

Peer Technology and Distance Education Fees

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In the following report, Hanover Research examines and compares the structure of technology and distance learning–related fees at 17 peer institutions.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

This report studies the structure and assessment of university technology fees and distance education fees at 17 of University of Alaska Anchorage's peer institutions. It contains three sections:

- **Section I: Technology Fees** studies the fees that peer institutions collect in order to maintain and enhance their technology infrastructure. These fees are generally charged to all students, and the section breaks down the total value of the fees and the prevalence of various strategies for assessing them.
- **Section II: Distance Education Fees** examines the fees and/or differential tuition that peer institutions apply to online and blended learning courses to offset the cost of delivering these courses. For the purposes of this report, any fee or tuition surcharge that is charged only for distance education is defined as a distance education fee. This section tracks the cost of distance education relative to traditional methods of instruction and also looks at the prevalence of various tuition and fee structures.
- **Section III: Narrative Profiles of Fee Structures among Peer Institutions** contains short profiles detailing the Technology Fees and Distance Education Fees at University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and its peers.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Thirteen of UAA's 17 peers charge a technology fee of some kind, and the average value of that fee is \$8.90 per credit.** This normalized average is based on a full-time undergraduate enrollment of 12 credits per semester. Only one institution charges higher technology fees to graduate students and none charge higher technology fees to non-resident students. The purpose of these fees is typically meant to support campus technology infrastructure, which can range from hardware and software to a designated amount of fee-subsidized printing for students.
 - **UAA's technology fee of \$5 per credit is below the average for its peer group.** Four institutions do not charge a technology fee of any sort, and the highest fee rate is \$15.75 per credit hour. Nine of the 17 peer institutions charge a higher technology fee than UAA.
- **Among the 11 institutions that charge a universal technology fee, there is little consensus about how to assess this fee.** Five institutions charge on a per-credit basis, three charge a flat fee each semester, and three have a hybrid model in which the fee structure is based on enrollment status or credits taken. Specifically, the per-credit value of the fee varies at some institutions depending upon the number of credits a student takes.
- **Distance education fees are common among UAA's peers, and usually take the form of a standalone fee or differential tuition.** Fourteen peer institutions offer a substantial amount of distance education courses and have a fee structure in place

that allows the cost of online learning to be compared to the cost of traditional education. When the purpose of these fees is specified, they are usually devoted to faculty training, technological infrastructure, and online course platforms.

- **Of the 12 peers that charge a distance education fee, eight structure it as a flat fee added to the cost of tuition, while three institutions charge differential tuition instead of a fee.** One peer charges both a differential tuition rate and a fee. All but one of the peers charges their distance education fee on a per-credit basis, while Northwestern State University of Louisiana charges on a per-course basis.
- **For in-state undergraduate and graduate students, UAA's distance education fee is slightly lower than its peer group averages, which are \$30 and \$36 per credit, respectively.** Most of UAA's peers charge a nominal premium of \$5 to \$50 per credit for online instruction. A minority of institutions does not charge a fee or differential tuition for online education, and a few institutions charge substantially higher distance education fees of \$62 to \$131 per credit.
- **For out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students, UAA's distance education fee of \$25 per credit is slightly more than the average among its peers.** This is because Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, Northern Kentucky University, Weber State University, and Western Kentucky University all offer differential tuition to non-resident online students that makes online learning hundreds of dollars per-credit cheaper than onsite out-of-state tuition. While these institutions skew the average, most of the institutions on the peer list charge distance education fees ranging from \$5 to \$50 per credit in addition to the cost of out-of-state tuition.
- **The collection of university technology fees and distance education fees is highly centralized.** There does not appear to be any peer institutions at which these fees are administered and collected separately from tuition and other fees. Responsible offices include the Office of the Bursar, Student Financial Services, university business offices, and financial aid offices.

SECTION I: TECHNOLOGY FEES

This section will examine university technology fees at University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) self-selected peer institutions. The data presented here derive from Hanover's analysis of institutional websites and policy documents regarding tuition and fees for the 2014-2015 academic year.

For the purposes of this report, a technology fee is defined as an explicit fee, usually billed to all students, and often but not always earmarked to offset the cost of the university's technology infrastructure. When an institution gives no evidence of charging a freestanding technology fee, or does not provide clear information on the value of that fee, it has been excluded from the analysis of average costs per credit. Such institutions are, however, included in the analysis of different fee structures. Technology fees do not include specific fees or differential tuition charged for online, hybrid, or distance education courses. These expenses are studied in Section II of this report.

METHODOLOGY FOR COMPARING TECHNOLOGY FEES

A standardized comparison of how institutions structure their technology fees (discussed in this section) can be complicated by the sheer variability of these structures. Several considerations and limitations regarding an analysis of fees are described below:

- Some institutions charge on a per-semester basis, while others assess their technology fees on a per-credit basis. For example, a student at Arkansas Tech University would be liable for a \$130 per semester technology fee even if they only took one three-credit class that semester, while a student at Purdue University-Calumet taking three credits would pay only \$26.25 in technology fees for the semester. **For ease of comparison between institutions using the per-credit and per-semester fee models, this report assumes an enrollment of 12 credits per semester**, which is the minimum threshold for full-time undergraduate attendance according to the National Center for Education Statistics.¹
- Because only one of the peer institutions (Florida Gulf Coast University) charges a different technology fee for graduate students and none charge out-of-state students a higher fee, these populations are not analyzed independently in this section.
- Three of the peer institutions charge on either a semester basis or a per-credit basis, depending upon the number of credits a student takes. For the sake of consistency, Hanover's analysis always converts per-semester charges for 12 credits into a per-credit technology fee. While this approach enables a standardized comparison, it does not reflect the fact that some institutions charge a per-credit fee for a certain range of part-time credits, but charge a flat semester fee for a full-time load. For instance, Youngstown State University charges \$10 per credit which is capped at

¹ "Full-time student." National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Glossary. <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/index.asp?id=259>

\$120, so a student taking 15 credits instead of 12 would simply pay the flat fee of \$120 per semester.

- For the three institutions that charge a flat fee, or that charge different rates for full-time and part-time students, the per-credit rate at each attendance threshold can vary considerably depending upon the number of credits a student takes. Again, this report sets the number of credits for inter-institutional comparisons at 12 when calculating the per-credit technology fee. However, it should be acknowledged that depending on enrollment level, costs per credit could be substantially higher or lower at some institutions.

Readers should note that all of the peer institutions that charge a technology fee do so on a per-credit or per-semester basis, and the 12-credit enrollment threshold used to calculate comparisons among the peer group equates to a semester of full-time attendance. Unless otherwise noted, it can be assumed that the annual technology fee cost to enroll in 24 credits over the course of two semesters is 24 times the per-credit rates shown in this report.

