

March 9, 2023

Dear Regents,

I am pleased to share Northern Arizona University's 2023-24 Tuition and Fee proposal and the 2024-29 maximum growth rates for your consideration.

Our proposal continues to be guided by our vision set forth in [NAU 2025 – Elevating Excellence](#) to be the nation's preeminent engine of opportunity, vehicle of economic mobility, and driver of social impact by delivering equitable postsecondary value in Arizona and beyond. Our investment of institutional resources is focused on delivering exceptional academic programs and impactful student support services that together will broaden participation, improve completion rates, and strengthen post-college outcomes with close alignment to Arizona's workforce needs.

The bold initiatives we are pursuing to advance our access mission for the state have informed our tuition proposal and growth rates. In addition, the thoughtful input received from consultation with both the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University and the Graduate Student Government is incorporated in this proposal.

As we build on our legacy of excellence and service to Arizona, this proposal reflects the need for sustainable resources to invest in faculty and staff who are essential to deliver our mission; addresses important physical and technological infrastructure needs; ensures affordability, transparency, and predictability in pricing; and provides flexibility for students pursuing their education across our statewide locations to better meet the needs of individuals.

Informed by our strategic priorities, the broader funding and economic context in which we operate, and due consultation, below is a summary of key elements of our 2023-24 Tuition and Fee proposal:

- 3% tuition increase for undergraduate resident students.
- 4% tuition increase for graduate resident students.
- 5% tuition increase for non-resident and international students.
- 4% increase to college fees.
- \$1 per credit hour increase to IT fee.
- 4.25% increase for residential housing.
- 6% increase to meal plans.
- \$20 increase to undergraduate Honors program fee.
- And, setting the graduate Physical Therapy program fee at \$5,200 for all incoming cohorts.

Importantly, the 2023-24 proposal has several key strategic adjustments beyond base rate changes that will help us fully realize the goals of NAU 2025 – Elevating Excellence and best serve our students.

This fall will be our first year of the Access2Excellence (A2E) program, which assures full tuition coverage to Arizona resident students with a household income of less than \$65,000 per year—a threshold that includes approximately half of all households in the state—as well as all members of Arizona’s 22 federally recognized tribes. A2E provides a clear message to the people of Arizona that NAU will meet talented students’ college-going aspirations with an exceptional and affordable pathway to attainment, contributing to the economic and social vitality of our state.

As A2E goes into effect, NAU has discontinued the Pledge fixed tuition rate, with the incoming cohort this year being the final Pledge cohort. This step was outlined in last year’s tuition proposal and helps prevent higher tuition adjustments for future classes of NAU students that have occurred in the past due to deferred costs.

In addition, this year’s tuition proposal seeks to align the undergraduate statewide base tuition rate with the Flagstaff rate. This adjustment provides all students—no matter where they live in the state and no matter what NAU location they choose to learn at—with the same base tuition and scholarship structure at the time of admission, resulting in enhanced flexibility, choice, and affordability throughout their educational journey based on students’ personal needs and professional aspirations.

Finally, with the introduction of a multi-year maximum annual growth rate for the period of fall 2024 through fall 2029, NAU proposes a modest maximum rate for tuition increases in any given year—3.5% for undergraduate resident tuition and 5% for graduate resident tuition and academic fees. This approach will enable the university to remain nimble in adapting to the evolving strategic context and inflationary pressures, while at the same time providing students and families with a predictable framework and upper limit for tuition and fee increases. The proposed 7% and 8% maximum growth rates for housing and dining, respectively, reflect the increasing operational costs in these areas and the need to continue to address deferred maintenance in the university housing infrastructure.

I am confident that the bold efforts underway at NAU will drive economic mobility and social impact for Lumberjacks today and into the future as we meet the critical needs for attainment in Arizona with opportunity and excellence.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting Northern Arizona University and the students and communities of our state. I look forward to our discussion and your thoughtful consideration in the weeks ahead on our proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JL Cruz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

José Luis Cruz Rivera
President