

Policy 4.0(a) Assignment of Credits, Program Length, and Tuition

Compliance Evidence

CSU has credit-hour assignments for each course offered, and its credit-hour allocations and requirements are within the range of good practice currently recognized in higher education. There is a rational basis for program-specific tuition rates.

CSU operates on a traditional semester system and offers academic credit in terms of semester credit hours. Student contact hours per credit comply with guidelines from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) — **specifically, a credit hour of face-to-face instruction is defined as a minimum of 800 minutes per semester or a minimum of 16 50-minute instructional "hours" per semester.** CSU credit hour assignments comply with the Federal Credit Hour definition as evidenced by advising that students should expect to spend two or more hours per week outside the classroom for each credit in a course (*General Catalog 1.7 p.2*). Distance-delivered courses are designed to provide substantial and regular interaction equivalent to **face-to-face delivered courses.** A schedule matrix has been prepared by the University Curriculum Committee that establishes minimum contact time for courses scheduled to meet using alternative schedules other than the standard 16-week semester.

The University Curriculum Committee has prepared a New Course approval form that identifies essential course elements as including course learning objectives and major topics necessary to meet the course objectives.

The length and requirements of academic programs are consistent with peer institutions and conform to standards and policies established by national specialized accrediting agencies and the CCHE. Undergraduate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credit hours and an All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) of 31 credit hours plus depth and integration courses (minimum of 5 credits) within the programs that build on the foundations of the AUCC. Complete details of all undergraduate programs are published in the *General Catalog* and requirements for graduate and professional degrees are published in the *Graduate and Professional Bulletin*.

Tuition rates and mandatory fees are established each year and are approved by the Board. Base tuition rates are established for Colorado resident and non-resident students in accordance with statutory authority and required approvals. Differential tuition rates exist **according to the level of study and the academic program.** Differential tuition rates and fees are based on a number of factors including the cost of education and competitive rates charged by other universities (reflecting student demand for the program and market demand for graduates of the program). The revenue from the differential rates helps to support the cost of education in each college or department that offers the program. **Tuition and fee charges, including withdrawal and refund policies, are clearly and publicly displayed on the Registrar's website and in the *General Catalog*.** In addition, a tuition calculator is offered on the Registrar's website to help students estimate costs prior to registration. The tuition and fee charges and refund policies for distance education delivered by the Division of Continuing Education (CSU OnlinePlus) are available on its website. Student fees are set by a Student Fee Review Board, composed of students; this puts the student body itself directly in control of the amount of fees that students are charged (subject to Board approval).









In FY12, CSU developed and implemented an undergraduate differential tuition plan. The plan has been phased in over a three-year period and comprises rates at three different levels. The **rates are applied based on a combination of the student class level (junior and senior levels) and the course prefix.** Within the College of Business, the differential tuition rates are applied to sophomores, as well, due to the high volume of Business minors across the University.

The University determined that three different rate levels were necessary to account for the differences in the cost of delivery, course demand, and earnings potential. The majority of these funds are allocated directly to the Colleges that generate the respective credit hours. A small portion of these funds are allocated to the Provost's Office for assisting with funding needed to cover enrollment growth. The rate levels are applied based upon the course prefix. Following is a table that demonstrates the phase-in period along with the rate levels:

Levels	FY12	FY13	FY14
I	\$25	\$25	\$45
II	\$35	\$45	\$60
III	\$45	\$60	\$80

Level I applies mostly to students enrolled in courses in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Liberal Arts, Natural Resources, and Health and Human Sciences. Level 2 applies primarily to students enrolled in the Colleges of Natural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences with Level 3 comprising the Colleges of Business and Engineering. A comprehensive differential tuition chart for FY13 is available for review.

Sources

-  1. 7 - Advising and Registration (Page 2)
-  Contact Hours Grid
-  Course Approval Form (Page 2)
-  DCE - Tuition and Fees
-  Proposed Differential Tuition
-  Registrars Office - Tuition and Fees
-  Speaking Points on Differential Tuition for Fall 2011
-  Undergraduate differential tuition