Graduate Student Fees Uncovered

How Much Are Graduate Students Paying?

How Much Are Graduate Students Paying to Work?

How Does the U Stack Up Against Our Peers?

Why Do Our Fees Seem So High?

Should We Speak Out About It?

What Do Our Fees Pay For?

How Can We Take Action?

Can We Lower Fees?

The University of Minnesota Council of Graduate Students’ Preliminary Report on Graduate Student Fees

Andrew McNally
Table of Contents

Narrative & Acknowledgments ................................................................. 3
Key Recommendations .............................................................................. 4
Core Findings ............................................................................................ 6
Report Scope & Assumptions ................................................................. 8
Overview of Fee Types ........................................................................... 9
Process for Deciding Fees ....................................................................... 10
Mandatory “Base Fees” Growth ................................................................. 11
Collegiate Fees Expanding ...................................................................... 14
High International Student Fee Rates ....................................................... 15
Historical Growth in Mandatory Fees ....................................................... 16
Mandatory Fees Against Comparable Programs ........................................ 17
Mandatory Fees as a Percentage of Graduate Student Worker Salary .......... 23
Speak Out on Fees .................................................................................. 24
COMMITTEE NARRATIVE

In April 2012, a resolution drafted by Council of Graduate Students (COGS) Executive Board members Emily Combs and Tim Salo and passed by the COGS General Assembly charged a committee to investigate the rising costs of graduate student fees at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. The committee charge requested a detailed report of the historical increases in extra-tuition fees for graduate and professional students, as well as a comparative analysis of how much graduate students at the University of Minnesota pay in relation to peer institutions.

As a committee, our goals included:

(a) Providing clarity to questions students have about fees,
(b) Generating discussion about the impact of fees on students,
(c) Collaborating with administrators on common sense solutions.

The committee met several times throughout the remainder of the 2012 school year, and into the beginning of the 2013 school year. We spent the first few months setting goals for the committee and gathering evidence. We drafted a report over the 2012-2013 Winter Break, and met to revise our findings and course of action in January 2013.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first thanks and acknowledgments for this report must go to the many outstanding, hardworking graduate students at the University of Minnesota who have put so much effort into calling attention to the challenge of fees at the University, inside and outside student government. Graduate students who have participated in vigorous discussions about how to improve life at the University deserve our thanks for calling attention to the problem. In addition, members of graduate student government, and especially Tim Salo and Emily Combs, deserve recognition for their efforts to craft the idea of the committee. Feedback from COGS General Assembly representatives on two occasions helped to focus our ideas and generated new solutions. Louise Hamer, our administrator for COGS, deserves considerable thanks for her enduring support of our work.

We also wish to thank the administrators at the University of Minnesota who provided guidance and feedback on our ideas, as well as detailed information. Provost Karen Hanson provided encouragement and support early on. Belinda Cheung and Megan Sweet, especially, offered valuable comments, suggestions, and leads for research. Throughout the process of gathering information, Julie Tonneson and the University’s Office of Budget, Barbara Kappler of International Student and Scholar Services, and Dennis Miller of Parking & Transportation Services provided very timely and detailed information, taking significant amounts of time to explain and clarify fees processes. It was truly a pleasure to work with all of you.

Finally, thanks are in order for all those graduate students who contributed directly and powerfully to the Fees Committee process at its different stages. Aaron Beek, Scott Thaller, and Scott Petty have worked on various aspects of the fees issue throughout the past two years. Emily Combs, Emily Truslow, Alfonso Sintjago, Scott Thaller, Kyutae Leo Kim, Maggie Mahan, Mary Jo Wiatrak-Uhlenkott, Emily Leathley, Robert Smith, Joseph Svec, Megan Reinbold, and Erin Hoekstra all deserve great commendation for creating an affirming, hardworking, and supportive committee environment. Your work has been a model for the constructive potential for student government at the University of Minnesota.

--Andrew McNally, Committee Chair
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

GRAD STUDENTS: KEEP SPEAKING OUT

Let administrators know about the impact of fees on your life. Let us know what you think we should do about it. Organize, call, email, discuss. COGS encourages graduate students to engage in conversations across campus on the fees issue with one another in formal and informal contexts. COGS also encourages graduate students to work with GAPSA and other student organizations to have your voice heard at the State Capitol. Finally, COGS urges you to speak directly to administrators about the ways that fees impact your life. The more that graduate students speak out directly and in large numbers on the issue of fees, the greater chance the University will take action.

ACTION POINT: See our “Speak Out” section (24) at the end of this report for more ways to have your voice heard.

COLLABORATE WITH ADMINISTRATORS TO PUT A CEILING ON RISING FEES

This report concludes that Graduate Student Fees at the University of Minnesota are high compared with many Big 10 peer institutions. This causes a problem for all graduate students because it adds to skyrocketing tuition. It causes a special problem for fellows and graduate student workers because it means we must pay at least 4 to 7 per cent of our salary to work here.

