

Online course fees explained

- The online course fee has been in place for more than 15 years. It is designed to help recover some of the added (and growing) technology expenses associated with delivering a course remotely.
- During the fall 2020 semester, the University waived online fees for courses where the course formats were changed substantially after registration. This action was taken because, unlike a traditional pre-pandemic fall semester, course formats were changed substantially after registration and virtually all courses were offered only in an online format. This was the right decision because students had, for the most part, registered for in-person course sections that were changed after-the-fact and then had no choice but to take online versions. During the winter 2021 semester, the University waived most online course fees because most courses were offered only in an online format.
- Additionally, the shift to almost fully online instruction meant that the fee, which would have been added to a nearly all University classes, would have forced a recalculation of the tuition restraint data used by the state budget office. The University could not risk exceeding the state limits on tuition/fee increases.
- Although the decision resulted in the loss of more than \$2 million in revenue in the last fiscal year, it was the right decision because students had, for the most part, registered for in-person course sections that were changed after the fact and then had no choice but to take online versions.
- The University reinstated the online course fee for the summer of 2021 when it resumed offering a substantial number of in-person classes as case rates of COVID-19 decreased.
- For this same reason, the University is reinstating the online course fee in the fall 2021 semester because the course offerings for fall 2021 are more similar to pre-pandemic fall semester course offerings in place for more than 15 years.
- Students who need financial assistance are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov. Students experiencing financial difficulty with expenses other than tuition can also apply for the Game Above Emergency Application.