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## California Postsecondary Education Commission

# Resident Graduate Charges at California's Public Universities

California charges students enrolled in academic graduate degree programs more to attend the State's public universities than it charges undergraduate students. The rationale for this differential stems from two principle factors. First, providing graduate courses is -- on average -- more expensive than the cost of providing undergraduate courses. Second, while advanced education and training provide substantial societal benefits, students who complete academic graduate degrees also generally earn higher salaries upon completion of their graduate studies resulting in more personal gain from this education.

Both of California's public university systems charge resident graduate students a systemwide enrollment fee, as well as mandatory, campus-based fees. The mandatory campus-based fees vary from campus to campus and help support student services such as counseling, student union activities, student government, and recreational facilities. Through budget actions over the past several years, California has required resident students to pay an increasing proportion of the cost of their education, while nonresident students have been assessed increased "tuition" levels to cover their educational costs.

Under California's Master Plan for Higher Education, both the California State University and the University of California are authorized to offer graduate degree programs. The California State University has been precluded from offering the doctoral degree independently. However, with the passage of SB 724 (Scott), the State University is now able to offer doctoral level degrees in Education Administration. The State University is also authorized to offer doctoral degrees jointly in partnership with a University of California campus or with one of the state's independent colleges and universities.

### What does the California State University charge graduate students?

For the 2005-06 academic year, the California State University charged full-time resident graduate students (excluding those enrolled in teacher preparation programs) an average of \$3,746 in mandatory fees. Graduate-level students enrolled in teacher preparation programs paid about \$180 less in mandatory fees than other CSU graduate students. The \$3,746 in average mandatory fees for CSU graduate students includes \$3,102 in systemwide student fees and an average of \$644 in campus-based fees. This amount is about \$580 more than the amount charged undergraduate resident students. The total is lower than each of the 15 public universities with which the California State University compares itself for faculty salary purposes. This amount is less than half the comparison group's average charge for resident graduate students:

University of Maryland, Baltimore County	\$13,886
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark	11,396
Wayne State University	10,409
Cleveland State University	10,023
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	9,178
State University of New York, Albany	9,110
George Mason University (Virginia)	9,000
University of Connecticut	8,970
University of Colorado, Denver	7,986
University of Texas, Arlington	7,373
Illinois State University	6,501
Arizona State University, Tempe	5,562
Georgia State University	5,194
North Carolina State University	4,856
University of Nevada, Reno	4,410
<b>Average of the comparison group</b>	<b>\$8,257</b>
<b>Average CSU undergraduate mandatory fees</b>	<b>\$3,746</b>

Need- and merit-based student financial aid may reduce the tuition and fee costs identified above and could result in lower costs paid by needy and non-needy graduate students. Student financial aid packages – especially for students enrolled in academic graduate programs – differ significantly among the comparison institutions.

### **What does the University of California charge graduate students?**

For 2005-06, the University of California charged full-time resident graduate students an average of \$8,708 in mandatory fees. This amount includes systemwide student fees of \$6,897 and an average of \$1,811 in campus-based fees. This total is about \$1,500 more than the amount charged California resident undergraduate students. The \$8,708 in mandatory fees for resident graduates is lower than that charged by each of the four public universities with which the University of California compares itself for faculty salaries, and it is about \$1,800 less than the average of the comparison group:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$14,271
State University of New York, Buffalo	9,427
University of Virginia	9,800
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	8,878
<b>Average of the comparison group</b>	<b>\$10,594</b>
<b>Average UC graduate mandatory fees</b>	<b>\$8,708</b>

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### **What has the Governor proposed in terms of changes to resident graduate student fees for the 2006-07 fiscal year?**

The Governor’s Budget for 2006-07 proposes that there be no systemwide fee increases for graduate students attending the California State University and the University of California. Assuming that his proposal is enacted, systemwide fees for full-time resident graduates at the California State University would remain lower than an average of the 15 State University public faculty salary comparison institutions, and less than half the average amount charged by the comparison group. For full-time resident graduates at the University of California, level fees would result in annual charges estimated to be about 20% lower than the average amount charged by the University of California’s public faculty salary comparison institutions.

### **Who are resident students?**

California State law defines resident students for tuition purposes as those who (1) have lived in California for at least one year and one day prior to enrolling in a public college or university, and (2) intend to make California their home. A student may demonstrate his or her intent to reside in California through a number of means, including obtaining a California driver’s license, owning or renting property in the state, registering a vehicle in California, or paying California personal income taxes.