



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

College/School: Engineering Department/Program: All graduate programs
Contact: Christos Christodoulou Phone: 7-5522 Email: christos@unm.edu

Level: Undergraduate Graduate

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

Student Type	Current Differential
Residents	\$100/ch
Non-Residents	\$100/ch
Other	\$100/ch

Effective Academic Year: Original 2017-18; renewal 2020-21

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.*

Over the past few years, the cost of engineering and computer science education have greatly increased at institutions across the country. In response to this, most public universities that offer engineering and computer science graduate programs have instituted differential tuition for graduate students. At UNM, the costs of offering high-quality and internationally recognized graduate programs in engineering and computer science have increased along with those at our peer institutions. However, the revenues of the UNM School of Engineering have not increased at the same rate as our expenses. Nor have we been able to keep up with revenue increases at our peer institutions. This is a particular problem for our graduate programs, as those programs rely heavily on being able to hire and retain outstanding research-active faculty who attract excellent graduate students to our campus, bring in external support for these students through research assistantships, and generate the funds to build and operate our many research laboratories. As a consequence, the School of Engineering relies on differential tuition as a means to allow us to continue delivering the high-quality engineering and computer science graduate education that our students demand.

It should be noted that our MS and PhD graduates in engineering and computer science are well-positioned to secure high-paying jobs both regionally and nationally. Since they compete in a national marketplace, their salaries are competitive with those of students attending graduate programs with much



higher tuition costs than at UNM. These excellent future salaries will easily offset the differential tuition students pay while at UNM.

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.*

The cost of graduate education in the School of Engineering is considerably greater than the average cost of graduate education at UNM. This is due to several factors: 1) We have a highly research-active faculty (~\$36 M/year in SoE research expenditures) which requires infrastructure in each of our departments to support faculty in writing and administering grants, building and maintaining laboratories and other infrastructure, and in supporting graduate students (assistantship contracts, grad advising, etc). 2) Faculty salaries in the School of Engineering are higher than the average UNM salary, due in part to competition with other universities in adjacent states and around the US. This is particularly true for hiring and retaining the highly research-active faculty who can be successful in raising a significant amount of external funding. 3) Not all students are supported on research grants, and we provide some students with Teaching Assistantships and other forms of support.

Student Consultation:

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

When graduate differential tuition was first proposed for SoE, we spent considerable effort on outreach to students through town hall meetings and email campaigns. At that time the students were overwhelming in support of the proposal. Going forward, we will communicate with prospective students regarding differential tuition by referring them to the UNM Office of Admissions Cost of Attendance web page which provides very easy to access information on the cost of graduate education in SoE including differential tuition. Differential tuition as well as overall costs are also discussed during new student orientation for incoming graduate students; NSO sessions are handled independently by each of the SoE departments.

It should be noted that only a small fraction of our graduate students pay for the graduate differential tuition themselves. Approximately 80% of our graduate students have their tuition paid either through a Research Assistantship, their employer, or from some other third party source (for example, NSF or other fellowships). This means that through the set-aside for need-based student financial aid, we will be able to cover the differential tuition for all students who are paying their own tuition and have financial need.

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: 15 %

Proposed Annual Revenue

Differential Tuition (per student credit hour)	\$100/ SCH; \$200 flat rate for dissertation
Projected # of Student Credit Hours (<u>all student credit hours</u> taken by student majors in the program).	8750 SCH + 400 students enrolled in dissertation (200/semester)
Total Revenue	\$955,000

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$143,250
Faculty Expense	\$105,500
Advising Personnel	\$
Support Staff Expense	\$650,000
Operating Expenses	\$56,250
Total Program Costs	\$955,000

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

We will use a 15% set-aside for need-based financial aid for graduate students, mostly to cover the differential tuition expense for self-supporting students as described in the Student Access and Affordability section below. Note that we are proposing a smaller set-aside than in the original proposal from three years ago because a relatively large percentage of SoE grad students are supported thru assistantships or other types of external funding, and so the differential tuition has no impact on them. The 15% set-aside better mirrors the actual need within SoE.

Hiring new faculty into SoE departments is very expensive, especially in terms of start-up funding with limited sources of funding for this in our regular I&G budgets. In addition, we frequently have existing SoE faculty who are offered positions elsewhere requiring us to put together retention packages for them. Approximately 11% of the differential tuition will be used for these two categories of expenses.