ANALYSIS OF PEER INSTITUTION PRACTICES

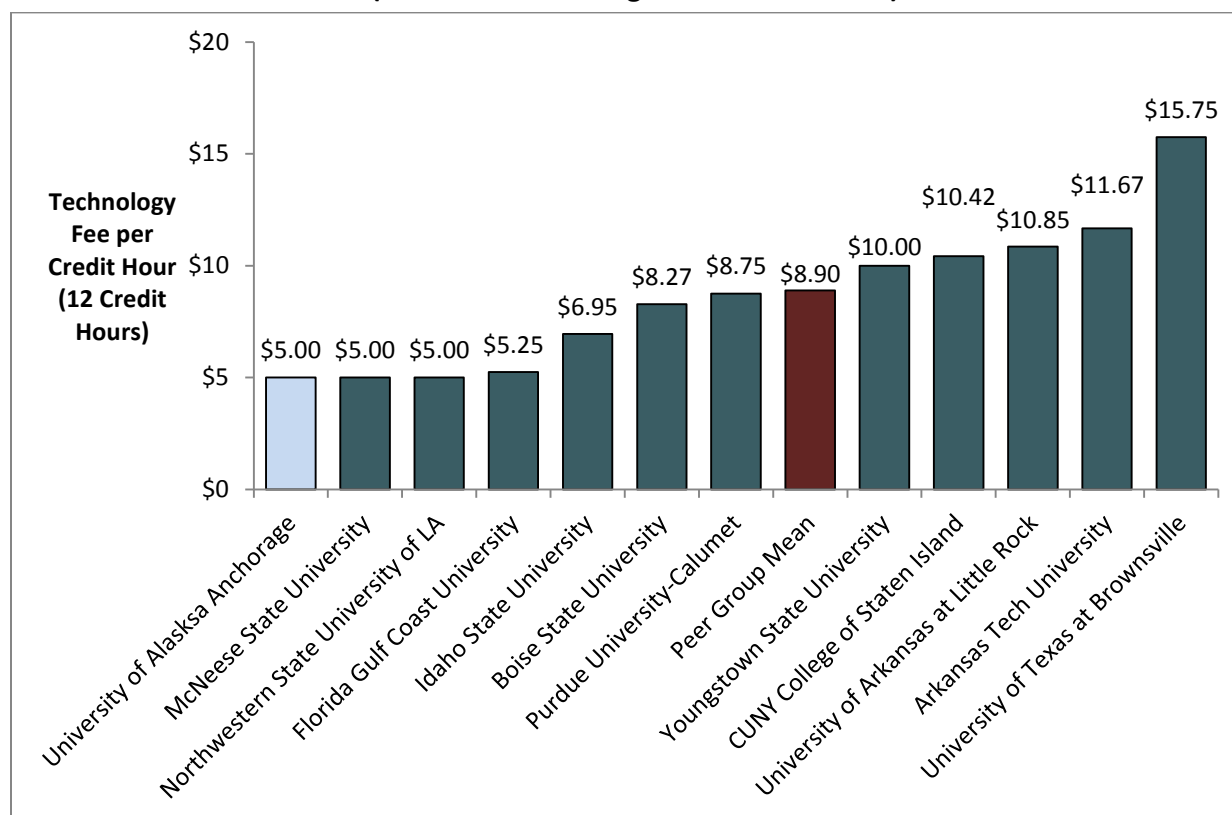
Thirteen of UAA's 17 peer institutions charge a technology fee of some kind, and the average amount assessed is \$8.90 per credit hour. One of these 13 institutions—Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne—charges a technology fee of some kind, but it appears to be embedded in other fees or students' tuition charges. Ferris State University charges a differential tuition rate for what it terms "technology intensive" courses. This surcharge is essentially a \$50 per-credit technology fee applied to specific courses. Because it is not universally assessed, this fee is not included in the analysis below. Thus, the peer group average includes data from the 11 institutions that charge a standalone technology fee as a standard practice.

STANDARDIZED COMPARISON OF TECHNOLOGY FEES

Assuming a student at each institution on the peer list is enrolled at the full-time threshold of 12 credits (or equivalent), **technology fees range in value from \$5.00 per credit hour to \$15.75 per hour.** Figure 1.1 shows the per-credit charge levied by each institution that charges a technology fee. As noted above, the per-credit cost of the fee can vary in some cases depending upon how many credits a student takes at a given institution, and these numbers reflect 12 credits of enrollment.

UAA's technology fee is among the lowest in the peer group at \$5.00 per credit hour. The University of Texas at Brownsville charges the highest per-credit technology fee. Additional details about how these fees are structured at each of the institutions are provided in Section III.

**Figure 1.1: Per-credit Technology Fees by Institution
(12 Credits of Undergraduate Enrollment)**



Source: Institutional websites

ALTERNATIVES TO THE TECHNOLOGY FEE

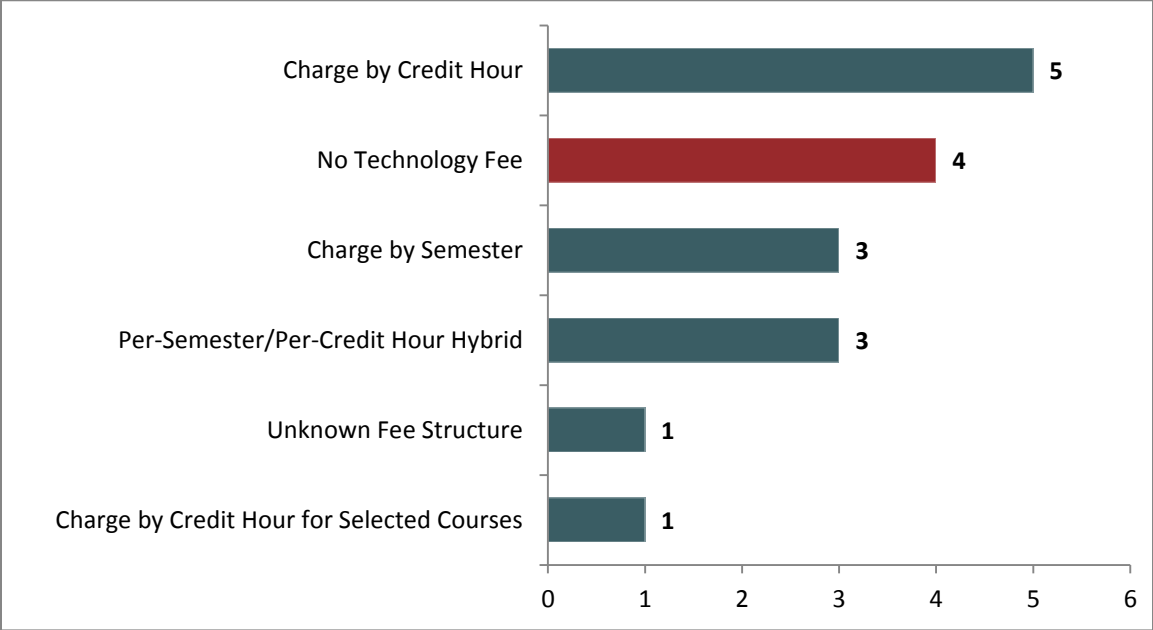
While charging a technology fee of some kind is a common practice among the peer group, there are alternatives. Four peer institutions do not charge a technology fee for students in traditional, campus-based programs. These institutions include Northern Kentucky University, Troy University, Weber State University, and Western Kentucky University.

TECHNOLOGY FEE STRUCTURES

Among the 11 institutions that charge a universal technology fee and for which reliable data are available, there is little consensus about how to assess this fee. The most common method, used by five institutions and also used in a modified form by Ferris State University for students who enroll in “technology intensive” courses, is to charge per credit hour. Another three institutions charge a flat fee each semester. The remaining three institutions use a hybrid method that can include both a flat semester fee and an additional per-credit fee (e.g. University of Texas at Brownsville) or alternate between the per-credit and flat rate models depending upon a student’s enrollment status (e.g. Idaho State University).

Figure 1.2 shows the breakdown of institutions in the peer group according to whether or not they charge a technology fee, and if so, how that fee is assessed.

Figure 1.2: Technology Fee Prevalence and Structure Among Peer Institutions



Source: Institutional websites

Figure 1.3 shows the value of each institution’s technology fee on a per-credit basis and summarizes the means by which the fees are assessed. Institutions that do not charge a technology fee are not included. Additional information is contained in the short narrative profiles in Section III.