ACTION POINT: COGS and other graduate student organizations should work with administrators to establish a percentage ceiling on the “total mandatory fees” that a graduate student must pay as a percentage of the minimum GA salary to hold down fee growth and, in the long run, lower it.

We believe that by institutionalizing this policy, graduate programs will remain competitive for top-tier graduate students, and all graduate students will benefit from decreasing fee burdens.

We hope this action provides the University with a flexible means of reducing graduate student fees over time in challenging fiscal circumstances.
LESS TAXATION, MORE PARTICIPATION
Transparency of the budget processes in the cases we studied is usually better than many grad students expect, but we recommend that graduate student government find ways that graduate students can more fully and effectively participate in the budget process.

ACTION POINT: COGS should further study and compare processes for graduate student participation in fee assessment decisions at other Universities. Administrators should work with graduate students to increase graduate student participation in deciding the Collegiate Fee, Capital Enhancement Fee, and future mandatory fees and fee increases.

ACCESSIBILITY & FLEXIBILITY FOR INCOMING STUDENTS
Incoming graduate students frequently lack readily available information about the amount of fees they will pay as graduate students, and can have trouble adjusting to the circumstance of paying for high fees.

ACTION POINTS:
(A) Waive the Installment Plan Fee for First-Year Graduate Students.
(B) All departments should include a list of mandatory fees each graduate student will pay in offer letters.
(C) COGS should work with administrators to develop more flexible means for graduate students to pay their fees.
(D) COGS should work with administrators to provide graduate students with early-as-possible notification for fee increases.

MORE DATA ABOUT FEES
We recommend that student governance bodies institutionalize frameworks to advocate for, share information about, and gather data regarding the impact of fees on graduate students. While somewhat detailed, the information in this report is only preliminary, and the issue requires further study in order for graduate students to make a stronger case for reducing fees.

ACTION POINTS: Gather more information about:
(a) Narratives and qualitative data about the human impact of graduate student fees.
(b) Data that quantifies how much graduate and professional students prioritize the problem of fees and tuition over other issues.
(c) Comparative information about graduate student representation on peer institution budget processes.
(d) Measurement of the impact of high fees on the competitiveness of graduate student programs.
(e) Closer investigation of the fundamental causes of rising fees and tuition.
CORE FINDINGS

The findings of this report should be considered preliminary rather than definitive, and we welcome and encourage discussion of the report’s methodology and findings. Sometimes, we were unable to find complete information. We want to make our findings more accurate, so if we missed something, or if we need to take another look at our findings, please let us know.

The issue of graduate student fees is enormously complicated, and related to the even more complex problems of University finances. We also encourage readers to place the findings of this report in the context of rising tuition costs and declining state contributions to the University’s funding.

HIGHER MANDATORY FEE BURDENS

Of the thirteen studied, five University of Minnesota colleges have the highest mandatory fee burden against comparable programs at peer Big 10 institutions. Eleven University of Minnesota colleges have among the top three highest mandatory fee burdens versus comparable programs at peer Big 10 institutions. With one exception, all of the colleges that we studied are within the top half of the highest mandatory fee burdens versus comparable programs at Big 10 peer institutions.

TRANSPARENCY GOOD FOR SOME FEES, COULD BE BETTER FOR OTHERS

The transparency of the Student Services Fee Process, the Parking & Transportation Services Fee, and the International Student Fee are generally very strong. Administrators and graduate students should work to find ways for grad students to participate more actively in the processes determining the Collegiate Fee, and fees similar to the Capital Enhancement and Stadium Fee.

HIGH FEES LINKED TO DECLINING STATE FUNDING.

The fundamental causes of increases in fees are complex and require further study, but based on communications from University administrators, they appear to be linked in part to declining state funding and budget shortfalls. They appear to be less linked to increases in services provided to students. More study is needed about this issue to be certain, however.

HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FEES PAID IN WAGES

At the 2012-13 minimum GA wage of $13,322, University of Minnesota GAs may pay at least 7.32% in wages back in the form of fees. This is a substantially higher percentage than at the base or minimum pay at Purdue University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, University of Illinois, or University of Iowa. It may be a higher percentage than the maximum paid at the minimum or standard salary, for most students, for Penn State University, Ohio State University, or University of Wisconsin-Madison. It is on par or slightly lower than at Indiana University, with unknown information for Northwestern University or University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
**GROWING MANDATORY FEES**
Since 2003, the four fees that all graduate students pay—Capital Enhancement, Transportation, Student Services, and the Stadium Fee—increased by $375. More than half of this nominal increase came from Capital Enhancement, Transportation, and Stadium Fees, each of which increased exponentially: the Capital Enhancement and Stadium Fees did not exist prior to this period, and the Capital Enhancement Fee sextupled since 2008. These three fees are a major force driving fee growth for these mandatory fees.

