



WASHINGTON STATE

Council of
Presidents

**Tuition Policy and
Student Financial
Assistance**

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Council of Presidents

Tuition Policy: House Bill 1795

- Large declines in state funding for higher education have resulted in the Legislature authorizing double digit tuition increases in the budget.
- Tuition increases offset some but not all of the state funding reductions.
- Thus far, only one institution has exercised the tuition authority granted in HB 1795, and then only for one academic year.

	Legislatively Authorized Tuition Increase			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
UW	14%	14%	16%*	16%
WSU	14%	14%	16%	16%
WWU	14%	14%	16%	16%
CWU	14%	14%	14%	14%
EWU	14%	14%	11%	11%
TESC	14%	14%	14%	14%

* UW increased tuition by 20% for the 2011-12 academic year.



House Bill 1795 Passage (2011 session)

Mitigating Tuition Increases: HB 1795

- Required increase in the percentage of operating fees remitted to students in the form of financial aid:
 - ✓ All four-year institutions: **3.5% → 4%**
 - ✓ Institutions that exercise tuition-setting authority: **3.5% → 5%**
- Institutions exercising tuition-setting authority must provide financial assistance to low and middle-income students via a specific formula depending on tuition price as a percentage of median family income in various income brackets up to 125%* of median family income.
- Increased reporting requirements:
 - ✓ The amount of additional financial aid provided to low and middle-income students with demonstrated need in the aggregate and per student;
 - ✓ Itemized sources and methods of financial aid provided in the aggregate and per student;

* 100% of median family income = \$82,000/family of four

Mitigating Tuition Increases: HB 1795

■ Increased reporting requirements (continued):

- ✓ Analysis of the combined impact of federal tuition tax credits and the net cost to students;
- ✓ For institutions that exercise tuition-setting authority, analysis in changes in enrollment patterns, participation and graduation rates, and debt load. Required disaggregation by race, ethnicity, state and county of origin, age, and socioeconomic status (along with a plan to mitigate the effects of reduced diversity) and by three income brackets:
 - Up to 70% of median family income
 - Between 70%-125% of median family income
 - Above 125% of the median family income

■ Additional notifications on the tuition billing statement or financial aid award letters.

Additional Financial Aid Notes

- Tuition waiver policy study:
 - ✓ Required in 2012 supplemental operating budget
 - ✓ Due December 1
 - ✓ Overview of tuition waiver uses and costs
 - ✓ Recommendations for changes

- State Need Grant program reviews:
 - ✓ Washington Student Achievement Council
 - ✓ Washington State Institute for Public Policy

- Important student access, affordability and debt load implications with continued large percentage increases in tuition.