Figure 1.3: Technology Fees and Administration by Institution

INSTITUTION	FEE NAME	ASSESSMENT	FEE STRUCTURE	STANDARDIZED PER CREDIT VALUE (12 CREDITS)	PAID BY
University of Alaska Anchorage	Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$5/credit, capped at \$60/semester	\$5.00	All Students
IPFW	Technology Fee	Unknown	>\$40/semester	N/A	All students
Arkansas Tech University	Technology Fee	Per Semester	\$140/semester	\$11.67	All students
Boise State University	Information Technology Fee	Per Semester	\$99.25/semester	\$8.27	All students
CUNY College of Staten Island	Technology Fee	Per Semester	\$125/semester for FT & \$62.50/semester for PT	\$10.42	All students
Idaho State University	Campus Technology Fee	Per Semester/ Per Course	\$83.40/semester for FT or \$6.15/credit for PT	\$6.95	All students
University of Texas at Brownsville	Technology Fee	Per Semester & Per Credit	\$45 Base Rate, increased by \$12/credit hour for each hour taken	\$15.75	All students
Youngstown State University	Information Services Fee	Per Semester or Per Credit	\$10/credit hour for 1-11 or >16 credits; \$120/semester for 12-16 credits	\$10.00	All Students
McNeese State University	Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$5 per credit capped at \$100 per semester	\$5.00	All students
Northwestern State University of LA	Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$5 per credit capped at \$100 per semester	\$5.00	All Students
Purdue University-Calumet	Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$8.75/credit	\$8.75	All Students
Florida Gulf Coast University	Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$5.25 for undergraduates/ \$14.52 for graduates	\$5.25-\$14.52	All students
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Technology Infrastructure Fee	Per Credit	\$2.75/credit hour	\$10.85-\$15.05	All students
	College Technology Fees	Per Credit	College fees range from \$8.10/credit to \$12.30/credit		
Ferris State University	Technology Intensive Course Fee	Per Credit	\$50 more than regular course	N/A	Students in Tech-Intensive Courses

Source: Institutional websites

SECTION II: DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES

This report classifies distance education fees as any expenses applied exclusively to online, hybrid, or blended course offerings. It will use the term “distance education fees” to refer to these types of expenses, which can be any kind of extra cost associated with online learning. The two main types of distance education fees are:

- **Direct Fees** assessed for online coursework. These can include per-credit, per-course, per-semester, and per-program fees, though per-credit fees are the most common.
- **Differential Tuition** charged for online learning. In some cases, universities do not charge a designated fee for their online offerings, but they do charge a higher tuition compared to traditional courses. In these cases, Hanover has opted to count the differential tuition as a “hidden fee” that often accomplishes the same ends as a declared fee. The analysis below will discuss the prevalence of this practice relative to the assessment of a specific fee. **All differential tuition figures in this report reflect the per-credit difference between the cost of a traditional credit and an equivalent online one.** This number is positive if the online program is more expensive, or negative if it is cheaper.

Where institutional documentation stipulates a purpose for these funds, they are most often meant to fund the training, infrastructure, and support required to deliver online courses effectively. Readers should note that differential tuition arrangements can complicate attempts to calculate the cost of online education relative to traditional methods of study. This is because the cost of online education may be higher than in-state tuition for traditional students, but lower than out-of-state tuition. As a result, the cost efficiency of online education at many of UAA’s peer institutions can vary considerably based upon a student’s residency status and degree program. At some institutions, the cost of online education is hundreds of dollars cheaper than the cost of traditional education for non-resident students.

METHODOLOGY FOR COMPARING DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES

This analysis of distance education fees includes information on 14 peer institutions. Youngstown State University is excluded from this analysis due to the complexity of its fee structure for online education, which prevents any generalizations about the cost differential relative to traditional instruction. CUNY College of Staten Island is also omitted because it does not offer online courses for standard academic credit and Purdue University Calumet is omitted because its distance education offerings are limited. Weber State University is omitted from the graduate-level charts because it does not offer online graduate programs. Finally, all distance education fee values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Overall, there is more consistency among peer institutions regarding distance education fee structures than for technology fee structures. **Only one peer institution charges by the course, and the remaining 11 charge on a per-credit basis.** Nevertheless, there are a number of variations in the way institutions assess distance education fees and differential tuition. Considerations and limitations for the standardized comparison of distance education fees and differential tuition are discussed below:

- Since a small minority of institutions charge their distance education fees on a per-course or per-semester basis, it is necessary to convert their charges to per-credit figures to compare them with the majority of institutions, which charge per credit. In order to standardize a comparison of institutions, this report uses an enrollment level of 12 credits per semester for undergraduate students as the basis for calculating per-credit differential tuition and fees. As noted above, this is the threshold for full-time enrollment used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
- Some distance education fees and differential tuition plans charge graduate students at different rates than undergraduates. To account for these differences, the analysis below will include separate calculations of the per-credit cost differential for graduate students. **The per-credit cost differentials for graduate students are calculated on the basis of nine credits per semester**, which is the threshold for full-time graduate enrollment according to the NCES.² In cases where graduate students take more or less than nine credits, the per-credit rates at some institutions may be higher or lower than they are at the nine-credit enrollment threshold.
- At some institutions, out-of-state tuition rates for both undergraduate and graduate students do not apply to online courses. In other words, these students pay the same tuition and fees for their online courses that in-state students do. Normally, this means that the tuition and fee differential for out-of-state students is negative—that is, it is cheaper for them to take courses online than it would be to attend traditional classes at the institution. The analysis below tracks distance education fees for out-of-state undergraduates relative to traditional out-of-state expenses at the standard 12 credits of enrollment, and similarly assumes nine credits of enrollment each semester for graduate students.
- Some institutions charge more than one fee for their online students. Whether or not a fee is counted toward the total differential amount for these institutions depends upon what the fee pays for. Fees assessed for specific types of course delivery—e.g. online or hybrid—are always counted, while fees assessed for specific types of courses or specific programs—e.g. a special fee applied only to an online adult education program at Northern Kentucky University—are not counted.

While per-semester and annual tuition and fee differentials for online courses in this report are calculated by assuming full-time enrollment of 12 credits for undergraduates and nine

² "Full-time student." Op. cit.

credits for graduates, semester and annualized total fees will differ for some institutions if their per-credit rates change according to the number of credits a student takes.

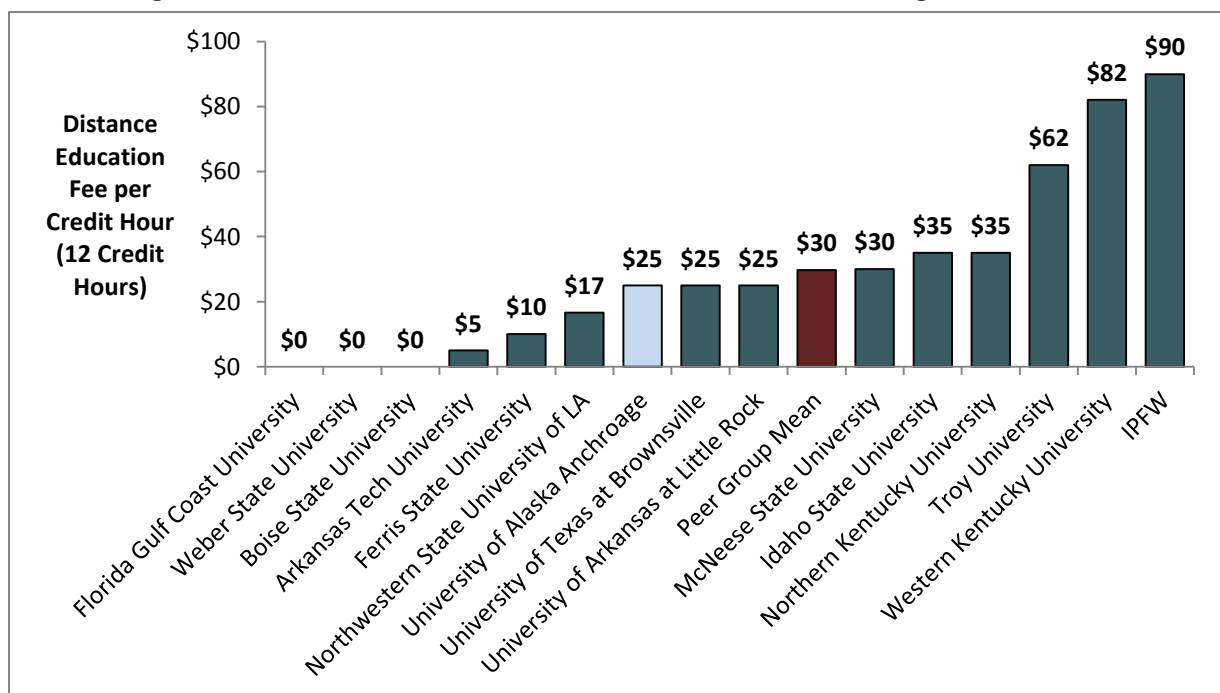
ANALYSIS OF PEER INSTITUTION PRACTICES

The sections below summarize the per-credit distance learning fees for different populations of students by institution. In general, **the majority of the peer institutions favor a distance education fee model that resembles UAA's and includes a nominal extra cost for online learning.** At the same time, other peer institutions like Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, Northern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, and Troy University are experimenting with a different fee structure for online courses. Their practices show that distance education fees can also be calibrated to attract non-resident students with substantially lower costs than normal out-of-state tuition, or, alternatively, that distance education courses can be offered at a substantial premium, especially when compared to in-state tuition for traditional coursework.