**GROWING COLLEGIATE FEES**
Collegiate Fees are, for most students, perhaps the greatest single concern for future fee growth. For all but one college, they have contributed more than 20%, and for some more than 45% of total fee growth, changing in some cases by as much as 520% since 2003. The level of collegiate fees and the extent to which they contribute to increases in total fee burden, moreover, vary widely from college to college.

**HIGH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES**
University of Minnesota has among the highest International Student Fees of the peer institutions studied. The International Student Fee is a fee assessed to all considered “international students,” and costs $318 per two semester academic year. The services provided through this fee include counseling documentation and other services for international graduate students. The high price of this international student fee is the consequence of drastically declining state funding for the office that assesses this fee.
REPORT SCOPE AND ASSUMPTIONS

In the 2012-2013 school year, graduate students at University of Minnesota campuses will pay dozens of types of fees, but this report focuses only on those that will affect many graduate students. This report looks specifically at non-tuition fees. The table spaces below in gray show those fees, besides tuition, that we consider in the report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL GRAD STUDENTS EVERY SEMESTER</th>
<th>MANY / MOST GRAD &amp; PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS</th>
<th>FEW GRAD STUDENTS / INCIDENTAL FEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Fee</td>
<td>Collegiate Fees</td>
<td>Course Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Enhancement Fee</td>
<td>International Student Aid Fee</td>
<td>Special Program Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate &amp; Professional Student Assembly Fee</td>
<td>International Student Fee</td>
<td>Equipment Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stadium Fee</td>
<td>Installment Plan Fee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Fee</td>
<td>Student Health Benefit Plans</td>
<td>Transcript Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Fines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five of these fees—the Student Services Fee, the Capital Enhancement Fee, the GAPSA Fee, the Stadium Fee, the Transportation Fee—are assessed to all full time graduate students at the University at the same rates. One of these fees—the Collegiate Fee—is assessed to the majority of full time graduate students, but at varying rates.

We also consider two fees that do not affect all or most students—the two International Student Fees. While not directly impacting all students, we chose these fees because international students are a vital part of our graduate student community.

Due to the complexity of the finances involved in the Student Health Benefit Plan, we decided not to examine this fee. Finally, due to the complexity and specialized nature of their fees, we did not include in this study fees for Dentistry and Allied Health Center students, but we do hope that they can use the more general information, and we hope that we can include them in a later study. We also do not include non-Twin Cities campuses, but we hope to include them in our next study.

Report Assumptions

For the sake of consistency and simplicity, and not because we believe that any type of student is representative of the University of Minnesota experience, we have made a set of assumptions about how fees are assessed. We modeled our analysis on the basis of:

- Fees assessed to full-time students
- Fees assessed over a regular academic year (or the equivalent of a fall and spring semester) rather than on a semester or calendar year basis
- Fees assessed to Twin Cities students and not including special campus fees
- Non-international students (We consider international student fees separately, but for total mandatory fee burdens we assume non-international status)

Comparative Data Set—Peer Institutions in the Big 10

Our study makes comparisons based on our peer institutions in the Big 10 schools: University of Illinois (both Urbana and Chicago), University of Iowa, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Nebraska, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.
One problem that our committee has encountered as we have spoken with students about fees is that often students are not sure what they pay for. While this information is publicly available, it will be useful to provide a general description of each of these fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>AMOUNT (Fall+Spring Semesters, 2012-13)</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Fee</td>
<td>$736.58</td>
<td>“used to support various student programs”iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Enhancement Fee</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>“ensures a reliable revenue stream to support long-term capital financing for the renewal of facilities or construction of new facilities that contribute to or enhance student life.” (Two of the most recent projects this fee appears to have funded are the West Bank Recreation Center and the expansion of the East Bank Recreation Center.)v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stadium Fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>“supports the construction costs of the on-campus football stadium that also serves the marching band, intramural and club sports, student activities, and other University functions.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Fee</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
<td>“to support the U Pass bus transit program assessed to all students”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAPSA Fee</td>
<td>$24.16</td>
<td>Supports student government and activities at the University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegiate Fees</td>
<td>Varies by College</td>
<td>Supports technology and other administrative functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Aid Fee</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>Supports Culture Corps program and emergency funds for international studentsvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Fee</td>
<td>$290.00</td>
<td>Supports International Student &amp; Scholar Services in offering services mandated for students with non-immigrant (F &amp; J) visas, including counseling, documentation, and other individualized services.vii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROCESS FOR DECIDING FEES:
INCREASE GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Administrators must find ways for graduate students to participate even more actively in the budget processes. The Student Services Fee process, which includes the setting of the GAPSA Fee, provides a model for transparency and participation for graduate student fees, though historically graduate student participation in the Student Services Fee process has been limited by interest: involvement in the process is time-consuming.

