

Overview: Student Services Fee *for Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF)*

BACKGROUND

The Student Services Fee (formerly the University Registration Fee) is set by the UC Regents and charged to all registered students systemwide, with few exceptions.¹ The annual fee increased from \$972 per student in 2014-15 to \$1,020 per student in 2015-16 with 5% annual increases approved through 2019-20. These increases were implemented in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Fees were not increased in 2018-19 because the State provided one-time funding in lieu of tuition and Student Services Fee (SSF) increases.

The mental health fee, a subset of the SSF, is ear-marked for mental health programs and is administered separately. The 2018-19 mental health fee is \$113 per undergraduate and professional student and \$100 per graduate student. Of the remaining SSF revenue – estimated to be more than \$35 million in 2018-19 – approximately \$2.8 million must be spent on financial aid (return-to-aid).² The remainder can be used to support other student services.

Student Services Fee: Annual Fee and Revenue Summary

Fiscal Year	Annual Student Services Fee <i>includes mental health fee</i>	SSF Revenue <i>excludes mental health fee revenue (\$ in millions)</i>	Mental Health Fee Revenue <i>(\$ in millions)</i>	Total SSF Revenue <i>(\$ in millions)</i>
2010-11	\$900	\$24.7	\$1.8	\$26.5
2011-12	\$972	\$27.1	\$1.8	\$28.9
2012-13	\$972	\$27.8	\$1.9	\$29.7
2013-14	\$972	\$28.6	\$1.9	\$30.5
2014-15	\$972	\$29.7	\$2.0	\$31.7
2015-16	\$1,020	\$31.1	\$2.5	\$33.6
2016-17	\$1,074	\$33.4	\$3.2	\$36.6
2017-18	\$1,128	\$35.5	\$3.9	\$39.4
2018-19				
Student fees	\$1,128	\$35.9 (est.)	\$4.0 (est.)	\$39.9 (est.)
State one-time funding in lieu of SSF increase	n/a	\$0.7	\$0.6	\$1.3

¹ Exceptions include (1) low-income students who are a spouse or registered domestic partner or child of a resident law enforcement officer or fire fighter killed in active duty, and (2) students who are a dependent of a military veteran (including California National Guard) who was disabled or killed in service (also known as the “Cal Vet” program) <http://www.ucop.edu/operating-budget/fees-and-enrollments/other-fee-information/exemptions-reductions.html#exemption>.

² UCOP return-to-aid set-aside requirements: 33% of increases above 2010-11 fee level of \$900 for undergraduate and professional students (\$76 in 2018-19) and 50% increases above 2010-11 fee level of \$900 for graduate students (\$114 in 2018-19).

ALLOWABLE USES AND ALLOCATIONS

The [University of California Student Tuition and Fee Policy](#) (Regents Policy 3101) states that Student Services Fee revenue:

...shall be used to support services and programs that directly benefit students and that are complementary to, but not a part of, the core instructional program. These services and programs include, but are not limited to, operating and capital expenses for services related to the physical and psychological health and well-being of students; social, recreational, and cultural activities and programs; services related to campus life and campus community; technology expenses directly related to the services; and career support.

The [Guidelines for Implementing the Student Services Fee Portion of the University of California Student Fee Policy](#) state that “services and programs funded by the Student Services Fee should be broadly available to all students.” The guidelines interpret Regental policy and provide some flexibility to campuses regarding the use of SSF revenues, in consultation with student fee advisory committees. The guidelines also address the structure and responsibilities of the advisory committees, the process for soliciting budget recommendations from the committees, annual SSF reports, and campus fee websites.

OVERSIGHT

The UC Office of the President (UCOP) requires each campus to have a committee to advise its Chancellor on the use of SSF revenue. At UC Davis, this committee is the Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF), which advises the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the Vice Chancellor of Finance, Operations and Administration, and the Chancellor regarding many student fees, including the SSF.

Campuses are also required to report annually on expenditures for SSF-funded programs. BIA produces the reports for UC Davis and presents them to COSAF. One report is prepared for the mental health fee and a separate report is prepared for the remainder of the SSF. Reports for all campuses are posted [online](#).