COMPARISON OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES FOR IN-STATE UNDERGRADUATES

Among UAA's peers, the per-credit premium attached to online education for in-state undergraduates ranges from \$0 to \$90. **The average per-credit distance education fee is approximately \$30, and UAA falls slightly below this figure at \$25 per credit.** Several institutions charge exactly the same amount for distance education as they do for regular coursework, while Troy University, Western Kentucky University, and Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne have made their online course offering substantially more expensive than in-state tuition.

Figure 2.1: Per-Credit Distance Education Fees, In-State Undergraduates



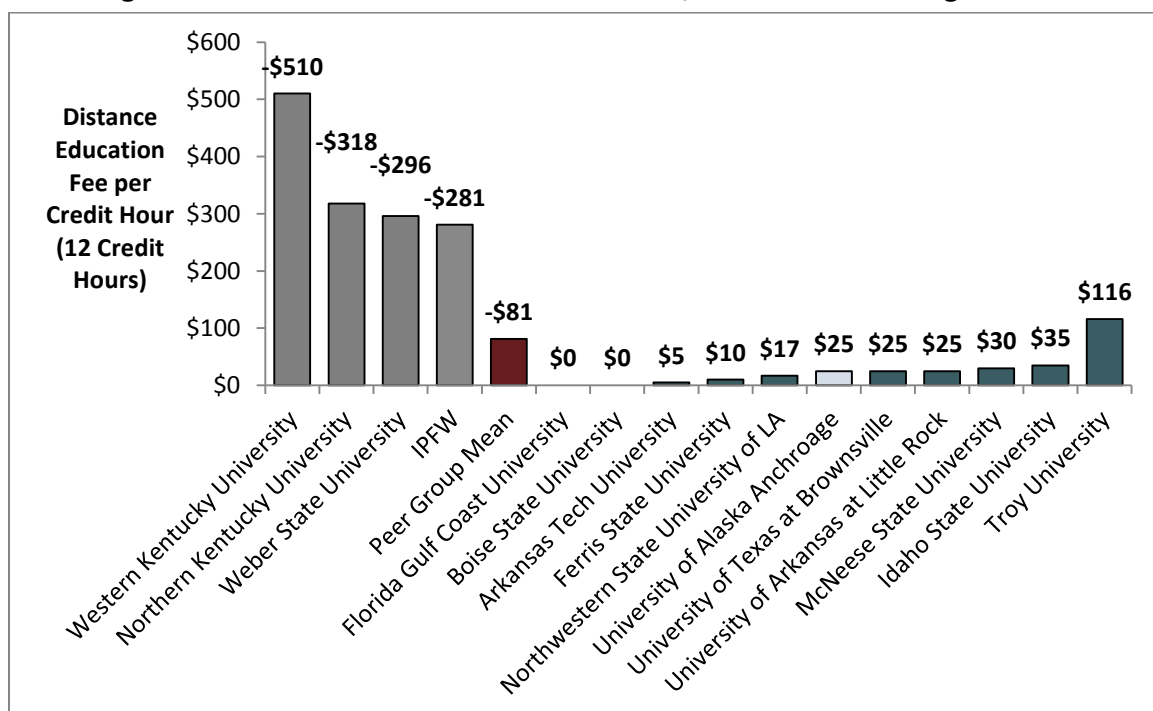
Source: Institutional websites

COMPARISON OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES FOR OUT-OF-STATE UNDERGRADUATES

Figure 2.2 shows the per-credit distance education fee for out-of-state undergraduate students at UAA and its peers. The four institutions on the far left (in dark gray), as well as the peer group mean, are negative numbers since out-of-state students actually pay less per-credit than for traditional courses. As a rule, out-of-state online fees for distance education do not differ substantially from the out-of-state tuition and fees for traditional education at most institutions.

Most institutions, including UAA, charge a small, per-credit fee for online course delivery on top of tuition, but a few of the peer group institutions price their online course offerings more aggressively. For instance, Western Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Weber State University, and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne charge differential tuition for online learning, which applies to non-resident students as well as in-state students. These differential rates can substantially reduce the cost per credit for non-resident students taking online courses and may serve to attract out-of-state students to these universities' online programs. In contrast, Troy University charges non-resident students much more for online offerings than for traditional courses. This practice may discourage online enrollment, but it also increases the revenues the university receives from each online learner.

Figure 2.2: Per-Credit Distance Education Fees, Out-of-State Undergraduates

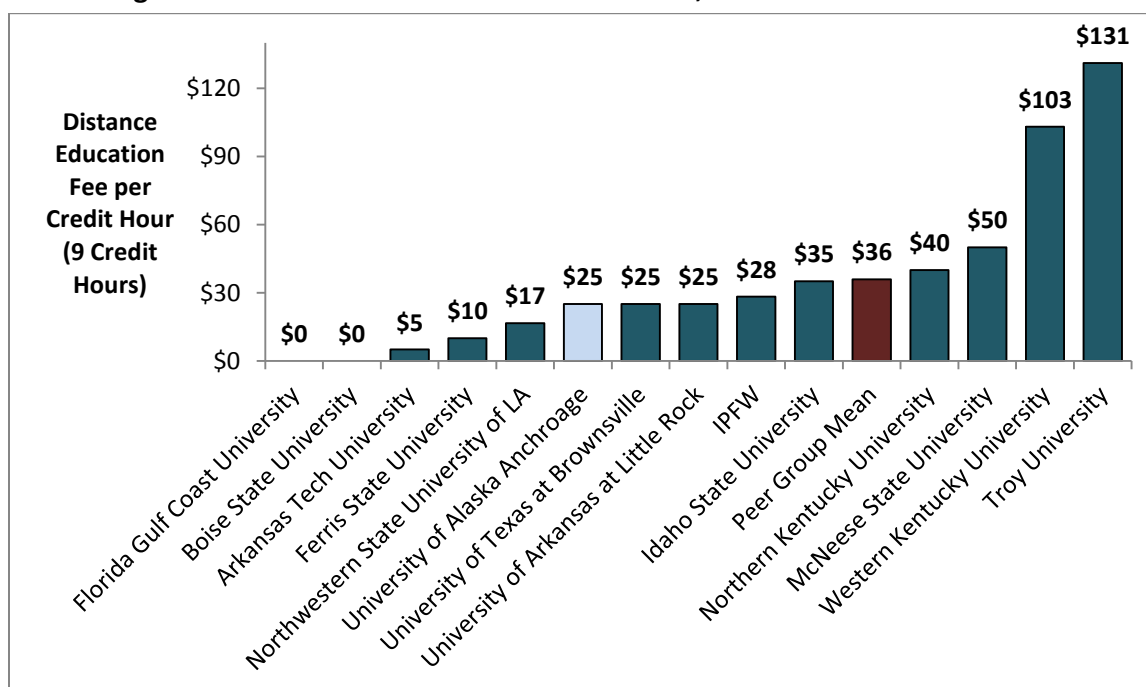


Source: Institutional websites

COMPARISON OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES FOR IN-STATE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Figure 2.3 tracks the per-credit distance education fee for in-state graduate students. **UAA's per-credit fee is \$25, which falls below the peer group mean of \$36 per-credit discount compared to traditional graduate courses.** Both Western Kentucky University and Troy University charge their online in-state graduate students differential tuition, which raises their total price per credit substantially compared to the standard in-state tuition rates at those institutions. Florida Gulf Coast University and Boise State University charge in-state students the same amount per credit for online graduate courses as they do for traditional format courses.