The offices of Parking & Transportation as well as the International Student & Scholar Services office have been extremely forthcoming with information regarding their budget and services, though student government should strive to work with these offices to increase graduate student consultation about fee increases.

More concerning are the Collegiate Fee, Stadium Fee, and Capital Enhancement Fee. While we are aware of the complexity of the budget processes, the extensive time commitment involved in making budget decisions, and the experience required to navigate the processes that set this fee, we believe that graduate students can play as vital a role participating in the budget process at the University of Minnesota. We look forward to working with administrators to find imaginative ways for graduate students to participate directly in these processes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEE TITLE</th>
<th>PROCESS FOR DETERMINING FEES</th>
<th>GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Fee</td>
<td>Student Services Fees Committee Process</td>
<td>Graduate Student Representation on Fees Committee Process; Need to Get More Grad Students Involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See: <a href="http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/index.html">http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/index.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAPSA Fee</td>
<td>Student Services Fees Committee Process</td>
<td>Graduate Student Representation on Fees Committee Process and on GAPSA Executive Board and GAPSA Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Special Assessment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/index.html">http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/index.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Enhancement Fee</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval in Fiscal Year 2009 Recommended Operating Budget; Graduate Student Organizations notified</td>
<td>Graduate Student Consultation, Student Advisory Board supposed to be set up, uncertain whether this was followed through viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stadium Fee</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval</td>
<td>Graduate Student Consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transporta n Fee</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval; Fee set through program costs</td>
<td>Fee set through program costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegiate Fees</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval; Compact Budget Process. Reasons for fee increases made public</td>
<td>No direct graduate student participation. COGS should consider ways to increase grad student participation in this process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Aid Fee</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval; Fee set through program costs</td>
<td>Fee set through program costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Fee</td>
<td>Board of Regents Approval; Fee set through program costs</td>
<td>Fee set through program costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 shows the annual increases in four fees assessed to all graduate and professional students—not including Collegiate Fees—which have contributed most significantly to the increases in graduate student fees. Since 2005, these fees have increased annually by between $30 and $73, and between 5 and 10% on the previous year. While wages of graduate assistants have also increased since 2005, the proportion of the minimum GA salary consumed by these four fees has increased somewhat. Note that, for most graduate students, this percentage does not represent the total percentage salary paid to fees in a given academic year.
As Figure 1 and Table 3 show, about half of the $375 increase in these mandatory fees between 2003 and 2013 came from the fees which graduate and undergraduate students control—the Student Services Fee—more than half came from fee increases which students did not participate in directly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>INCREASE 2003-13 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Fee</td>
<td>182.34 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stadium Fee</td>
<td>25 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Enhancement Fee</td>
<td>150 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Fee</td>
<td>18 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together, the three fees that graduate students do not deliberate on—Stadium Fee, Transportation Fee, and Capital Enhancement Fee make up more than half of the increases in these mandatory fees.

Approximately 15% of the Transportation Fee covers the administration of the U-Pass Program.

85% of the Transportation Fee covers inter-campus bussing such as Campus Connector.

The Transportation Fee covers about 28% of these costs.

Future studies should investigate the extent to which graduate students use TCF Stadium, which the Stadium Fee helps fund, and the planned West Bank Recreation Center and expansion of the East Bank Rec Center, which the Capital Enhancement Fee funds.
GAPSA Fee
Least costly, rising at slowest pace of mandatory fees since 2006

The fee that funds student government at the University of Minnesota, the Graduate and Professional Association (GAPSA) Fee, is the least costly mandatory fee that graduate students pay, and the slowest rising. Since 2006, it has risen by 50 cents. The GAPSA Fee has contributed the least to the rising costs of fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAPSA Fee ($)</td>
<td>23.50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11.40</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Enhancement Fee Requires Further Study

Of all the mandatory fees considered so far, the Capital Enhancement Fee has increased the most dramatically, by $150. Based on evidence collected from The Minnesota Daily, this fee has contributed to the expansion of the East Bank Recreation Center and the building of the West Bank Recreation center.

Archival stories from The Minnesota Daily report that graduate and undergraduate students were supposed to receive input into where these funds were directed, but at the moment the writers of the report are still waiting to confirm that this happened. We encourage COGS to work with administrators to ensure that future fees like the Capital Enhancement Fee continue to receive substantial input from graduate students when they are assessed.
COLLEGIATE FEES

Collegiate Fees are assessed to students at different colleges in varying amounts, and they have represented the single greatest contributing category to the increase in graduate student fees for graduate students at the majority of the thirteen colleges at the University of Minnesota that we studied. With the exception of three colleges on the Twin Cities campus, the increase in collegiate fees have represented at least twenty percent of the total increase in graduate student fees, which are shown below.

