


January 22, 2024

MEMO TO: Marc L. Miller, Dean & Professor
College of Law

FROM: Dr. Gregory Heileman, Vice Provost Undergraduate Education 

SUBJECT: College of Law Fixed Rate

The proposal for the College of Law fixed rate program fee (PF) to increase by 3% was approved in collaboration with the Office of Budget and Planning and the Executive Office of the President. The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) was notified of this change on December 19, 2023. See details below.

| Fee Request | Fixed Amount | Effective Date |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| Increased Fixed Rate Juris Doctor & Advanced Juris Doctor - RES | \$25, 235 | Fall 2024 |
| Increased Fixed Rate Juris Doctor & Advanced Juris Doctor – NON-RES | \$29, 870 | Fall 2024 |

Given that this increase does not exceed the academic fees' 5% growth rate approved by ABOR in April 2023, it did not require their approval. To view a notification of this increase, please see the attached letter from President Robbins and save it for your records. The letter can also be accessed here:

<https://president.arizona.edu/news/2024-25-tuition-and-fee-proposal>

This fee change was only in the amount. The purpose of the fee and objectives remained the same as the proposal submitted in 2016. Please refer to that document to stay in compliance. Schools and departments are responsible for spending fee revenue in compliance with ABOR and University of Arizona policies and guidelines. Revenues from program fees must be used for board-approved purposes, and each program fee must be accounted for separately from other university revenues. Furthermore, these fees are subject to a year-end review by the Academic Administration unit to ensure compliance.

The Online Handbook for Program Fees and Differential Tuition Management contains helpful information regarding the following steps (requesting accounts and item types), procedures for managing program fees, and contact information for people in areas related to the administration and reporting of program fees. Please visit the university fees website to access this handbook and for future announcements, updated documents, and additional information regarding university fees.

<https://academicadmin.arizona.edu/university-fees>

Please forward this memo to the most appropriate individuals in your department to track fees and associated expenditures.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this, please contact Martha Sesteaga, the administrative contact for University Fees, at prov-fees@email.arizona.edu.

Cc:

Karen Kowalski, Administration and Chief of Staff, College of Law
Phuong Thang, Director of Financial Planning & Decision Support, College of Law
Traci Sitzmann, Associate Bursar, Bursars Office
Najah Muzahem, Principal Accountant, Financial Management
Garth Perry, Vice President and Chief Budget Officer, Office of Budget & Planning
Martha Sesteaga, Program Manager, University Fees

PROGRAM FEE REQUEST

University: **University of Arizona** College: **James E. Rogers College of Law**
 Program: **Juris Doctor with Advanced Standing (AJD), Non-Resident Tuition**

Graduate X Undergraduate Upper Division Lower Division Both

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New \$..... (Proposed) | Fall 2016 (Effective Date) | Proposed fee to be applied as: X Per Term <input type="checkbox"/> Per Unit, Total of ___ Units per Program |
| AJD Existing \$29,000-fixed (excluding mandatory fees) (Proposed) | \$26,000-fixed 2013 (Current) (Year Approved) | Proposed fee to be applied: X Fall X Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Date Submitted: 11/2015 |

Rationale for Request (~100 words)

The College of Law has a longstanding commitment to accessibility in its JD program(s), demonstrated by its competitive pricing models and healthy financial aid offerings. All ABOR approved College of Law professional degree programs are currently offered under a flat/fixed tuition cost structure, providing students with more transparency and predictability in managing their cost of education. Maintaining these flat/fixed rates is vital to the long-term strategy and success of each program, and as such, this request clarifies the need for the **University's mandatory fees to be charged in excess of each flat/fixed tuition rate**. Mandatory fees for student services are assessed to all students in addition to tuition, as approved by the Arizona Board of Regents. The College of Law's non-resident Juris Doctor with Advanced Standing program (AJD) operates in most instructional respects as the traditional JD program. Students in the AJD program are either 1) U.S. citizens holding non-U.S. law degrees, or 2) non-U.S. lawyers holding a foreign law degree or pursuing a dual degree with a leading foreign law school. Beyond the different eligibility criteria of AJD students, the JD and AJD programs operate as fully integrated JD programs, and therefore the annual cost structures and revenue requirements necessitate a combined tuition structure. Drawing from the past few years' experience, the international market has turned out to be under market priced, accommodating the **AJD tuition increase from \$26,000 to \$29,000**.