Figure 2.3: Per-Credit Distance Education Fees, In-State Graduate Students



Source: Institutional websites

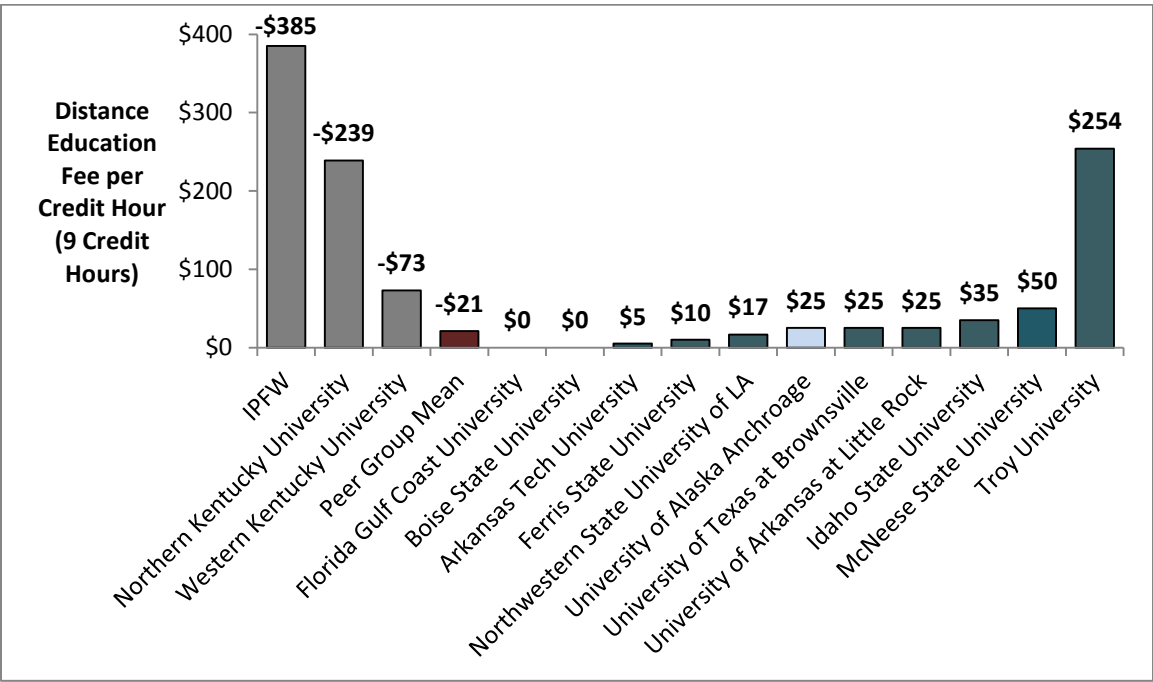
COMPARISON OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FEES FOR OUT-OF-STATE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Figure 2.4 displays the cost of distance education for out-of-state graduate students relative to traditional out-of-state tuition. **Most institutions on the peer list, including UAA, charge comparatively small distance education fees that amount to a modest premium over the out-of-state cost of traditionally delivered graduate courses.** As with the undergraduate out-of-state distance education fees in Figure 2.2, there are a handful of institutions that charge a special online education differential tuition. This differential rate applies to non-resident students and lowers the cost of these programs for them. These institutions are shaded in gray to represent the fact that their differential tuition schemes effectively equate to a discount to online students.

The same intuitions that offer reduced distance education tuition and fees to out-of-state distance education undergraduates also offer these reduced rates to graduate students. At

the same time, Troy University charges a substantial online course premium in addition to out-of-state tuition, and this practice drastically increases the final cost of the program for these students.

Figure 2.4: Per-Credit Distance Education Fees, Out-of-State Graduate Students

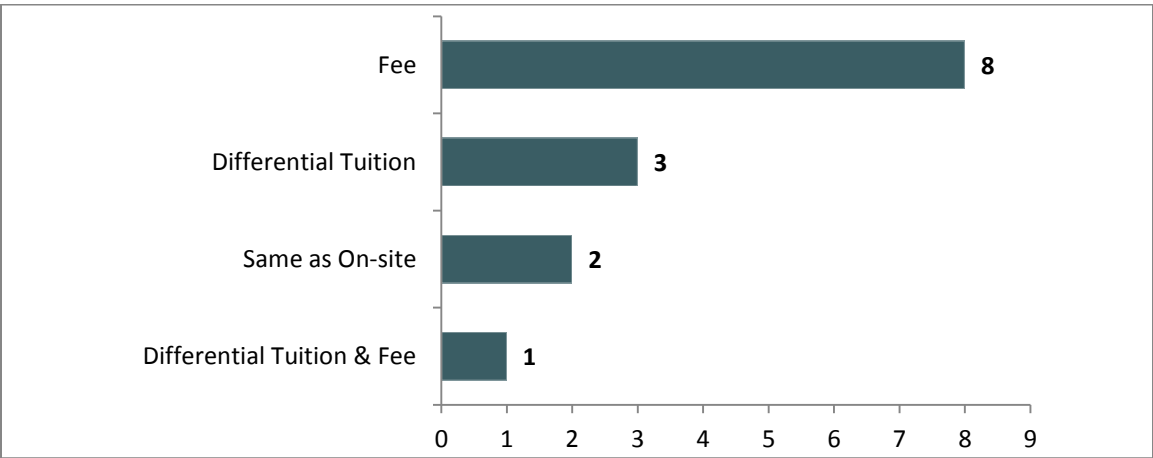


Source: Institutional websites

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE STRUCTURES

Figure 2.5 breaks down the method by which the peer institutions studied in Section II assess their distance education fees.

Figure 2.5: Distance Education Fee Structure Among UAA’s Peer Institutions



Source: Institutional websites

Eight institutions charge a fee, usually on a per-credit basis, for distance education services. Three institutions charge differential tuition rates, which can vary markedly from their in-state and out-of-state rates, and one institution charges a combination of differential tuition and a designated online learning fee.

Figure 2.6 summarizes the distance education fee amounts and structures discussed in this section for each of the institutions included in Section II. All dollar amounts represent the per-credit cost for the type of student and residency classification in question. For Northwestern State University of Louisiana, where the distance education fee is charged on a per-course basis, the amount in each column has been converted into a per-credit value based on the per-course amount. Negative numbers indicate that the per-credit cost of attendance at that degree level and residency classification is cheaper for distance education than it is for traditional education.

Figure 2.6: Standardized Distance Education Fees by Institution

INSTITUTION	FEE NAME	ASSESSMENT	COST PER CREDIT			
			IN-STATE UNDER-GRADUATE	OUT-OF-STATE UNDER-GRADUATE	IN-STATE GRADUATE	OUT-OF-STATE GRADUATE
University of Alaska Anchorage	eLearning Fee	Per Credit	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Arkansas Tech University	Distance Learning/Mixed Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Boise State University	No additional fee	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ferris State University	On-line Learning Fee	Per Credit	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Florida Gulf Coast University	No Additional Fee	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Idaho State University	eISU Fee	Per Credit	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
IPFW	Distance Learning Tuition	Per Credit	\$89.95	-\$281.50	\$28.25	-\$384.90
McNeese State University	Web-based course fee & 100% Online Course Fee	Per Credit	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Northern Kentucky University	Undergraduate Online Course Fee/Tuition	Per Credit	\$35.00	-\$318.00	\$40.00	-\$239.00
Northwestern State University of LA	Electronic Course Fee	Per Course	\$16.67	\$16.67	\$16.67	\$16.67
Troy University	Online Course Fee/Tuition	Per Credit	\$62.00	\$116.00	\$131.00	\$254.00
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Distance Education Technology Fee	Per Credit	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
University of Texas at Brownsville	UTB Web Fee/UTB Hybrid Course Fee	Per Credit	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Weber State University	Semester-based online, in-state	Per Credit	\$0.00	-\$295.82	--	--
Western Kentucky University	Undergraduate Distance Learning Course Fee	Per Credit	\$82.00	-\$510.00	\$103.00	-\$73.00
Peer Group Average			\$29.69	-\$81.08	\$36.07	-\$21.25

Source: Institutional websites

SECTION III: SUMMARY PROFILES OF FEE STRUCTURES AMONG PEER INSTITUTIONS

The profiles below offer narrative summaries of each institution's technology fee and distance education fee policies and cite the sources of those policies. Where information is available, they also name the department(s) or governing bodies charged with overseeing the collection and allocation of these fees and describe any procedures or stipulations related to their use. Unless otherwise noted, the office or department that oversees the collection of technology fees (always along with tuition and other fees) is the same one that collects distance education fees.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

TECHNOLOGY FEE

UAA charges a \$5 per credit technology fee, which is capped at the 12 credit threshold of \$60 per semester.³ Proceeds from this fee are used to provide “up-to-date equipment, software, maintenance, training and support for students.”⁴

In addition to the universally required technology fee, the university also assesses a Network Charge of “three percent” of the cost of tuition for certain courses. This fee is meant to cover “rising costs, especially in the maintenance and enhancement of university-wide technology infrastructure,” carries a minimum charge of \$3, and is rounded to the nearest dollar when calculated.⁵ The minimum technology fee for a full-time student is therefore \$60 per semester and \$5 per credit, though students enrolled in classes to which the Network Charge applies could pay more.

