

Tuition Policy

Under current law, tuition revenue is appropriated at all state institutions except the Colorado School of Mines. General Fund and tuition spending authority are the funding sources utilized in the state budget to help cover the budget needs of the state's institutions' core educational operations, commonly called Education and General (E&G) expenses. Therefore, there is a direct link between state General Fund investment and the tuition rates. An increase in General Fund investment generally results in lower tuition increases, while a decrease in General Fund investment can result in higher tuition increases.

In recent years, resident tuition rate increases have been capped in the state budget. The Governor's November 2 budget request caps resident undergraduate tuition growth to 3.0 percent while allowing institutions to request permission through the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) for a greater increase. The Governor's office has asked that the Department develop criteria that the Commission could consider when evaluating an institution's decision to exceed the cap on increases in resident tuition. The Department recommends that any institution seeking an increase above the cap demonstrate how the proposed increase: 1) results in tuition levels that remain competitive with similar peer institutions; 2) does not place undue financial strain on resident students; 3) is expected to affect enrollment levels; and 4) what alternatives outside of the tuition increase were considered but were not deemed viable.