

What You Should Know about Tuition and Fees in 2009-10

What is the tuition at ETSU in 2009-10?

Starting this fall, ETSU and all other Tennessee Board of Regents institutions will charge tuition for each credit hour of class a student takes, with significant discounts for credit hours taken over a certain number. Undergraduate students will pay \$191 for each of the first 12 credit hours of classes taken. With the discount, each additional hour of class will cost only \$10. Graduate students will pay \$308 for each of the first 10 credit hours of class; each additional hour will cost \$15.

What other fees will students pay in 2009-10?

In addition to tuition, students will pay ETSU's program and service fee. The fee is based on the number of credit hours for which a student enrolls and is capped at \$475.50. It includes parking, athletics, student activities, and other items. Students enrolling in certain courses or programs of study will also pay fees to cover additional related costs .

How will the new tuition policy affect lottery scholars?

The rules governing Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program are not affected by the change in the tuition structure.

How can I find out how much I will owe this fall?

You can use [ETSU's tuition calculator](#) to determine your costs this fall based on the credit hours you take, the program and service fee, and any extra charges associated with the courses or degree program in which you enroll.

Why is ETSU changing the way it charges tuition?

The change in tuition isn't unique to ETSU; this fall it is occurring at all institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) System. The TBR approved the new tuition structure at its June 19, 2009, meeting.

The new tuition structure will help ETSU and other TBR schools better manage course enrollment, and it will also benefit students. Previously, students who took more than 12 credit hours of classes paid nothing for additional credit hours. This made it easy for students who signed up for more than 12 hours to drop some of those classes later, because they had paid nothing for them. Students who enrolled in courses, then dropped them, took seats other students might have needed. Also, research shows that the practice of dropping courses—even with the intention of re-taking them later—reduces the likelihood that a student will graduate from college. The new tuition structure encourages students to succeed in every course in which they enroll.

Is tuition going up this fall? How much?

The average tuition increase for full-time students at ETSU will be 6.4 percent. Because the new way of charging tuition equalizes what part-time and full-time students pay for credit hours, part-time students will see only a 1.1 percent increase in tuition from last year.

Why does tuition keep rising?

Through allocations of tax dollars to public universities, the State of Tennessee pays part of the cost of educating each college student. For many years, however, the state contribution has steadily declined, and more and more of the cost has shifted to students and their families. In 1998-99, state allocations paid for 60% of the cost of a student's education; in 2008-09 the state paid only 44%. From fall 2008 to fall 2009 alone, the state's contribution to a student's education at ETSU fell by 15%. Declining state contributions mean higher costs for students and their families. Tennessee's lottery scholarships help some students cover part of these costs, and ETSU makes every effort to keep costs as low as possible.