciences, starting in winter term 2008, is based upon the following factors: the need for additional faculty to reduce the student to faculty ratio; market conditions in the Physician Assistant field and competition with the other similar institutions.

Need for Additional Faculty

The Physician Assistant Studies Program at Wayne State University has a ratio of 1 faculty per 16 students (1/16) based on full-time active faculty positions. The PAS program currently accepts 48 students per year out of an applications pool of over 300. There are currently 96 students in the program. Professional association recommended optima are 1/13. In the State of Michigan, all but Western Michigan University is at or below the recommended 1/13 ratio. However, leading Physician Assistant Programs such as Duke University have lower ratios (1/8). At least one additional FTE is needed to reach a ratio near 1/13. Additional Physician Assistant (PA) faculty will likely be needed to implement the proposed Radiological Assistant (RA) Program/Degree. Also, in keeping with the College’s mission, a faculty member with a research background in PAS will have to be recruited.

Proposed Differential Tuition Rate Adjustment

The proposed differential tuition adjustment is \$50 per credit hour. The proposed \$50 per credit differential tuition would be in addition to the current graduate tuition of \$337 per credit hour. The grand total for tuition, including the differential, for the two-year graduate degree would equal approximately \$21,000 per student. Even with this adjustment, this proposed tuition rate would still be less than most of the current PA programs in the state.

For a two-year program comparison (24-27 months), Wayne State University’s Physician Assistant program has the lowest overall tuition when compared to programs at University of Detroit-Mercy, Western Michigan University, and Central Michigan University. A table of these tuition cost comparisons follows:

FY 2007 Tuition Rates for Similar Two-Year PAS Programs

Programs	Amount
University of Detroit-Mercy	\$56,190
Western Michigan University	\$30,780
Central Michigan University	\$43,920
Wayne State University	\$18,198

Use of Additional Differential Tuition Revenue

The total tuition differential will generate approximately \$129,000 per year. These funds would permit one new faculty member (1.0 FTE) to be recruited and start by the winter of 2009. Using the same projected dollar amounts for winter 2009, another full-time faculty member could be recruited and start by the winter of 2010. Consequently, by the winter of 2010 both full-time faculty positions would be funded by differential tuition.