



## DIFFERENTIAL TUITION REQUEST

College/School: School of Engineering Department/Program: All undergraduate

Contact: Christos Christodoulou Phone: 7-5521 Email: christos@unm.edu

Level: Undergraduate  Graduate

Proposed Differential to be applied as: by student type (major):  by course:

*For Main Campus units, all new differential tuition will be charged by student type (major) and will follow the tuition block.*

Requested Differential Tuition (shown as an amount per student credit hour):

Student Type	Current Differential	Proposed Differential	Increase/Decrease or New Differential
Residents	\$15.80	\$25.80	\$10.00
Non-Residents	\$15.80	\$25.80	\$10.00
Other	\$15.80	\$25.80	\$10.00

Effective Academic Year: 2023-24

*If the differential tuition request is approved it will be applied in the following academic year **beginning in the fall semester.***

**Rationale for Request:** *Please provide a detailed explanation on the reasoning for the increase/decrease or new differential tuition. Please refer to policy **UAP 8210 2.2** for qualifying justifications for differential tuition.*

Differential tuition for SoE undergraduate students was implemented in Fall of 2015. Since then, this component of tuition has rased approximately \$700k per year. This additional revenue has been instrumental in allowing SoE to provide high-quality undergraduate education. 20% of the revenue has been used for need-based scholarships for undergraduate students which has helped make an engineering education more accessible. It has also provided funding to enhance academic advising in SoE, provide software and laboratory tools for undergraduate classes offered in SoE, and has provided funds for tutoring in the Engineering Student Success center (ESS).

All of these categories of needs in SoE have gotten more expensive since 2015. For example, demonstrated financial need among SoE student has increased. This request will provide significant further revenue to address these needs. Laboratory equipment and supplies have also increased in cost in the past eight years. In recent years we have lost most of our TA positions; this request will allow us to offer some TA positions to aid in teaching undergraduate lab courses. Approval of this request wil allow us to continue



to offer high-quality instruction and advising for our undergraduate students and will allow us to expand the services offered through ESS.

The overall tuition for engineering and computing students at UNM lags that at our peer institutions (see attached peer comparison), allowing them to provide better facilities and resources to their students and faculty. This puts UNM SoE at a severe disadvantage when recruiting new students and faculty to our programs. The proposed increase in differential tuition will allow us to begin to address this gap.

All of our undergraduate programs are accredited by ABET, which requires that we demonstrate we have high-quality teaching laboratory facilities, and that we provide students with sufficient access to professional advisors to ensure that they progress thru the curriculum to graduation. The proposed increase in differential tuition will allow us to address these issues, and will demonstrate to ABET that we have sufficient resources to meet accreditation requirements. Our next ABET visit will be in the Fall of 2023, so having additional resources from this proposed increase will be essential to demonstrate the university's commitment to engineering and computer science education.

Students can expect to command higher salaries upon graduation than students completing most other majors at UNM, and so can well afford a modest increase in the tuition they pay during their time as undergraduate students.

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**Market Analysis:** *Please provide detailed information on whether the college/school or department/program cost of instruction is markedly higher than the university average program costs or market conditions warrant additional tuition.*

Providing engineering and computer science education is substantially more expensive than many other academic programs. This is due to several factors: an emphasis on hands-on learning, especially in laboratory courses with facilities that are expensive to equip and maintain; the accreditation requirement for a realistic capstone experience which requires substantial one-on-one interaction with faculty; higher faculty salaries resulting from competition with industry and government labs; and substantial costs associated with meeting ABET accreditation requirements and maintaining our accreditation, to name a few.



The extra cost of engineering undergraduate education can also be seen in the attached spreadsheet showing engineering differential tuition at our peer institutions. Nearly all of these universities have substantial additional tuition for engineering students that reflects the extra costs associated with engineering education.

