

Differential Tuition FAQs

What is differential tuition?

Differential or tiered tuition refers to a system where students are charged different tuition rates depending on their academic program or field of study, with higher tuition being applied to higher-demand, resource-intensive programs. This allows LSU to maintain the same level of excellence across all programs, smaller faculty-to-student ratios, and more specialized services.

Which programs apply differential tuition?

Differential tuition will apply to on-campus undergraduate and graduate programs in Tier 2.

Undergraduate & Graduate Academic Programs by Cost Classification

Tier 1

African and African American Studies
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Communication Studies
Education
English
French Studies
Geography and Anthropology
History
Interdisciplinary Studies
Leadership and Human Resource Development
Library and Information Science
Mass Communication
Mathematics
Philosophy and Religious Studies
Political Science
Social Work
Sociology
World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University College Advising/Counseling
University College Freshman Year

Tier 2

Accounting
Allied Health
Agriculture and Extension Education and Evaluation
Agricultural Business/Agribusiness
Agricultural Economics
Animal Sciences
Applied Depositional Geosystems
Applied Statistics
Architecture
Art and Design
Athletic Training
Biochemistry
Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Biological Sciences
Business Analytics
Business Administration
Cardiopulmonary Science
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Climatology and Climate Change
Cloud Computing and Machine Learning
Coastal Environmental Science
Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Construction Management
Cybersecurity Risk Management
Dental Hygiene
Dental Laboratory Technology
Digital Media Arts and Engineering
Econometrics

Tier 1**Tier 2**

Economics
Electrical Engineering
Emerging Information Technologies for Business
Energy Law and Policy
Engineering and Engineering Science
Entomology
Entrepreneurship and Information Systems
Environmental and Energy Policy
Environmental Engineering
Environmental Health Sciences
Environmental Management Systems
Environmental Modeling and Analysis
Environmental Sciences
Estate Planning and Taxation
Experimental Statistics
Film and Television
Finance
Financial Analytics
Financial Economics
Fine Arts
General Business
Geology and Geophysics
Industrial Engineering
Information Systems & Decision Sciences
Interior Design
International Trade and Finance
Kinesiology
Landscape Architecture
Law
Management
Marketing
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Medical Physics and Health Physics
Microbiology
Music
Music Education
Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Natural Sciences
Nutrition and Food Sciences
Oceanography and Coastal Sciences
Pathobiological Sciences
Petroleum Engineering
Physics and Astronomy

Tier 1**Tier 2**

Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology
Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences
Pre-Occupational Therapy
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Physician Assistant
Psychology
Renewable Natural Resources
School Librarianship
Screen Arts
Sport Administration
Statistics
Studio Art
Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising
Theatre
Transportation Engineering
Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Veterinary Medicine

How much does differential tuition cost?

Tuition costs for both standard programs (Tier 1) and those with differential tuition (Tier 2) vary by credit hour. View tuition and fee schedules [here](#).

Does differential tuition apply to University College?

While University College and University Center for Freshman Year are in Tier 1 (no tuition differential), undergraduates enrolled in University College will be assessed a fee of \$8 per credit hour for enhanced academic advising services. Students with majors in high-cost areas who are still in University College will not be subject to the tiered tuition increase until they are admitted to their senior college.

Does this apply to summer courses?

Differential tuition applies to fall, winter intersession, and spring courses but not summer.

If I have two majors, will I pay the tuition differential twice?

Students majoring in two or more programs will only be assessed one tuition and fee rate based on their primary program of study.

What if I can't afford the increase to my existing degree program?

Students who are unable to meet their tuition requirements may [apply for a hardship exemption](#).