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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 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 is precluded from offering the doctoral degree independently. The State University is, however, authorized to offer such 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 2004-05 academic year, the California State University charged full-time resident graduate students (excluding those enrolled in teacher preparation programs) an average of \$3,402 in mandatory fees. Graduate-level students enrolled in teacher preparation programs paid about \$100 less in mandatory fees than other CSU graduate students. The \$3,402 in average mandatory fees for CSU graduate students includes \$2,820 in systemwide student fees and an average of \$582 in campus-based fees. This amount is about \$500 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	\$13,500
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark	10,846
Wayne State University	9,978
Cleveland State University	9,308
State University of New York, Albany	8,949
University of Connecticut	8,476
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	8,131
George Mason University (Virginia)	7,830
University of Colorado, Denver	6,918
University of Texas, Arlington	6,740
Illinois State University	5,646
Arizona State University, Tempe	5,310
Georgia State University	4,830
North Carolina State University	4,479
University of Nevada, Reno	4,009
<b>Average of the comparison group</b>	<b>\$7,663</b>
<b>Average CSU graduate mandatory fees</b>	<b>\$3,402</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 2004-05, the University of California charged full-time resident graduate students an average of \$7,928 in mandatory fees. This amount includes systemwide student fees of \$6,269 and an average of \$1,659 in campus-based fees. This total is about \$1,500 more than the amount charged California resident undergraduate students. The \$7,928 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 \$2,200 less than the average of the comparison group:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$13,585
State University of New York, Buffalo	9,455
University of Virginia	9,200
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	8,310
<b>Average of the comparison group</b>	<b>\$10,138</b>
<b>Average UC graduate mandatory fees</b>	<b>\$7,928</b>

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## What has the Governor proposed in terms of changes to resident graduate student fees for the 2005-06 fiscal year?

In his recently released proposed budget for 2005-06, for resident graduate students attending the California State University and the University of California, the Governor proposed that systemwide fees be increased by 10% -- higher than the 8% increase proposed for undergraduate systemwide fees. For full-time resident graduate students at the California State University, this translates into an increase of about \$280 for the 2005-06 academic year, and for University of California graduates, a \$628 increase.

Assuming that the proposed 10% increase in systemwide fees were enacted, full-time resident graduates at the California State University would pay an average of about \$3,700 per year – still lower than each 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 graduate students at the University of California, the fee increase would result in average annual charges of \$8,556 per year – 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.