


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 MODIFICATION

University: **University of Arizona** College: **James E. Rogers College of Law**
Program: **Juris Doctor (JD), Resident Tuition**

Graduate X Undergraduate Upper Division Lower Division Both

New \$..... **Fall 2016**
(Proposed) (Effective Date)
JD Existing **\$24,500-fixed (excluding mandatory fees)** **\$24,500-fixed** **2015**
(Proposed Annual) (Current) (Year Approved)

Proposed fee to be applied as:
X Per Term
 Per Unit, Total of ___ Units per Program
Proposed fee to be applied:
X Fall X Spring Summer Winter
Date Submitted: 11/2015

Rationale for Request 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 following components to the JD resident tuition structure:

- The need for the University's **mandatory fees to be charged in excess of each flat/fixed tuition rate.** Mandatory fees are assessed to all students in addition to tuition, as approved by the Arizona Board of Regents. These fees cover centralized student services such as an Arizona State Financial Aid Trust fee, a Health and Recreation fee, Information Technology and Library fee, Student Media fee, Recreation Center Bond Retirement fee, Recreation Center Program fee, Student Services fee, and a Wildcat Events Board fee. Separating mandatory fees from the College of Law's total cost will ensure these services are adequately funded, without impacting the overall revenue available to support the law programs. **No change in Law tuition and fees.**

Compliance with Board Guidelines

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.

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 \$24,500 for resident JD students 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 cost enables more graduates to enter the workforce prepared to provide economic return on investment from their degree, as opposed to the fear and burden many JD students face of incurring high student loans, which often

inhibits the decision to attend law school. Maintaining a fixed tuition price for in-state JD/AJD students may incentivize more AZ residents to attend law school and provide an opportunity for these residents to contribute back to their communities. Students who graduate with less debt have more options in their career paths, including careers in public service or in serving clients who cannot afford to pay market rates.

Student Consultation 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. Arizona Law students are very concerned about the cost of JD tuition. At the same time they recognize that resources are required to maintain excellence. 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	\$	24,500 resident
Number of Students	#	~250
Total Revenue	=	6,125,000

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (14%)	\$	857,500
Administrative Charge (10%)	\$	526,750
Institutional and Advising Personnel	\$	2,922,000
Support Staff Expense	\$	974,000
Operating Expenses	\$	844,750
Total Program Costs*	=	6,125,000