



Council for Lifelong Learning

Tuition and Fees for College Credit Courses at Community Colleges

Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What fees must a student pay to enroll in a college prep or college credit course at a community college?</p>	<p>A student who enrolls in a college-prep or college-credit course at a community college must pay the matriculation fee and tuition (if out-of-state). If the community college charges a financial aid fee and/or a capital improvement fee, the student must pay those fees as well. A student may be required to pay other fees only if they are specifically authorized in statute. User fees may also be charged for specific services. These may include, for example, an application fee, parking fees, lab fees, or library fines.</p>
<p>2. Who establishes the fees?</p>	<p>The Florida Board of Education (FBE) recommends matriculation and tuition fees to the State Board of Education before submitting them to the Legislature for adoption.</p> <p>Community college boards of trustees are authorized by statute to establish other fees which include, but are not limited to, an activity & service fee, financial aid fee, capital improvement fee, and a technology fee.</p>
<p>3. What is the activity & service fee?</p>	<p>An activity and service fee of no more than 10 percent of the matriculation and tuition fees may be charged by community colleges to provide student services and programs.</p>
<p>4. What is the financial aid fee?</p>	<p>A financial aid fee of up to 5 percent of the matriculation fee (and tuition if out-of-state) may be charged by community colleges. Special provisions allow for colleges to collect an additional 2 percent if the total revenue generated by the financial aid fee is less than \$250,000.</p> <p>Up to 25 percent of the financial aid fee revenues may be used to support students who demonstrate academic merit or participate in athletics, public service, cultural arts, or other extracurricular programs. Of the remaining financial aid fee revenues, 75 percent, for new awards, must be awarded based on absolute need and the remainder may be used for merit and other purposes approved by the district board of trustees.</p>
<p>5. What is the capital improvement fee?</p>	<p>A capital improvement fee of up to \$1 per credit hour for in-state students and up to \$3 per credit hour for out-of-state students may be charged by community colleges to provide funding for construction, renovation, or remodeling of facilities; technology enhancement; or equipping buildings.</p>

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6. Are the fees at each community college the same?	The 2001-2002 implementing bill provides that each community college board of trustees may set matriculation and tuition within a range of 10 percent below to 15 percent above the combined total of the adopted fee schedule and the technology fee. However, any amount from 10 to 15 percent above must be used only to support safety and security purposes.
7. What is the technology fee?	Community colleges may charge a separate technology fee to support the implementation of technology improvement plans. The fee may not exceed \$1.80 per credit hour for residents and \$5.40 per credit hour for non-residents. This fee may apply to both college-credit and college-preparatory instruction. Half of the fee revenues may be pledged as a dedicated source for the repayment of debt, but revenues from the technology fee may not be bonded.
8. Who is exempt from paying fees?	Certain students are provided fee exemptions in statute including students who are dually enrolled and WAGES clients.
9. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 240.35, F.S. -- Student Fees
10. Where can I get additional information?	Department of Education Division of Community Colleges (850) 488-1721 www.dcc.firn.edu The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Colleges and Universities (850) 488-3711