TABLE 5: COLLEGIATE FEES FOR COLLEGES IN WHICH THEY ARE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR
Increase ($), % Increase, and % Contribution to Total Increase in Fees, 2003-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collegiate Fees</th>
<th>Total Increase ($)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>% Contribution to Increase 2003-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>450%</td>
<td>54.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>253%</td>
<td>53.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOM\textsuperscript{VI}</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law\textsuperscript{VII}</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>48.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>520%</td>
<td>40.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>36.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture / CDES</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEHD</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>29.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>93.33%</td>
<td>25.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>25.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES
RAPIDLY EXPANDING AND
HIGHER THAN PEER INSTITUTIONS

From the information that we have found, many, if not the majority of Universities in the Big 10 have no separate fee for international students. The below chart shows the differences in fees assessed specifically to international students on top of other mandatory fees. We measured based on a student’s **first ten semesters** because some universities assess higher fees to international students in the first few semesters.

**TABLE 6: International Student Fees Paid Over First 10 Semesters***xviii

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Fees Paid Over 10 Semesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$1590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>$850xxix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>$840xxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue</td>
<td>$800xxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State</td>
<td>$750xxii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>$465xxiii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 7: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES ($), UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA—TC**
BY YEAR, 2003-2013***xiv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Int’l Aid Fee</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int’l Fee</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES INCREASING
DUE TO DECLINING BUDGET PROPORTION FROM STATE

According to administrators at the International Student & Scholar Services, increases in the international student fees are the consequence of **declining revenue for the University of Minnesota** from the state and **increased federal mandates** to provide services for international students. For example, while prior to the International Student Fees, 100% of the budget was funded by state contribution, only about 16% is funded by state contribution today.***xxv
FIGURE 2: HISTORICAL GROWTH IN MANDATORY FEES$^{xxvi}$
in Dollars ($), 2003-2012

This figure shows the growth in total mandatory, non-tuition fees at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities against Michigan State University and Penn State University. The majority of institutions in the Big 10 have displayed comparatively similar behavior to Penn State University in terms of the rate of increase in fees. Michigan State University represents an exception, in which virtually all non-tuition fees over the last several years have been rolled into tuition. This data is based on self-reported information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Database System (IPEDS), subtracting from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities the historical University Fee, which was assessed on a credit hour basis and was rolled into tuition. The limitation of this data is that it is not always clear how decisions about how fees are self-reported are made, or whether these decisions are standardized.
TOTAL MANDATORY GRADUATE STUDENT FEES
VERSUS COMPARABLE PROGRAMS

Because fee burdens vary so significantly by college—both at the University of Minnesota, and some other Big 10 peer institutions—comparing fee burdens at the University-wide level does not always provide the best guide for understanding how much each individual pays in comparison with similar programs.

So, this section of the report compares the total mandatory fee burdens for students at each of the University of Minnesota colleges studied in relation to the fees that would be paid in similar programs.

For most of these colleges this comparison is simple, since at Michigan, Penn State, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan State, and Illinois, the fee burdens are almost completely standard across colleges and disciplines. For the others, we attempted to compare to the best of our understanding the fee burdens at the closest colleges.

For this reason, do not take for granted that these comparisons apply in all cases—there may be some individual variation between programs, and we look forward to hearing from you about situations in which our comparisons do not stack up.

While we caution everyone not to take too much liberty in conclusions based on this information, we do believe that it is safe to argue that graduate student fees at the University of Minnesota are, for most students, higher than they would be at peer institutions in the Big 10. For example,

- Five of the colleges that we studied had the highest mandatory fee burdens compared with peer institutions.
- Eleven of the colleges that we studied had within the top three highest mandatory fee burdens compared with peer institutions.
- With one exception, all of the colleges that we studied were within the top half of the highest mandatory fee burdens compared with Big 10 peer institutions.

Also note that these calculations do not take into consideration the fee waivers applied to a number of graduate student fees on a standard basis, such as at the University of Iowa, University of Illinois, or Purdue University.

As before, our fee totals assume a full academic year or the equivalent for a non-international student, and do not consider fees specific to programs. All of this information is for the current 2012-13 academic year. We gathered all of our information from these Universities’ websites and publicly available documents.
FIGURE 3: FEES PAID ($) AMONG FOUR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS AGAINST PEER INSTITUTIONS (2012-13)

**Fees Paid ($) at Comparable Law School**

- Michigan State
- Michigan
- Northwestern
- Penn State
- Nebraska
- Wisconsin
- Indiana
- Ohio State
- Illinois
- Iowa
- UMN-Law

**Fees Paid ($) at Comparable Med School**

- Michigan State
- Michigan
- Northwestern
- Penn State
- Ohio State
- Nebraska
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Indiana
- Illinois
- UMN-Med