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**Student Consultation:** *A preliminary request should be submitted to the Provost Office (Main Campus) or Chancellor's Office (Health Sciences Center (HSC)) no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. Per policy it must be posted to the unit's website no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for at least 30 days of constituent comment prior to final submission to the Provost or Chancellor by November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Please provide an explanation on how you plan to communicate the proposed differential tuition request to students, and the feedback you have already received from students on this request, if any.*

We plan to communicate the proposed differential tuition increase at a meeting of the Engineering Student Council in September. This group consists of the leadership of all of the student chapters of engineering and computing professional societies (for example, IEEE and ASME), the leadership of the groups focused on supporting students from under-represented groups (for example, HESO and SWE), and the leadership of the engineering and computing student honor societies (for example, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu). Meetings of the Council generally have an attendance of 20-30 of our student leaders. The Dean and the Associate Dean for Academics will attend, present the proposal to these student leaders, will solicit feedback from the group, and also ask them to make their membership aware of the proposal. We will provide a mechanism for further feedback from these and other SoE students. We will also post the proposal on the web site for the Engineering Student Success Center with a mechanism for student feedback.

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**Accountability/Budget Information:** *Please provide budgetary information about how the revenue generated will be expensed. It is highly encouraged to set aside a portion of the revenue generated by the differential for financial aid (see policy UAP 8210 2.2.2).*

**Financial Aid Set Aside Amount:**   20   %

**Proposed Annual Revenue**



Differential Tuition (per student credit hour)	\$25.80
Projected # of Student Credit Hours ( <u>all student credit hours</u> taken by student majors in the program).	50,000/year
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,290,000</b>

**Proposed Annual Expenditures**

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$258,000
Faculty Expense	Click here to enter text.
Advising Personnel	\$600,000
Support Staff Expense	\$200,000. (Teaching assistants)
Operating Expenses	\$232,000. (\$157k labs/eqpt; \$75k ESS programming)
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	<b>\$1,290,000</b>

*Please provide a detailed explanation on how the revenue will be used for this program:*

*Revenue allocation will follow the expenditures in the table above; some flexibility will be required to accommodate actual needs as they arise. We will continue to allocate 20% of the differential tuition revenues for need-based financial aid for undergraduate students, administered through the Engineering Student Success Center. We have a great need for more Teaching Assistants as well as part time instructors devoted to teaching undergraduate courses, and so will allocate \$200,000 to pay for teaching assistant stipends and PTI salaries. We will allocate \$600,000 to ensuring that we have adequate advising staff to meet accreditation requirements, \$75,000 to programming in ESS, and \$157,000 towards laboratory equipment, lab maintenance and software.*

**Student Access and Affordability:** *Please explain how student access and affordability will be addressed.*

**As discussed in the attached peer comparison, with the proposed increase in differential tuition an engineering and computer science education at UNM will still be very affordable. We remain committed to allocating 20% of the total revenues from undergraduate differential tuition to need-based financial aid; the proposed increase in differential tuition will allow us to disburse approximately \$125,000 in additional scholarship money compared to the current fiscal year. The total tuition a UNM SoE student would pay with the new differential is only a 2.8% increase compared to total tuition with the current differential. Thus access to and affordability of an SoE education at UNM should not be adversely affected by the proposed increase in differential tuition.**

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**Peer Comparison Chart:** *Please complete the Excel peer comparison spreadsheet. If the peer institutions listed does not have a similar college/school or department/program add an institution that most closely resembles your unit. Please note this adjustment below.*

**A peer comparison chart is attached. Of the 23 universities that offer engineering programs on our list of peer institutions, 19 charge differential tuition for students pursuing degrees in engineering. Even with this proposed increase in differential tuition, the differential charged to UNM SoE students will be the lowest among our peers. Moreover, with the proposed increase in differential, total tuition for an SoE student will be the fourth lowest among our 23 peers. With our proposed increase in differential tuition, UNM engineering and computer science students will pay total tuition of \$8,695 compared to a median of \$12,968 for our peer institutions.**

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**Other Information:** *Please provide any additional information that supports this request for differential tuition.*



**Dean/Director Approval:**

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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