Compliance with Board Guidelines (~250 words)

Quality of Student Experience: As a highly-regulated professional program, our accreditation process mandates significant resource inputs and quality checks to ensure a high-quality experience for students in all programs. Integrating the JD and AJD programs into the same program fee structure reinforces commonality between the programs, and consistency between student experiences. All students benefit from the presence of diverse perspectives in classes, including geographic diversity. Moreover, the presence of more non-resident law students creates opportunities for networking and future business opportunities.

Access and Affordability: One of the strongest criticisms of legal education is the high cost, and the cost of law school has increased starkly over the past ten years. The sustained and substantial decrease in law school applicants nationally and in the West over the last five years means a more competitive environment for attracting the best students from Arizona and beyond. The College has worked to cut spending, but is also focused on finding additional revenue streams that will allow a competitively priced JD tuition without sacrificing quality. Maintaining tuition at \$29,000 for JD and AJD non-residents will allow us to deliver increased value as well as greater transparency in our pricing, while maintaining an outstanding legal education for all students.

Cost of Instruction: The JD and AJD programs operate as fully integrated programs, sharing and leveraging the same costs of instruction. Tuition funding continues to be applied to improve the College's library and research materials, student affairs areas, career and professional development opportunities, and increase the course offerings and focus areas to meet student demands. The costs of instruction also includes the amount of individual, student-focused time faculty spend with each student, research and instructional facilities, administration, and student support funds necessary to make all law programs successful. There are cost efficiencies in that the library costs are already fixed and there is significant overlap in courses, administrative costs, materials and operating costs from the existing JD and all other legal programs. Annual expenditures

include costs incurred against base tuition, program fees, and/or state funds.

Increased Earnings Potential of Program Graduates: An affordable and predictable JD education enables more graduates to enter the workforce prepared to provide economic return on investment from their degree. Students who graduate with less debt also have more options in their career paths, including careers in public service, or in serving clients who cannot afford to pay market rates for legal representation.

Student Consultation (~100 words)

The College of Law's recent fixed tuition from Fall 2014 received a lot of interest, praise and support from students and the broader legal community. Students support the College of Law's effort to maintain a flat/fixed tuition pricing and the need to better integrate the JD and AJD programs and offer these degrees at the same price. Arizona Law students are very concerned about the cost of tuition. At the same time they recognize that resources are required to maintain excellence in the JD and AJD. Students therefore understand that mandatory fees are a required part of attendance for all students, and that the fees and revenue collected are held centrally in order to maintain UA student services. Separating mandatory fees from the College of Law's flat/fixed tuition ensures that more tuition revenue is available for vital program needs.

MARKET PRICING (~200) Board of Regents Peers – 2015-16 Pricing

| School | Resident Law Tuition | Non-resident Law Tuition |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| University of California, Davis | \$47,339 | \$56,590 |
| University of California, LA | \$45,284 | \$51,778 |
| Penn State University | \$45,078 | \$45,078 |
| University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign | \$42,093 | \$49,843 |
| University of Minnesota | \$42,230 | \$48,710 |
| Michigan State University | \$37,322 | \$37,372 |
| University of Texas, Austin | \$33,162 | \$49,244 |
| University of Washington | \$30,891 | \$43,053 |
| University of Maryland | \$30,177 | \$43,657 |
| Ohio State University | \$29,104 | \$44,056 |
| University of Arizona | \$24,500 / \$1,022 fees | \$29,000 / \$1,022 fees |
| University of Iowa | \$24,177 | \$42,021 |
| University of North Carolina | \$23,041 | \$39,672 |
| University of Florida | \$22,299 | \$38,904 |
| University of Wisconsin | \$21,378 | \$40,074 |

ACCOUNTABILITY

Proposed Annual Revenue

| | | |
|----------------------|----|------------------|
| Program Fee | \$ | 29,000 |
| Number of Students | # | ~150 |
| Total Revenue | = | 4,350,000 |

Proposed Annual Expenditures

| | | |
|--|----|------------------|
| Financial Aid Set Aside (14%) | \$ | 609,000 |
| Administrative Charge (14.38%; 12.38% RCM tax + 2% SI) | \$ | 625,500 |
| Institutional and Advising Personnel | \$ | 2,400,000 |
| Support Staff Expense | \$ | 500,000 |
| Operating Expenses/Student Services and Support, other | \$ | 215,500 |
| Total Program Costs | = | 4,350,000 |