



DIFFERENTIAL TUITION REVIEW
(Justification for units with existing differential tuition)

College/School: Law Department/Program: N/A

Contact: David J. Herring Phone: 277-4700 Email: herring@law.unm.edu

Level: Undergraduate Graduate

Differential Tuition (please show as an amount per student credit hour):

Student Type	Current Differential
Residents	\$ 352.34
Non-Residents	\$ 527.05
Other	\$

Effective Academic Year: 12-13

Rationale for Existing Differential Tuition: *Please provide a detailed explanation on the reasoning for the differential tuition. Please refer to policy UAP 8210 2.2 for qualifying justifications for differential tuition.*

The law school is a professional program that competes in more expensive regional and national markets which require more resources to remain competitive, including the ability to attract faculty who demand higher salaries.

The tuition differential supports the school's curriculum which provides students with experiential learning opportunities and requires a low student – faculty ratio. Most notably, the school's nationally ranked Law Clinic, which is required for all students. (Very few law schools have a clinic requirement.)

The law school's program requirements are geared toward meeting licensure requirements. Eighty five percent or more of UNM law school graduates pass the NM Bar Exam on their first attempt. This compares favorably with graduates of other regional and national law schools.

The law school's curriculum is weighted toward required as opposed to elective courses, with entire first-year curriculum made up of required courses.

As a professional program, the law school's higher tuition is justified due to the higher salaries offered to graduates in the national job market. UNM Law graduates continue to significantly outpace national rates in major employment outcomes. For example, the 9-month employment



rate of UNM law graduates in full-time bar passage required positions was 75% (16% higher than the national rate).

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.*

See explanation above. The law school must charge a tuition differential to provide the curriculum, faculty, and student support services that will allow it to compete with its peers.

Student Consultation: *Please provide an explanation on how you communicate the existing differential tuition to incoming students in your program.*

Law School tuition is described in the entire tuition amount due instead of base tuition plus tuition differential. To make it easier to understand what the total amount due is for tuition, one price is listed for in-state and one is listed for out-of state showing the total cost of tuition.

The School of Law's website shows the In-State tuition per academic year at \$15,701 for full-time students. The Out-of-State tuition per year is \$33,971.

<http://lawschool.unm.edu/admissions/tuition.php>

Accountability/Budget Information: *Please provide budgetary information about how the revenue generated is 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: 2.6 %

Proposed Annual Revenue

Differential Tuition (per student credit hour)	\$ 352.54 resident \$ 527.05
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	Non-resident
Projected # of Student Credit Hours (<u>all student credit hours taken by student majors in the program</u>).	7927 hrs resident 345 hrs non-resident
Total Revenue	\$ 2,975,065

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$77,477
Faculty Expense	\$1,907,397
Advising Personnel	\$150,704
Support Staff Expense	\$135,201
Operating Expenses	\$704,286
Total Program Costs	\$2,975,065

Please provide a detailed explanation on how the revenue is used for this program:

A majority of differential funds are used to support faculty expense which is necessary in maintaining the law school's low faculty to student ratio. These resources are critical in supporting the law school's clinical and experiential learning curriculum.

Operating funds are used to support the law school's various student support services (ie Career Services, Student Services, Admissions, Registrar, Law Library, and IT) and academic programs (Law and Indigenous People's Program, Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program, Madrid Summer Law Institute, Tribal Law Journal). A small portion is used for facilities maintenance support as well.

Differential Funds are also used to fund personnel expenses for the Career Services Office, Student Services Office, Admissions Office, Registrar, along with Student Employment (advising personnel and support staff) and Law Clinic (Support Staff).

A portion of the differential funds that could have been used for additional faculty positions expense have been redirected to financial aid.

Student Access and Affordability: Please explain how student access and affordability has been addressed.

The UNM School of Law is one of the most affordable law schools in the Mountain West Region and in the country. Each year, the National Jurist/ PreLaw Magazine ranks law schools around the country on



overall value which is calculated based on total tuition expense, cost of living, average indebtedness after law school, bar passage rate and employment success. This year the UNM School of Law was ranked 11th in the nation for value.

Tuition at the UNM Law School has always been dramatically lower than private law schools and significantly lower than most other law schools. Current in-state tuition is \$15,701 and many nonresidents qualify for this in-state rate in their second and third years at the law school. Law school alumni and friends provide support that enables more student aid than ever before, while University support allows the law school to maintain its low tuition.

Our affordability is a big factor for applicants when considering law school. Many students choose UNM not only because of our great academic programs and employment outcomes, but for our incredible value. Applicants are becoming smarter consumers and are very conscious of cost and overall value of their degree.

The Law School also offers over \$1.3Million in scholarship support to its 345 students, which helps to reduce their overall debt upon graduation. Included in these scholarship figures are programs and funds that target specific historically disadvantaged communities including American Indian and Alaska Native students to help remove financial barriers that might prevent them from attending law school. These scholarship programs combined with our remarkably affordable tuition makes sure that these students and others are able to attend law school and return to their communities around New Mexico to serve their community.

The Law School also has the lowest student loan indebtedness upon graduation out of any of our regional competitors. For the graduating class of 2014 the average student loan indebtedness for three years of law school was \$71,029 down from the previous year's number of \$73,292 which was the lowest figure in the region by several thousand dollars. Graduating with lower debt allows our students to go out into the workforce and focus on providing legal services to communities around New Mexico.

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.*

No Adjustment were made to peer list. (See attached list.)

Other Information: *Please provide any additional information that supports the continuation of the differential tuition.*



Dean/Director Approval:

Printed Name: David J. Herring

Signature: David J. Herring Date: 2-5-15