UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEES
FEE REQUEST

College: College of Nursing

Program: Registered Nurse (RN) to MS WEB delivered

Is this a graduate or an undergraduate fee?

GRADUATE [X] UNDERGRADUATE [ ] OTHER [ ]

Is this a new fee or an increase to an existing fee?

NEW FEE [ ] Amount requested: $

EXISTING FEE [X] Current Fee: $2,600/semester Requested Fee: Maximum of $500 per SCH for residents and non-residents. Applies to Summer, Fall and Spring semesters.

BACKGROUND: Include information concerning the establishment of the fee, history of increases (if any), references to policy, and the campus review/approval process.

DISCUSSION: Include in the discussion how the request is covered under the ABOR Policy 4-104B, and the criteria listed below, for evaluating requests for fees.

A change to the special program fee for the RN to MS web delivered program is proposed for the College of Nursing. Students enrolled in the referenced program receive all of their didactic coursework via the D2L on line learning platform. The competitive dynamic for web delivered courses, and especially within nursing, necessitates flexibility in setting tuition for online content in order to maintain the market position of the College of Nursing. Nursing is the largest health profession and high on the list of growth industries so more and more proprietary educational entities are entering the market. As more competitors enter the space, the College of Nursing must have the ability to adapt to changing market conditions in order to attract students and maintain viability. Competitors include peer institutions and for-profit entities, many of which are able to react quickly to implement pricing strategies to undercut competitors and gain market advantage. Distance learners may reside anywhere yet still benefit from a University of Arizona education, thereby enhancing student access and extending the reach of the University of Arizona. This change is consistent with the concepts and recommendations included in the Arizona Higher Education Enterprise Strategic Realignment 2010.

Quality of Student Experience: Ranked among the top 6% of all Colleges of Nursing nationally for graduate education, the University of Arizona College of Nursing provides a high quality
educational experience for students with attention to all aspects of instruction and training inclusive of didactic content, clinical exposures and scholarly mentorship.

Access and Affordability: (Include a financial aid plan with a 17% set-aside for need-based financial aid.) The College of Nursing remains committed to providing access to graduate education for students seeking graduate preparation to embark on careers as professional and advanced practice nurse leaders. 17% of the fees will be set aside for financial aid to students who demonstrate need as evidenced on the FAFSA or equivalent calculator. The College of Nursing, through philanthropic sources, provides scholarships to a large number of graduate students and development efforts continue to focus upon student support.

College/School/Campus Cost of Instruction: The cost of instruction within the College of Nursing is relatively higher than non-clinical academic disciplines due to the need for specialized training, equipment and clinical oversight of students. On line programs require novel and advanced teaching/learning modalities and extensive development of collaborations and contracting with practicing clinicians that impact upon cost.

Market Pricing: From a market perspective, the program is priced at the peer median for resident students and below the peer median for non-resident students. Because it is essential that pricing for WEB delivered content is competitive and market driven, regardless of domicile, the actual program fee per SCH will be determined by the College of Nursing and posted by the Bursar in accordance with University policy prior to the start of the academic year.

Benefits to entire University: The fee will enable the College to maintain the quality of its programs and continue the over 50 year tradition of offering a nationally distinguished education in healthcare to meet the needs of the citizens of Arizona

Student Consultation and Support: Requested change to fee will not impact any existing students as no students are currently enrolled in College of Nursing RN to MS program.

Increased Earnings Potential of Program Graduates: The market demand for advanced practice nursing professionals remains very strong. Registered nurses with graduate training or specialty certification typically have opportunities for career advancement and salary augmentation. It is anticipated that many of the students in the RN to MS program will be sponsored by their employer in order to encourage advanced education and the resulting advancement.

Accountability: The College of Nursing submits annually to the Office of the Provost a full report on expenditures related to Program Fees. Fees are expended for instructional support, technology, and goods and services to enhance the student experience in the program.

Recommendation

The College of Nursing recommends approval of a program fee of $500 (maximum) per student credit hour for the web delivered RN to MS program.