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

The university assesses a \$25 per credit e-Learning Fee for all distance education courses taken through UAA. Tuition rates for distance learners are the same as they are for students taking courses on campus.⁶

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) charges a flat-rate technology fee of \$130 per semester, as well as a \$10 Technology Equipment Fee. Taken together for a total aggregate technology

³ “Tuition and Fees.” University of Alaska Anchorage. <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/financialaid/costs.cfm>

⁴ “Semester Expenses.” University of Alaska Anchorage. <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/records/registration/semester-expenses.cfm/>

⁵ [1] Ibid.

[2] “Fees.” University of Alaska Anchorage. pp. 1-2.
<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/tuitionfeesandfinancialaid/fees/fees.pdf>

⁶ “Semester Expenses.” University of Alaska Anchorage. Op. cit.

fee of \$140, these fees equate to \$11.67 per credit for students enrolled in 12 credits. Both fees are “required each semester or term.”⁷ They apply equally to graduate and undergraduate students.⁸

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Regardless of their enrollment level or their status as undergraduate or graduate students, all ATU students who enroll in distance learning or blended learning courses pay a Distance Learning/Mixed Technology Fee. This fee is always \$5 per credit hour, and its purpose is not explicitly specified. Tuition for ATU’s online course offerings is identical to on-site tuition.⁹

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Boise State University (Boise State) charges a flat-rate Information Technology Fee of \$99.25 per semester for undergraduate students taking 12 credits or more, and assesses its technology fee at a rate of \$9.45 per credit for part-time and summer session students.¹⁰ The full-time threshold for graduate students at the university is nine or more credits.¹¹ This fee is “charged for campus technology enhancements and operations.”¹² Like all university fees, the technology fee is administered by the University Financial Services office.¹³

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Students taking online courses at Boise State pay the tuition rates and fees that correspond to their degree program and their residency status. There are no additional fees specific to the university’s online courses.¹⁴

CUNY COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

TECHNOLOGY FEE

CUNY College of Staten Island (CSI) charges a technology fee of \$125 per semester for full-time students taking “12 or more equated credits in a semester” and \$62.50 per semester for part-time students, regardless of the number of credits they take up to 11.¹⁵ These fees

⁷ “Fees and Expenses.” Arkansas Tech University. <http://www.atu.edu/academics/catalog/fees-expenses.html>

⁸ “Tuition and Fees 2014-15.” Arkansas Tech University. <http://www.atu.edu/stuaccts/tuitionfees-14-15.php>

⁹ See: “Arkansas Tech Online Policies.” Arkansas Tech University. <http://www.atu.edu/etech/online-policies.php>

¹⁰ “Boise State University 2014-2015 Schedule of Tuition & Fees.” Boise State University. <http://vpfa.boisestate.edu/budget/files/2014/05/FY15-Tuition-Fees.pdf>

¹¹ “Boise State University Fees.” Boise State University. <http://vpfa.boisestate.edu/student-financial-services/boise-state-university-fees/>

¹² “Tuition and Student Fees.” Boise State University Policy Manual. December 13, 2010. <http://policy.boisestate.edu/academic-affairs-student/policy-title-tuition-and-student-fees/>

¹³ “Boise State University Fees.” Boise State University. Op. cit.

¹⁴ [1] “Frequently Asked Questions.” Boise State University. <http://ecampus.boisestate.edu/students/get-started/faq/>

[2] “Boise State University Fees.” Boise State University. Op. cit.

¹⁵ “Tuition and Fees.” CUNY College of Staten Island Undergraduate Catalog, 2014-2015. <http://www.csi.cuny.edu/catalog/undergraduate/tuition-and-fees.htm#o3339>

and enrollment thresholds for full-time status are identical for the university's graduate programs.¹⁶

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

CSI offers a limited number of online and distance education vocational programs and classes. These courses last six weeks and focus on single topics or skillsets. Course titles include Medical Terminology, Keys to Successful Money Management, and Mastering Your Digital SLR Camera, and most cost a flat fee of \$140.¹⁷ Because these programs generally do not lead to an academic credential, CSI has not been included in this report's analysis of distance education fees.

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Ferris State University (Ferris State) does not charge a designated technology fee. Its fees include only a facility fee, a Student Activity & Government Fee, and a Health Center Fee.¹⁸ One way that Ferris State appears to mitigate the fact that it does not charge a universal technology fee is through its decision to charge differential tuition for what it labels "technology intensive" courses at the undergraduate level. Technology intensive courses cost \$50 more per credit than analogous non-technology intensive courses.¹⁹

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Ferris State charges the same tuition rates for distance education programs and courses as it does for traditional education. The one difference is the addition of an On-line Learning Fee "assessed at \$10 per credit hour to all on-line courses to support on-line instruction."²⁰

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) assesses a small technology fee of \$5.25 per credit hour for all in-state and out-of-state undergraduate students, and \$14.52 per credit hour for all graduate students.²¹ It is the only institution on the peer list to charge graduate students a

¹⁶ "Tuition and Fees." CUNY College of Staten Island Graduate Catalog, 2014-2015.
<http://www.csi.cuny.edu/catalog/graduate/tuition-and-fees.htm>

¹⁷ "Continuing Education Online Classes." CUNY College of Staten Island.
http://www.csi.cuny.edu/continue/online_classes.html

¹⁸ "Ferris State University 2014-2015." Ferris State University. June 12, 2014. p. 1.
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/businessoffice/20142015rategreensheet.pdf>

¹⁹ "Tuition Rates." Ferris State University. <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/online/tuition/tuition.htm>

²⁰ [1] "2014-2015 Approved Tuition Rates." Ferris State University.
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/businessoffice/tuition-rates.htm>

[2] "Tuition Rates." Ferris State University. Op. cit.

²¹ "Tuition & Fee Details." Florida Gulf Coast University. <http://www.fgcu.edu/Cashiers/tanfdetails.asp>

different technology fee than undergraduate students. All fees are administered through the Office of the Bursar.²²

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Distance education at FGCU is strongly integrated into the university's regular program offerings, so that in many cases distance education classes and programs are interchangeable with their on-campus analogues. All distance education students "can come to the campus and use the services and facilities," which implies that they pay the same fees as traditional students.²³ FGCU's breakdown of tuition and fees does not indicate that online students pay any differential tuition or extra fees in addition to those charged to traditional students.²⁴

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Idaho State University (ISU) charges a technology fee of \$83.40 per semester for students enrolled full-time and \$6.15 per credit hour for part-time students. In-state and out-of-state students pay the same fee.²⁵ The university considers a student full-time if he takes 12 or more credits per semester, but charges students the full-time rate for tuition and fees starting at 11 credits. Graduate students are considered full-time if they take nine or more credits per semester. All technology and fees are assessed through the Student Financial Services office.²⁶

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

ISU's online courses are designated as components of a program called eISU and are largely integrated into its traditional curriculum. There is no differential tuition for in-state students, but "non-resident fees will be waived for non-residents taking only eISU on-line classes."²⁷ All online courses also carry an eISU fee of \$35 per credit to offset technology and training costs.²⁸

²² Ibid.

²³ "FAQs About Distance Learning." Florida Gulf Coast University.
<http://www.fgcu.edu/distance/dlhandbook1b.asp#20>

²⁴ "Tuition & Fee Details." Florida Gulf Coast University. Op. cit.