**Fees Paid ($) at Comparable Public Policy School**

- Northwestern
- Michigan State
- Michigan
- Penn State
- Nebraska
- Wisconsin
- Ohio State
- Indiana
- Illinois
- UMN-Humphrey

**Fees Paid ($) at Comparable Business Schools**

- Northwestern
- Michigan State
- Michigan
- Purdue
- Penn State
- Nebraska
- Wisconsin-Madison
- Iowa
- Indiana
- Ohio State
- Illinois
- UMN-Carlson
Students in the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) may pay higher mandatory fee burdens than students at almost any other comparable program in the Big 10. Because CSE’s programs cut across both the engineering and pure sciences fields, which are often disaggregated, here we have the fees that students at CSE in both “pure science” and “engineering” programs pay against the fees that engineering and pure science students pay at peer institutions. Here we see that students in CSE pay higher mandatory fee burdens than at any engineering program besides those at the University of Iowa. CSE students pay higher mandatory fees than at any comparable pure science program in the Big 10. Note, however, that these comparisons may not be valid for all programs. *Note that these total fee burdens do not take into account standard (partial) fee waivers for graduate students who are also workers, as at Iowa and Illinois.
FIGURE 6: FEES PAID ($) AGAINST COMPARABLE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION, LIBERAL ARTS, PUB HEALTH, NURSING*

*Note that these total fee burdens do not take into account standard waivers for graduate students who are also workers, as at Iowa and Illinois.
FIGURE 7: FEES PAID AGAINST COMPARABLE PROGRAMS IN PHARM, BIO SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, AND VET*
*Note that these total fee burdens do not take into account standard waivers for graduate students who are also workers, as at Iowa and Illinois.
MANDATORY FEES AS A PERCENTAGE OF WORKER SALARY

Many graduate student workers and fellows comment that a substantial amount of one’s paychecks go to graduate student fees. But just how much, exactly, do these fees cost as a percentage of a graduate student worker or fellow’s salary? And how do they stack up against our peer institutions?

Making this comparison can be especially difficult for a number of reasons, including:

1. Graduate student wages vary considerably from Department to Department and even from student to student.
2. Fee burdens vary considerably from college to college, and some Departments or colleges may provide reimbursement for fees to graduate students.
3. Full information about wages at other Universities is not always available or standardized.

Given this complexity, the following information should be taken as general guidelines, not as final or definitive answers. We encourage future fee reports and students themselves to find and provide more complete information about how the graduate student fees as a percentage of salary compared to peer institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES
RANGES OF FEES PAID AS A PERCENTAGE OF WAGES
(for College of Science & Engineering, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education & Human Development, CFANS, and CBS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At Minimum GA Stipend of $13,322</th>
<th>At GA Stipend of $22,000$^{xxi}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 7.31%</td>
<td>At least 4.42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 8 (on the following page), comparing the percentages paid by graduate students based on the minimum, average, or standard 50% GA appointment at each University, should at best be viewed as an approximate guide. Average GA stipends are surveyed through the American Association for University Data Exchange (AAUDE), but this survey is not available to the public. As a result, we have collected this information from different sources, some more reliable than others. In addition, because we work from the “minimum” rather than average stipend, it’s possible that not all of these are fully representative. However, based on this information alone, it appears that a GA making the minimum stipend would pay higher percentage of her wages at the University of Minnesota than most other Universities besides Indiana University. More research will need to be done, however, to reach more complete conclusions.
### TABLE 8: FEES PAID AS A PERCENTAGE OF WAGES AT PEER INSTITUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Policy on Graduate Student Fees for Equivalent of 50% Appointment</th>
<th>Maximum Graduate Student Fees as Percentage of Standard or Minimum 50% GA Appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| University of Wisconsin-Madison    | Partial fee remission, excepting “segregated fees” xxxii          | Minimum Salary: 7.8% (TA) xxxiii  
6.5% (RA) xxxiv                                                                        |
| Indiana University                 | No policy found                                                  | No minimum or standard found; mean 7.5% (Life Sciences)  
9.15% (Humanities) xxxv                                                                |
| Ohio State University              | No policy found                                                  | Minimum Salary: 7.2% xxxvi (for most non-engineering programs)                   |
| Penn State University              | No policy found                                                  | Minimum Salary: 6.22% xxxv                                                       |
| University of Iowa                 | Partial reduction of a technology fee as part of standard GA package xxxviii | Minimum Salary: 5.42% xxxix                                                      |
| Purdue University                  | Partial fee remission as part of 50% appointment                 | Minimum Salary: 3.8% xl                                                           |
| University of Illinois             | Majority of fees waived as part of standard appointment xli       | Minimum Salary: 2.06% xli                                                        |
| University of Michigan             | Fee remission depends on Department; all fellows reimbursed for fees | Minimum Salary: 1% (TA/RA)  
0% (Fellows) xliii                                                                      |
| Michigan State University          | Fees negligible for most. No policy found for engineering students. | Close to 0% (Non-Engineering)  
8.7% (Engineering) div                                                                  |
| Northwestern University            | No policy found                                                  | Salary Information Not Found                                                     |
| University of Minnesota—Twin Cities| No standard policy                                               | 7.14%: Vet Sci, CBS  
8.9%: CFANS  
9.4%: CEHD, CLA, Pub Health  
10.1%: Pharm, Nursing  
11%: CSE div                                                                            |
Speak Out on Fees

