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# Grad Council Notice to Constituents Regarding GSAS Tuition Changes

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Last updated: 4/5/13

## Summary

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences will likely implement a new tuition structure for the 2013-2014 academic year and beyond. These changes could potentially have important consequences for your financial situation. The consequences will vary across departments, matriculation years, and individual situations. Some students will experience no change in out-of-pocket expenses, but other students are likely to experience significant changes. Grad Council recommends that graduate students discuss these issues with their department's Director of Graduate Studies in order to clarify the effects.

## FAQ: By “new tuition structure,” do you mean that tuition is increasing?

Part of the new structure does involve tuition increases for certain types of students (see items B and C on page 2 of this document for more details). Some of these tuition increases will be significant.

## FAQ: Why is this happening?

The motivations for this change are multiple and complex. An incomplete list of motivations includes: (a) the University's “new financial model” requires the Graduate School to increase its revenues in order to meet its expenditure commitments (b) GSAS tuition is quite low relative to graduate schools at peer institutions (and will continue to be relatively low)

## FAQ: Will I have to pay more out-of-pocket next year?

The answer to this question varies by departments, matriculation year, and individual situations. Grad Council recommends contacting your department's Director of Graduate Studies in order to clarify the effects.

## FAQ: If tuition is going up, how is it possible that my out-of-pocket expenses could stay the same?

Financial support to graduate students is expected to increase in conjunction with the expected increase in revenues for the Graduate School. Decisions regarding financial support are often made at the department level. For example, certain students get their tuition fully covered by their department. While tuition for these students may increase, the department's financial support may also increase so as to leave the student's out-of-pocket expense unchanged. Certain other students get their tuition fully covered by an external party; in this case, the external party may decide to raise support so as to leave the student's out-of-pocket expense unchanged.

## FAQ: I'm an advanced doctoral student, and I currently pay my own tuition out-of-pocket. Will I have to pay \$3,500 extra next year?

Grad Council cannot predict your out-of-pocket expense increase because we do not know (a) the particular details of your situation, or (b) the financial support options that your department may be considering. We recommend contacting your department's Director of Graduate Studies for clarification.

## FAQ: What has Grad Council done to address this issue?

After being informed of this proposed change, the Council conveyed to the Graduate School administration its highest priority: to avoid, as much as possible, any increases in out-of-pocket expenditure for graduate students currently enrolled at the University. The administration acknowledged that potential hardship to current graduate students was a major concern. In order to address that concern, the administration has made significant commitments to increase financial support to graduate students. Your DGS will have better information than we will about these commitments.

**Questions? Comments? Want to make your voice heard? Please go to [www.gradcouncil.com](http://www.gradcouncil.com) and click on the blue “Suggestion Button.”**

## Tuition Reform Details

If adopted by the Board of Visitors, the structure for graduate tuition would change.

1. All doctoral students would be charged a flat tuition rate in years 1-3. In these years students may take any mix of courses they like, as full-time students taking 12 credits (15 by petition), with no variation in what they will be charged.
2. All doctoral students would be charged a lower (relative to the first 3 years), flat tuition rate in years 4 to completion. Again in these years students would be able to take or audit any course without financial penalty, within their 12 credit limit (15 by petition). The proposed tuition rate is higher than the current tuition rate (see item B below).
3. All students enrolled in a terminal master's degree (or graduate certificate) program would be charged a flat rate different from the rate charged to doctoral students (see item C below).
4. The use of "continuous enrollment" will be limited only to students who have effectively completed their academic work, need to be kept enrolled for administrative reasons, and will be away from Grounds. [Example: a student has completed all academic requirements, but cannot complete their dissertation defense due to faculty members being on sabbatical.] Such a no-tuition continuous enrollment will be available for a limited period of no more than two years.

The Board of Visitors will also consider a proposed schedule of tuition and fee rates. The main elements are:

- A. No change to the top tuition rate for nonresident and resident doctoral students.
- B. Increase the tuition rate for advanced doctoral students by \$3,500, so that the total tuition, net of fees, would be \$4,306 – same for nonresidents and residents.
- C. Increase the tuition rate for terminal/professional master's degree students by about \$1,000, from \$22,602 and \$13,278 to \$23,616 and \$14,280. To be more precise, this would be a tuition rate of \$984 per credit hour for nonresidents and \$595 per credit hour for residents (as in the usual case of 24 credits per year for full-time enrollment). The per credit hour rate would stay the same if the student enrolled either for an overload or part-time.
- D. Reduce the comprehensive fee that would be charged to graduate students who are away from Charlottesville for an entire term, doing research or other fieldwork, to the standard "off-grounds" rate. This would be \$216 per semester, or \$432 for the usual academic year (contrasted with the current comprehensive fee of \$3,076 for a year).

Other changes will affect the way tuition revenue is shared with departments to strengthen their graduate student support.