²⁵ "Idaho State University Student Fee Distribution." Idaho State University.
<http://www.isu.edu/finserv/Feeinc15ApprovedDetail.pdf>

²⁶ "Cost of Attendance 2014-2015." Idaho State University Student Financial Services.
<http://www.isu.edu/finserv/costinfo.shtml>

²⁷ "Student Financial Services-General Information." Idaho State University.
<http://www.isu.edu/finserv/studentfs.shtml>

²⁸ Ibid.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Students at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) pay a technology fee, but it is not disaggregated from their tuition expenses and cannot be calculated as an independent expense.²⁹ The university's Information Technology Policy Committee last revised a "Policy on Use of Technology Fee Funds" in February 2010. The document confirms the existence of the fee (at least, as of 2010) and lists the conditions under which these funds may be used:

Technology Fee funds can be used to support the acquisition of both goods and services for use by students. Eligible goods include computers and associated peripherals, infrastructure, software, and supplies. Eligible services include costs associated with maintaining the above goods. Specifically excluded are goods and services targeted at supporting university administration and faculty offices.³⁰

The likely amount of the fee is at least \$40 per semester, since information about student printing privileges notes that "each student receives a \$40 printing allotment per semester which comes out of their student technology fee."³¹

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

IPFW does not charge a fee for online courses. It does, however, offer differential tuition rates. All distance learning courses, whether graduate or undergraduate, cost \$354.90 per credit for both in-state and out-of-state students. This means that for in-state undergraduates and graduates, the per-credit cost of distance education is \$89.95 per credit and \$28.25 per credit more expensive than traditional instruction, respectively. Out-of-state students actually save money by taking distance education courses. The cost of distance education is \$281.50 per credit less than traditional instruction for undergraduate students and \$384.90 per credit less for graduate students.³²

MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

McNeese State University (McNeese State) assesses a \$5 per credit technology fee which is capped at \$100 per semester for students taking 20 or more credits.³³ The fee rate is the

²⁹ See: [1] "Enrollment/Fee Matrix, 2014-15 Academic Year." IPFW. <http://www.ipfw.edu/dotAsset/520938f3-18f5-487e-80a7-7839a50607d3.pdf>

[2] "Tuition for Year 2014-2015." IPFW. <http://www.ipfw.edu/offices/bursar/tuition-fees/>

³⁰ "Information Technology Policy Committee Policy on use of Technology Fee Funds." IPFW Information Technology Policy Committee. February 18, 2010. <https://www.ipfw.edu/dotAsset/115984.pdf>

³¹ "Printing in the Computer Labs." IPFW. <http://www.ipfw.edu/training/kb/hardware/printers/complabprinting.html>

³² "Tuition for Year 2014-2015." IPFW. Op. cit.

³³ "Fees and Expenses." McNeese State University 2014-2015 Academic Catalog. <http://catalog.mcneese.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=344>

same for undergraduate and graduate students, and for in-state and out-of-state students. All fees, along with tuition, are administered through the University Cashier's Office.³⁴

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

McNeese State charges a two-tiered distance education fee, but does not charge different tuition rates for online learning. All students pay a \$20 per credit fee for any online, blended, or distance education courses they enroll in.³⁵ Additionally, "for any student pursuing an online degree program and enrolled in a class that has been designated as 100% online, there is another fee of \$10 per credit hour for undergraduate level courses, and \$30 per credit hour for graduate level courses."³⁶ This means that for students in entirely online programs, the per-credit premium paid for the program is \$30 for undergraduates and \$50 for graduate students.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) is one of the few institutions on the peer list that has not enacted a technology fee. Office of Information Technology promotional literature makes the following statement on the lack of a fee:

There is no additional technology fee beyond base tuition. Your tuition dollars support technology services that include open computer labs, media production, software, technical support, smart classrooms, online services and email.³⁷

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

NKU charges identical in-state tuition for its online undergraduate and graduate programs, and assesses the same online tuition rate for non-resident students. Though the tuition is the same for distance education, the university assesses a \$35 per credit fee for undergraduates and a \$40 per credit fee for graduate students. This means that these programs are \$35 and \$40 per credit more expensive than traditional courses for in-state undergraduate and graduate students, and \$318 and \$239 less expensive than traditional courses for out-of-state undergraduates and graduate students.³⁸

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Spring 2015 Registration Fees." McNeese State University.
https://www.mcneese.edu/schedule/spring2015/fee_payment

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ "Services and Fees—Office of Information Technology." Northern Kentucky University.
<http://oit.nku.edu/students/services-and-fees.html>

³⁸ "Tuition & Fees Schedule." Northern Kentucky University. <http://studentaccounts.nku.edu/tuition.html>

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Northwestern State University of Louisiana (Northwestern State) charges a technology fee of \$5 per credit hour up to a maximum of \$100 per semester. This fee is designed to “supplement (not replace) currently allocated funds for technology at Louisiana Colleges and Universities,” and there are a series of procedures governing the ways in which technology fee funds can be allocated. The fee is assessed to all students at the same rate.³⁹

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Tuition rates for online courses in all Northwestern State programs are identical to the rates applied to traditional education. The university applies an Electronic Learning Course Fee of \$50 per course to all online courses. This comes out to \$16.67 per credit.⁴⁰

PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Regardless of residency or status as undergraduate or graduate students, all Purdue University Calumet students pay a technology fee of \$8.75 per credit hour.⁴¹

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Purdue University Calumet does not differentiate between online and in-person courses in its tuition and fees, and does not offer freestanding online degree programs.⁴² Instead, the university website notes that “many departments on campus offer courses through distance learning” and advises interested students to check with their department advisors to access these courses.⁴³

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE

TECHNOLOGY FEE

The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) charges a flat rate technology fee of \$45 per semester, which is then topped up with an additional \$12 for every credit a student enrolls in. There is no cap in the value of this fee.⁴⁴ The fee structure is identical regardless of a

³⁹ “NSU Student Handbook & Planner, 2014-2015.” Northwestern State University of Louisiana. 2014. p. 23.
<http://www.nsula.edu/assets/Student-Handbooks/FINAL-STUDENT-HANDBOOK-2014-2015.PDF>

⁴⁰ “Northwestern State University Tuition and Fees, Spring 2015.” Northwestern State University. October 23, 2014.
pp. 1-2. <https://registrar.nsula.edu/assets/Tuition--Fees/Tuition-Fees-2015-Spring-Oct-23.pdf>

⁴¹ “Tuition and Fees.” Purdue University Calumet. <http://webs.purduecal.edu/ofasa/student-accounts/tuition-fees/>

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ “Distance Learning—Office of the Registrar.” Purdue University Calumet.
<http://webs.purduecal.edu/registrar/distance-learning/>

⁴⁴ “Assessment of Tuition and Fees.” University of Texas at Brownsville.
<http://www.utb.edu/em/registrar/Pages/CSAssessmentofTuitionandFees.aspx>

student's residency status, and applies equally to undergraduate and graduate students.⁴⁵ All tuition and fees are routed through the University Business Office.⁴⁶

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

UTB charges a single fee of \$25 per credit hour for all courses delivered online or in a blended format.⁴⁷ Tuition for these courses is identical to the tuition assessed for traditional education.⁴⁸

TROY UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Troy University does not appear to assess a technology fee for its on-campus students. The university charges a Registration Fee of \$50 per semester or term at its main campus and \$25 per semester or term at its branch campuses, as well as a General University Fee of \$39 per credit hour. It is possible that some portion of these revenues is devoted to technology infrastructure.⁴⁹

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

All students taking distance education courses at Troy University pay a Technology Fee of \$8 per credit hour, assessed "in addition to tuition."⁵⁰ The university also charges differential tuition for online programs, which are always more expensive than their analogous traditional programs for all student populations. Including the \$8 Technology Fee, the cost for an in-state undergraduate taking online courses is \$62 more per credit, and for out-of-state students the cost differential increases to \$116 per credit. In-state graduate students pay \$131 more per credit than traditional in-state graduate students, and out-of-state graduate students pay a per-credit premium of \$254 for online courses.⁵¹

⁴⁵ [1] "UTB Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Tables, Spring 2015." University of Texas at Brownsville.