How to Get Involved

a. The more qualitative information that we have about the impact of fees, the better we can advocate for you. **Share your ideas, suggestions, stories and thoughts about this report** and the issue of graduate student fees here: https://docs.google.com/a/umn.edu/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dE5LLTZKTnpxeU5LaHJjuS01zT1A3Z2c6MQ

b. **Communicate your feelings about graduate student fees with U of M administrators.** Let them know directly the impact these fees are having on graduate student lives. How are fees impacting you financially? Do you think you’re receiving value for the services you get from fees? Reach out to Provost Hanson at provost@umn.edu or President Kaler at upres@umn.edu

c. **Attend the next COGS General Assembly meetings, where we will discuss the response to the Fees Committee Report.** See meeting dates at www.cogs.umn.edu

d. **Join the COGS Fees Committee** for the next steps in investigating the burden of graduate student fees; email cogs@umn.edu to get involved.

e. **Work with GAPSA (Graduate and Professional Student Association) to lobby for more state funding to the University.** Email GAPSA at gapsa@umn.edu to see how you can get involved with lobbying the state for more funding.

---

While fees such as course fees, special program fees, library fines, and equipment fees are important issues and may have a major impact on many graduate students, these fees are so specialized and, in many cases, so complicated to track and compare, that our committee chose to focus on a few fees that we believe make up the greatest burden for the most students.
We made these choices for the sake of consistency and simplicity, and not because we believe that full

time students are most representative of the University of Minnesota graduate school experience. We also

feel comfortable generalizing, at least to a limited extent, the conclusions made about fee burdens on full
time students onto part time students. Nevertheless, there is certainly a great need for more exploration into
the specific needs and impacts of fees on part time students, and we recommend that COGS pursue this
issue further.

Unless otherwise noted, taken directly from OneStop site:
http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/fees/general_fees/index.html

See the following website for a complete breakdown
http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/fees/general_fees/student_service_fees.html

http://www.mndaily.com/2012/10/30/university-recreational-center-could-open-2015

From email communication with International Student and Scholar Services.

From email communication with International Student and Scholar Services, February 20, 2013

The creation of the student advisory board for the Capital Enhancement Fee was reported by the


Apparently, there was discussion at a COGS meeting in March 2008 that the Capital Enhancement Fee
could be used for creating a Child Care Center, but it is unclear whether this was seriously pursued.

Figures are for combined Spring/Fall Semester, based on figures for Full Time credit hour. Does not
include (a) International Student Fees, (b) Collegiate Fees, (c) Health Benefit Plan Fees, (d) non-Twin
Cities Campus Fees, (e) GAPSA fees, which have never risen higher than $12 per term, or (f) Graduate
Orientation fee, which has been cut this past year, and which is only assessed to first year students and also
not assessed to University of Minnesota Alumni, Carlson School Students, post-baccalaureate students in
CEHD, or the MS in CFANS (Grad Orientation Fee cut in the 2012-13 school year). Also excludes
University Fees, which were last assessed in the 2010-11 school year. University Fees were previously
covered, typically, under a typical 50% appointment for graduate students. All data taken from annual
“President’s Recommended Operating Budget,” available for most recent years here:
http://www.budget.umn.edu/document.htm, and available prior to 2011 here:
http://www.budget.umn.edu/archive.htm. See the fee schedules in the back of each report.

Used minimum and maximum base salary for Graduate Assistant and projected backward based on
reported salary increases. Salary floors from 2010 to present available here,
http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/pay/salaries/. For previous years, all data taken from annual “President’s
Recommended Operating Budget,” available for most recent years here:
http://www.budget.umn.edu/document.htm, and available prior to 2011 here:
http://www.budget.umn.edu/archive.htm

See http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/historical.html

GAPSA’s funding declined this year because it missed the deadline for a student services fee request.


All data taken from annual “President’s Recommended Operating Budget,” available for most recent
years here: http://www.budget.umn.edu/document.htm, and available prior to 2011 here:
http://www.budget.umn.edu/archive.htm

Again, for Twin Cities graduate students. The Collegiate Fee was formerly called the “Technology Fee”
For some years in the data, the “Technology Fee” and “Collegiate Fee” were separated, but they were
recombined. This measure assumes that they are the same fee.

