
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restriction on instructional fee increases

- For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, permits state institutions of higher education to increase instructional and general fees by not more than 2% over what was charged in the previous academic year.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to approve any increase of all other special fees, including new created ones.
- Exclude from the fee restrictions: room and board, student health insurance, auxiliary goods or services fees provided to students at cost, pass-through fees for licensure and certification exams, study abroad fees, elective service charges, fines, voluntary sales transactions, and fees to offset the cost of providing textbooks to students.
- Permits the Chancellor to establish a differential tuition program, including the development of participation criteria that may require generated revenues to support student services and needs-based financial aid, in which eligible institutions may offer the program to eligible undergraduate students.

Tuition guarantee program

- Requires each state university to establish a tuition guarantee program.
- Stipulates that a state university must use a three-year average rate of inflation in calculating an increase in the rate of instructional and general fees for cohorts subsequent to the first one, rather than a five-year average rate of inflation as under current law.

Project-based learning program models

- Specifies the Chancellor must work with state institutions of higher education, Ohio Technical Centers, and industry partners in developing program models that include project-based learning.

Community college acceleration program

- Requires the Department of Higher Education, with the assistance of the Department of Job and Family Services, to establish the Community Acceleration Program.
- Provides that the program must enhance support services to students in need of support from local social service agencies and identify the services and resources available to assist eligible students in an institution of higher education.

As used in this chapter of the analysis:

A **state institution of higher education** means any of the 13 state universities, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and each community college, state community college, technical college, and university branch campus. The state universities are the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati,

Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

Ohio technical centers are career-technical centers and schools that provide adult education and are recognized as such by the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Restriction on instructional fee increases

(Section 381.160)

For FYs 2020 and 2021 (the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years), the bill limits each state institution of higher education to not more than a 2% increase in its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees over what the institution charged in the prior academic year. Increases for all other special fees, including newly created ones, are subject to the approval of the Chancellor of Higher Education.

The bill's limits on fee increases explicitly *exclude* the following:

1. Room and board;
2. Student health insurance;
3. Fees for auxiliary goods or services provided to students at the cost incurred to the institution;
4. Fees assessed to students as a pass-through for licensure and certification exams;
5. Fees in elective courses associated with travel experiences;
6. Elective service charges;
7. Fines;
8. Voluntary sales transactions; and
9. Fees to offset the cost of providing textbooks to students, which may appear directly on a student's tuition bill as assessed by the institution's bursar.

As in previous biennia when the General Assembly capped tuition increases, the bill's provisions do not apply to increases required to comply with institutional covenants related to the institution's obligations or to meet unfunded legal mandates or legally binding prior obligations or commitments. Further, the Chancellor, with Controlling Board approval, may approve an increase to respond to exceptional circumstances as the Chancellor identifies.

Additionally, the bill specifies that institutions that participate in an undergraduate tuition guarantee program may increase fees in accordance with that separate provision (see below).

Differential tuition program

Finally, the bill permits the Chancellor to establish a differential tuition program for undergraduate students. If the Chancellor establishes the program, eligible institutions are permitted to offer it to eligible students. The Chancellor must develop criteria for participation in the program, which may include requiring that revenues generated by the program support student services and needs-based financial aid.

Undergraduate tuition guarantee

(R.C. 3345.48)

The bill requires each state university to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program whereby each entering cohort of undergraduate students pays an immediate increased rate for instructional and general fees, but that rate is guaranteed not to increase again for that particular cohort for the next four years. Under continuing law, a university may increase the rates by up to 6% for the first cohort under a university's program. For all subsequent cohorts, the bill permits a university to increase the rates one time by the sum of the three-year average rate of inflation and the amount the General Assembly permits increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the fiscal year. As noted above, that permitted increase under the bill is 2%.

Under current law, a state university is permitted, not required, to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program and for subsequent cohorts the university is required to calculate the one time rate increase for each subsequent cohort using the five-year average rate of inflation, rather than a three-year average rate of inflation.

Project-based learning program models

(Section 381.590)

The Chancellor must work with state institutions of higher education, Ohio Technical Centers, and industry partners to develop program models that include project-based learning. The models are intended to increase continuing education and noncredit program offerings that lead to a credential in order to help meet the Ohio's in-demand job needs.

Community college acceleration program

(Section 381.600)

The Department of Higher Education, with the assistance of the Department of Job and Family Services, must establish the Community College Acceleration Program to enhance financial, academic, and personal support services to students in need of support from local social service agencies. The types of services may include the following:

1. Comprehensive and personalized advisement;
2. Career counseling;
3. Tutoring;
4. Tuition waivers;
5. Financial assistance to defray transportation and textbook costs.

The program must identify the services and resources available to assist eligible students enrolled in an institution of higher education.