<http://www.utb.edu/ba/afo/Tuition/Documents/Tuition-Fees-Undergrad-2015-Spring.pdf>

[2] "UTB Graduate Tuition and Fees Tables, Spring 2015." University of Texas at Brownsville.

<http://www.utb.edu/ba/afo/Tuition/Documents/Tuition-Fees-Grad-2015-Spring.pdf>

⁴⁶ "UTB Tuition and Fees." University of Texas at Brownsville. <http://www.utb.edu/ba/afo/Tuition/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴⁷ "Tuition and Fees-Online Learning." University of Texas at Brownsville.

<http://www.utb.edu/its/olt/Pages/TuitionandFees.aspx>

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "Fees 2014-2015." Troy University. <http://www.troy.edu/sfs/tuition-fees.html>

⁵⁰ "Tuition and Fees-Online." Troy University. <http://trojan.troy.edu/globalcampus/atlantic/tuition-fees.html>

⁵¹ See: [1] Ibid.

[2] "Fees 2014-2015." Troy University. op. cit.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

TECHNOLOGY FEE

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) charges two separate technology fees on a per-credit basis. First among them is the Technology Infrastructure Fee of \$2.75 per credit hour.⁵²

The university also charges a series of College Technology fees that range in value from \$8.10 to \$12.30 per credit hour. Their precise amounts are listed below:⁵³

- College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences Fee: \$12.30/hour
- College of Business Administration Fee: \$8.10/hour
- College of Education and Health Professions Fee: \$8.10/hour
- College of Engineering and Information Technology Fee: \$11.90/hour
- College of Social Sciences and Communication Fee: \$8.10/hour

All students, whether in-state or out-of-state, or undergraduate or graduate, pay the same fees through the Office of the Bursar.⁵⁴

The College Technology Fees may need more explanation, since they are a unique feature among the fee structures of UAA's peers. These fees are appended to the per-credit tuition costs of all courses within their respective colleges, and were introduced to replace "the laboratory and materials fees previously attached to a large number of courses" and simplify the college's fee structure.⁵⁵ University policy notes that "the name 'technology fee' is to be broadly interpreted," which means that revenues from this source should replace revenues from the course-related fees that each college used to charge, and that they "should be used to serve college interests and priorities, and these needs and priorities require different levels of spending on materials, equipment, software, and activities among the several departments in a college."⁵⁶ Each college's dean is responsible for allocating the revenues from this fee among the college's departments, with a mandate to spend all of the money obtained each year. Carry-over of funds from one year to the next must be approved by the university chancellor.⁵⁷

⁵² "Undergraduate Tuition & Fee Rates-Spring 2015." University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
<http://ualr.edu/bursar/home/tuitionandfees/undergraduatetuitionfees/>

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ "Graduate Tuition & Fee Rates-Spring 2015." University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
<http://ualr.edu/bursar/home/tuitionandfees/graduatetuitionfees/>

⁵⁵ "College Technology Fees-302.5." University of Arkansas at Little Rock. June 5, 2013.
<http://ualr.edu/policy/home/business/college-technology-fees/>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Distance education students at UALR pay the same tuition and fees as traditional students. The one difference is an additional Distance Ed Technology Fee of \$25 per credit hour, which is assessed in addition to the College Technology Fees and Technology Infrastructure Fee discussed above.⁵⁸ This fee “is paid by students taking online classes in order to support online learning at UALR.” Its proceeds are divided up among the Office of Scholarly Technology and Resources (STaR), which supports faculty using the university’s Blackboard platform, the office charged with running and expanding the online learning program, and the library.⁵⁹

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

There is no indication that Weber State University charges a dedicated technology fee to its on-campus students.⁶⁰

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Weber State University does not offer online graduate courses.⁶¹ Its undergraduate online courses carry the same tuition as traditional courses for in-state students. Out-of-state students pay a flat rate of \$245 per credit hour. This rate varies in how it compares to the non-resident rates for traditional out-of-state students, but assuming 12 credits of enrollment per semester, distance education is cheaper by approximately \$296 per credit hour.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Western Kentucky University (WKU) charged a technology fee in the early 2000s, but there is no evidence that it does so now.⁶² There is no mention of the fee in the 2014-2015 tuition and fees schedule or the university’s list of extraneous expenses.⁶³

⁵⁸ “Graduate Tuition & Fee Rates-Spring 2015.” University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Op. cit.

⁵⁹ “Distribution for Increases in Distance Education Tech Fee Revenue – 602.1.” University of Arkansas at Little Rock. April 2, 2010. <http://ualr.edu/policy/home/ed-programs/distance-ed-tech-fee/>

⁶⁰ See: “Undergraduate Tuition and Fees.” Weber State University. <http://www.weber.edu/WSUImages/bursar/14-15%20UG.pdf>

⁶¹ “Over 16 Online Degrees & Programs to Choose From.” Weber State University. <http://departments.weber.edu/ce/distancelearning/DegreesPrograms.aspx>

⁶² “Minutes of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Board of Regents Western Kentucky University.” Western Kentucky University. September 25, 1998. p. 4. <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1063&context=bor>

⁶³ [1] “Tuition & Fees Schedule.” Western Kentucky University. http://www.wku.edu/bursar/tuition_fees_1415.php

[2] “Other Expenses (per semester).” Western Kentucky University. http://www.wku.edu/bursar/other_expenses.php

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

Full-time WKU undergraduates pay an Undergraduate Distance Learning Course Fee of \$82 per credit hour for online education, but their tuition rate is otherwise the same as students taking classes on campus. Undergraduate students enrolled entirely in the distance education program and taking all of their courses online pay a differential tuition rate that amounts to the traditional tuition rate, plus the \$82 Undergraduate Distance Learning Course Fee. They are not charged the fee in addition to this differentiated rate. In most cases, the university's graduate students pay a differential tuition rate that amounts to an additional \$103 per credit, but do not pay the Undergraduate Distance Learning Course Fee.⁶⁴

This fee structure means that for in-state undergraduates, the premium for online courses is \$82 per credit hour, and for on-line in-state graduate students, it is \$103 per credit hour. Out-of-state undergraduate students enrolled exclusively in WKU's distance education courses receive a tuition break of \$510 per credit compared to the out-of-state tuition rate for traditional courses. Similarly, out-of-state graduate students pay \$73 per credit less for online courses than they do for traditional courses.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Youngstown State University's (YSU) Information Services Fee is "required of all students." It is \$10 per credit up to 11 credits and converts to a flat fee of \$120 per semester for students taking 12 to 16 credits. For every credit over 16, the \$10 per credit rate is reintroduced.⁶⁵ The university notes that the fee "provides support for technology enhancements and initiatives contained within the IT Master Plan, supporting the vision to keep pace with an evolving, interactive, student-centered and collaborative electronic learning environment." The fee is charged through the Office of the Bursar.⁶⁶

DISTANCE EDUCATION FEE

The fee structure for online learning at YSU is too complicated to enable its inclusion in the peer group comparison charts in Section II. The university charges the same tuition rates for online undergraduate and graduate courses, but delineates five course levels, each of which has its own tuition rate. Furthermore, the university charges on a per-credit basis up to 12 credits and for every credit after 16 credits, but assesses a flat fee for undergraduate and graduate students taking 12 to 16 credits.

⁶⁴ "Tuition & Fees Schedule." Western Kentucky University. Op. cit.

⁶⁵ "Student Fees and Charges." Youngstown State University Undergraduate Bulletin 23. p. 1.
http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/AR_2014_Fall_charges_fees.pdf

⁶⁶ "Frequently Asked Questions." Youngstown State University Office of the Bursar.
http://web.ysu.edu/gen/ysu/Frequently_Asked_Questions_FAQs_p450.html

YSU structures its tuition charges for traditional programs using the 1-11, 12-16 and 16+ tuition gradations, but does not differentiate between course levels. It also charges different rates for undergraduate and graduate credits. What all of these variables mean when taken together is that there are too many possible combinations of charges for online education relative to traditional education to produce a widely reliable per-credit estimate.

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