For second and third year students. First year students at the law school pay a different amount for the
collegiate fee.

$70/semester for “International Student Services Fee”
http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/TuitionandFees/TuitionandFeeTables/tabid/95/Default.aspx

$84/semester for “International Services Fee” http://bursar.indiana.edu/fee_schedule.php

$80/ semester “International Student Fee.” “Purdue University: Student Fee Rates for FY 2012 and

Based on calculations made at Michigan State cost calculator:
A one-time $150 “New International Student Fee” is assessed for all incoming international graduate students. A $35 fee is assessed each following semester. See [http://studentaccounts.unl.edu/tuitionfee/12-13/rates/in-person](http://studentaccounts.unl.edu/tuitionfee/12-13/rates/in-person).


Email communication from Barbara Kappler, February 20 2012.


Below are the documents and websites which we obtained this information from:

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY:** [http://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/tuition/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/tuition/index.html)

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY:** [http://ctlr.msu.edu/COStudentAccounts/TuitionCalculatorSpring.aspx](http://ctlr.msu.edu/COStudentAccounts/TuitionCalculatorSpring.aspx)

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR**


**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY—COLLEGE PARK**

Accessed from [http://tuition.psu.edu/tuitiondynamic/TuitionAndFees.aspx](http://tuition.psu.edu/tuitiondynamic/TuitionAndFees.aspx)

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**


**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**


**INDIANA UNIVERSITY-BLOOMINGTON**


**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY—MAIN CAMPUS**

“Student Tuition & Fee Schedule,” Accessed at [http:// registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web_AU12_Fee_Table/FeeTables_AU12.htm](http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web_AU12_Fee_Table/FeeTables_AU12.htm)

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA CHAMPAIGN**

Total does not include $310 per academic year “Health Insurance Fee” From “U of I Records: Grad Fees” Accessed at [http://registrar.illinois.edu/financial/tuition_1213/Fall/ugrad_fees.html](http://registrar.illinois.edu/financial/tuition_1213/Fall/ugrad_fees.html)

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**


**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**


**PURDUE UNIVERSITY—WEST LAFAYETTE**


Public Policy programs at Northwestern University is in the College of Continuing Education. Public Policy program at Michigan State is in the Department of Political Science. Penn State University’s public policy programs include a Public Affairs program at the Harrisburg campus and an Education and Public Policy program. University of Nebraska-Omaha has a public policy program.

Penn State’s Public Health program located at Penn State Hershey.

Northwestern’s Public Health program located in the Feinberg School of Medicine.

Both of these figures over a standard academic year.

From “Agreement between the State of Wisconsin and the Teaching Assistants’ Association,” 56.


Based on the “TA Standard” salary from *Ibid*, 58

Based on 50% appointment salary for 2012-13 for Research Assistant.

[http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/polproced/utg/SalRng.html#stuasst](http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/polproced/utg/SalRng.html#stuasst)

Based on email communication with Graduate School Dean James Wimbush, February 22nd. Academic Year Average Stipend of $14,900 (Humanities) and $17,200 (Life Sciences)
Based on minimum GA stipend of $12,000 per academic year, See “Ohio State Graduate Student Handbook,” (36) Accessed at www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/Handbook.pdf, and on the most common $850-900 range for fees for academic students.

Based on grade 12 appointment, which is the median at Penn State, of $14,175. See http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/current/infoga/infoga-1.html


Based on minimum half-time salary of $17,330 for an academic year. See www.gradschool.purdue.edu/downloads/graduate_student_employment_manual.pdf. Graduate students remitted standard graduate student fees and instead pay “Graduate Staff Fee” of $252 per semester (See “Manual” (23) for policy and http://www.purdue.edu/bursar/fees2012-2013/page7.html#WL_Grad_Appointments for amount)

See “Fee Waivers,” http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/chaptervii/section04

Based on 50% appointment for academic year salary of $15,190, from “Grad & GEO Minimum Salaries,” Accessed at http://www.ahr.illinois.edu/grad/

Based on 50% appointment for academic year of $13,190 for TAs and RAs. “Purdue University Graduate Staff Employment Manual,“ (32)

Based on $18,000 standard appointment for Graduate Student Research Assistants http://orsp.umich.edu/proposals/students/gsra.html

For graduate teaching assistants, see minimum salary: http://www.umgeo.org/2009/08/03/article-10-salaries/

Based on base rate of $12,479 for academic year: see http://www.hr.msu.edu/hiring/studentemployment/gradasst/stipendRanges.htm#PAstipend

And engineering fee of $1090 http://ctlr.msu.edu/COSTudentAccounts/Tuition_FeesNonResident.aspx

Based on the minimum $13,655 appointment for an academic year