We will use approximately 68% of the income from differential tuition for support staff expenses, primarily for TA/RA/GA positions in support of our teaching mission. Some of this will also be used for professional staff expenses in our departments.



We will use approximately 6% of differential tuition revenues for departmental operating expenses included expenses associated with recruiting graduate students.

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

As mentioned above, most of our students do not pay tuition (including differential tuition) themselves, but rather have their tuition paid through assistantships, employer tuition assistance programs, outside fellowships, etc. For the students who pay their own way, we award scholarships to cover the cost of the differential tuition upon application. We also use some of the financial aid set-aside from differential tuition for needy graduate students who have major financial concerns. Thus, the SoE differential tuition does not have an impact on student access to our programs or on affordability.

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.*

See attached spreadsheets.

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



Dean/Director Approval:

Printed Name: Christos Christodoulou _____

Signature: *Christos Christodoulou* **Date:** October 9, 2020



The University of New Mexico
2020-21 Tuition

College: Engineering

Program: All

Graduate Resident

	Resident	Tuition (1)	Differential for Peer College/Program (2)	Proposed Differential	Total Tuition and Fees
	University of New Mexico	\$ 7,321	n/a	\$ 1,800	\$ 9,121
	Peer Median	\$ 8,414	\$ 1,499	n/a	\$ 10,081
1	Arizona State University*	\$ 12,608	\$ 900	n/a	\$ 13,508
2	Florida International University*	\$ 8,202		n/a	\$ 8,202
3	New Mexico State University*	\$ 5,926		n/a	\$ 5,926
4	Oklahoma State University*	\$ 6,687	\$ 3,299	n/a	\$ 9,986
5	Texas A&M University*	\$ 7,665	\$ 5,130	n/a	\$ 12,795
6	Texas Tech University*	\$ 14,904	\$ 4,374	n/a	\$ 19,278
7	The University of Tennessee	\$ 13,380	\$ 1,170	n/a	\$ 14,550
8	The University of Texas at Arlington*	\$ 10,674	\$ 648	n/a	\$ 11,322
9	The University of Texas at Austin**	\$ 8,928	\$ 1,626	n/a	\$ 10,554
10	The University of Texas at El Paso*	\$ 7,508	\$ 310	n/a	\$ 7,818
11	University of Arizona*	\$ 13,270	\$ 450	n/a	\$ 13,720
12	University of California-Riverside	\$ 13,473		n/a	\$ 13,473
13	University of Colorado-Boulder**	\$ 13,508	\$ 3,560	n/a	\$ 17,068
14	University of Colorado-Denver**	\$ 6,786	\$ 2,214	n/a	\$ 9,000
15	University of Houston**	\$ 6,768	\$ 1,944	n/a	\$ 8,712
16	University of Iowa **	\$ 11,468	\$ 947	n/a	\$ 12,415
17	University of Kansas*	\$ 8,625	\$ 985	n/a	\$ 9,610
18	University of Missouri-Columbia*	\$ 7,108		n/a	\$ 7,108
19	University of Nebraska-Lincoln*	\$ 7,723	\$ 2,358	n/a	\$ 10,081
20	University of Nevada-Las Vegas	\$ 6,517		n/a	\$ 6,517
21	University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus*	\$ 6,243	\$ 567	n/a	\$ 6,810
22	University of Utah**	\$ 10,821	\$ 1,499	n/a	\$ 12,320

(1) Tuition is based on full time status (9 credit hours for graduate tuition per semester) Fall and Spring semesters

(2) Please indicate the peer's differential tuition based on the college/program your unit is comparing to.

*includes student fees

**rates vary depending on field of study



UNM

The University of New Mexico
2020-21 Tuition

College: Engineering

Program: All

Graduate Non-Resident

Table with 5 columns: Non-Resident, Tuition and fees (1), Differential for Peer College/Program (2), Proposed Differential, Total Tuition and fees. Rows include University of New Mexico, Peer Median, and 21 other universities.

(1) Tuition is based on full time status (9 credit hours for graduate tuition per semester) Fall and Spring semesters

(2) Please indicate the peer's differential tuition based on the college/program your unit is comparing to.

*includes student fees

**rates vary depending on field of study