



Powered by Clickability

Click to Print

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Cost of higher education gets more pricey

Advertisement

By Sandra Block, USA TODAY

Even as tuition increases at public universities are expected to slow, on average, this year, schools in several states are raising tuition by 10% to more than 15%, adding hundreds of dollars to students' costs.

Driving the increases are budget gaps that have cut the amount of money available for higher education in some states. The tuition increases come as Congress is close to adopting legislation to boost federal grants for low-income students and to lower the cost of student loans.

ADVICE: [Time to study college bill options](#)

TELL US: [How do you plan to pay for your or your children's college costs?](#)

Among the hardest hit: students in Michigan, where rising unemployment and a widening state budget deficit have reduced the amount of state aid for public colleges and universities.

The price increases range from 7.4% at the University of Michigan to nearly 14% at Oakland University in southeastern Michigan.

Other states where college students will be hit with a big jump in tuition this fall:

- Oklahoma.** Tuition and fees at Oklahoma's public colleges and universities will rise an average of 8.6% this year. At the University of Oklahoma, tuition will go up 9.7%, and Oklahoma State University will increase it by 9.9%. The state's board of regents approved the tuition increases after the state allocated less than half the amount of money the board had requested.
- Illinois.** Tuition and fees at the University of Illinois' three main campuses will soar an average of 11.6% this year. The state's higher-education spending has been flat for the past several years. As required by state law, tuition for incoming freshmen will remain the same for the next four years, but fees and housing costs could rise.
- Colorado.** The University of Colorado at Boulder will boost tuition by 14% this year. The increase for financially needy students, though, will be capped at 5%. The remaining students will receive a one-time \$200 award, reducing their increase to 9.8%
- Kansas.** Tuition at the University of Kansas will increase by nearly 16% this fall but will remain the same for incoming freshmen for the next four years. Increases at other state colleges and universities will range from 5.1% to 9.5%.

Overall in the USA, tuition increases at state colleges and universities have been relatively modest this year, reflecting improved state support for higher education, says Daniel Hurley, director of state relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Ohio's budget, for instance, calls for a \$254 million increase in public education funding, allowing state colleges and universities to freeze tuition and fees.

In recent years, tuition rates have risen at a much faster rate than inflation. From 2001 to 2006, average tuition at public universities jumped 35% after adjustment for inflation, the largest five-year increase on record, according to the College Board.

How do you plan to pay for your or your children's college costs?

Find this article at:

http://www.usatoday.com/money/perfi/college/2007-07-26-tuition_N.htm

 **Click to Print**

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Copyright 2007 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Co. Inc.