



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

College/School: School of Law Department/Program: Juris Doctor

Contact: Sergio Pareja Phone: 277-4700 Email: pareja@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: 2021-22

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 requires differential tuition to pay for its cost of instruction. This review seeks to continue the law school's well established differential tuition for its Juris Doctor (JD) program at the same level that has been in effect since the 2012-13 academic year.

The law school's JD program offers a professional degree and competes in more expensive regional and national markets that 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. This ratio is important to the school's nationally ranked Law Clinic, which is required for all JD students. Very few law schools have a clinic requirement.

The law school's JD program is geared toward meeting licensure requirements. In September 2020, 86% of our JD graduates passed the NM Bar Exam on their first attempt, which compares very favorably with graduates of other regional and national law schools.

The law school's JD curriculum is weighted toward required courses rather than elective courses. The entire first year consists of required courses, and students must take additional required courses thereafter.



The law school's higher tuition is justified because the program necessitates expenditures above those required for typical graduate programs of instruction, and beyond the level of additional support available from class and curricular fees alone. Those higher expenditures consistently yield outstanding results because UNM JD graduates outpace national rates in employment outcomes.

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 and below. The law school must charge differential tuition to provide the faculty, curriculum, and student support services that allow it to successfully compete with its peers year after year.

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

Resident and non-resident tuition rates are quoted to prospective and incoming students as one figure (not as base tuition + mandatory fees+ differential tuition), which is easier to understand and consistent with competing law schools. Current resident tuition is \$18,938 per academic year for full-time students; non-resident tuition is \$39,890. See <http://lawschool.unm.edu/admissions/financial-aid/tuition.html>.

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: 5.2%

Proposed Annual Revenue

Differential Tuition (per student credit hour)	\$352.34 Resident \$527.05 Non-Resident
Projected # of Student Credit Hours (<u>all student credit hours</u> taken by student majors in the program).	7,943 Resident 368 Non-resident
Total Revenue	\$2,992,512



Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$155,611 (5.2%)
Faculty Expense	\$1,805,708
Advising Personnel	\$118,471
Support Staff Expense	\$134,970
Operating Expenses	\$777,752
Total Program Costs	\$2,992,512

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

A majority of differential funds support faculty expense in order to maintain the law school's low faculty:student ratio. This essential ratio facilitates the law school's exemplary doctrinal- and experiential-learning curriculum.

Operating funds are spent on the law school's various student support services (e.g., Student & Career Services, Admissions/Financial Aid, 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 as well.

Differential tuition also funds personnel for the Admissions/Financial Aid Office, Registrar, Student Employment Support Staff, and Law Clinic Support Staff.

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

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 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. UNM School of Law regularly ranks in the top 25 best value law schools in the country.

Tuition for New Mexico residents at our school has always been dramatically lower than private law schools and significantly lower than resident tuition most other law schools. Current annual resident tuition is \$18,938, including all law school fees paid by students, which is \$8,533 below the FY 2021 projected peer median resident tuition of \$27,471. Current annual non-resident tuition is \$39,890, which is the FY 2021 projected peer median. See Attachments A and B. Many non-residents qualify for the resident rate in their second and third years. Law school alumni and friends provide support for 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. Many students choose UNM not only because of our great academic programs and employment outcomes, but also for our incredible value. Applicants are smart consumers who are very conscious of the cost and overall value of their degree.

The law school awarded over \$1.4 million in scholarships to its 310 JD students, which helps to reduce their debt upon graduation. These scholarships include programs and funds that target historically disadvantaged communities including American Indian and Alaska Native students, which help to remove financial barriers that otherwise might prevent these students from attending law school. These scholarships and our remarkably affordable tuition allow these students and others to complete law school and serve their communities around New Mexico.

Our JD graduates enjoy one of the lowest debt loads among our regional competitors. Indeed, the average loan indebtedness for three years of law school in the class of 2019 was \$83,885 which is among the lowest figures in the region by several thousand dollars. Lower debt gives our graduates the financial latitude to enter the workforce at a wide range of starting salaries, which allows them to provide desperately needed legal services in the private, public, and public interest sectors. For example, of the graduates in the class of 2019 employed as of March 15, 2020, 40.22% were in private practice, 39.07% were in the public sector (26.43% government and 12.64% judicial clerkships), and 9.20% were in the public interest sector. The remainder were in business (5.75%) and unknown employer type (5.75%). 93.5% of those graduates accepted jobs in New Mexico. Source: UNMSOL Class of 2019 Employment Statistics, available at <https://lawschool.unm.edu/careers/employment-statistics/index.html>

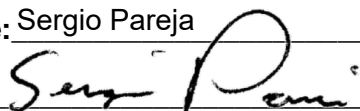
Peer Comparison Chart: *Please complete the Excel peer comparison spreadsheet. If the peer institutions listed does not have a similar college/school or department/program add an institution that most closely resembles your unit. Please note this adjustment below.*
Adjustments were made to Attachments A and B as indicated in the notes column.

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

Click here to enter text.

Dean/Director Approval:

Printed Name: Sergio Pareja

Signature: 

Date: 11/13/2020