

March 9, 2022

Dear Regents,

I am pleased to share Northern Arizona University's 2022-2023 Tuition and Fee proposal for your consideration.

Throughout my first year as president, I have focused on refining, articulating, and advancing NAU's distinctive mission. Guiding this work has been our university community's shared vision of being a national leader in supporting and delivering equitable postsecondary value to our students and the communities they represent. This vision makes clear our value proposition to students, communities, and partners, as we build on NAU's 122-year legacy of excellence as an engine of opportunity for Arizona. Now, more than ever, our work at NAU must advance equitable policies and practices and seek to broaden participation, close achievement gaps, and propel transformative outcomes that promote individual social and economic mobility in communities throughout our state and beyond.

To support our bold strategic initiatives, we must have sustainable resources to deliver high-quality academic and student support programs that contribute to transformative outcomes. Our 2022-2023 Tuition and Fee proposal reflects our focus on equity, access, and value, while also bridging the gap in resources caused by three class years with no tuition increase for most students, ongoing inflationary cost pressures, and the imperative to invest in new strategic initiatives to bolster our programs and services to students.

NAU's proposal is the product of significant planning and careful evaluation, and it reflects input and consultation with the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University (ASNAU) and the Graduate Student Government (GSG). In conversations with our leadership team, as well as consultation with student groups, there is a shared understanding that to preserve and enhance academic quality and prevent the burden of even higher adjustments for future students, this is the time to recalibrate our tuition and fee models in order to ensure equity for Lumberjacks—now and into the future.

Our proposal also assures our 14th year of the Pledge Program, guaranteeing a tuition rate for four years for our incoming resident undergraduate students on the Flagstaff campus, which provides financial predictability for students and families.

Informed by this context, below is a summary of NAU's 2022-2023 Tuition and Fee proposal:

- 3.5% tuition increase for Flagstaff and Statewide undergraduate and graduate students, to help address inflationary costs that have most recently exceeded 7% after three years of flat tuition rates.

*Equitable value impact:* increases in tuition are below inflation and will be partially offset by changes in financial aid structure for high-need students. More than 90% of incoming undergraduate students receive financial aid, reflecting NAU's strong commitment to affordability.

- Eliminate all undergraduate course and program fees (except Honors College fee) and add a tiered academic college fee structure for all students that is predictable and can be included in financial aid packages. Most students—63%—will be at the lowest college fee tier. This creates transparency and broadens the understanding of how fees are used to support students.  
*Equitable value impact:* simplifying fee structure improves predictability for student planning and financial aid awards, and it supports funding for student success initiatives, such as advising support and career and internship placement services. The entire fee becomes a basis for Regent Set Aside financial aid funding.
- Adjust online undergraduate and graduate per credit hour tuition by 2% (\$10 ) and increase Personalized Learning subscription rate by 3% (\$100)
- Establish an international student tuition rate that is \$1,000 higher than non-resident tuition rates to address the need for higher student service support.  
*Equitable value impact:* increases in international tuition will help cover the true cost of value-add support services for international students.
- Simplify tuition to reflect a per credit hour cost up to full-time (12 credits) for all new and continuing Flagstaff and statewide populations. Currently part-time students taking between 7-11 credits pay full tuition rates which subsidizes the cost for students who are taking over 12 credits. This simplification allows students to only pay for enrolled credit hours.  
*Equitable value impact:* decreases total cost of a degree for part-time students relative to full-time students. The part-time student population is both disproportionately under-represented and low income.
- Increase the Enrollment Deposit to \$325 for incoming fall 2023 students.  
*Equitable value impact:* increasing the enrollment fee ensures there is no fee for students and guests at orientation and provides additional support for first-generation and underserved students.

While the measures outlined above are important, their impact will only generate a portion of the overall resources necessary to advance our work. In conjunction with our Tuition and Fee proposal, it is imperative that NAU continues to refine our operations and generate efficiencies to continue to be effective stewards of our resources, as we seek to broaden student participation and attainment, improve outcomes, and enhance the vitality of our state’s workforce and economy.

We are proud of bold efforts underway—built on a 122-year legacy of excellence and success—that will ensure equitable access for future generations of Lumberjacks.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal and for your ongoing support of Northern Arizona University. I look forward to our discussions in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,



José Luis Cruz Rivera  
President  
Northern Arizona University