



# Tuition and Fee Public Comment

**Policy Type:** Local - Board of Visitors

**Responsible Office:** Office of the President

**Initial Policy Approved:** 12/13/2019

**Current Revision Approved:** 09/13/2024

## Policy Statement and Purpose

This policy addresses the statutory requirements pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

Investment in the learning experience of students and the future of education is the most important issue facing Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and all American institutions of higher education. The costs associated with earning a college degree remains a critical component requiring further examination and inclusion of all voices, in particular, the student voice. This issue is important to the governing Board and university senior leadership members; to that end, it is a priority to maintain the highest levels of transparency and integrity in the setting of tuition and fees.

Typically, a vote to approve the budget, including any tuition and fee increases, occurs typically at the last Board of Visitors meeting of the fiscal year. The Board of Visitors has determined that public comment will be permitted at a time determined by the Board of Visitors prior to the Board's vote. It is the Board's discretion to determine the parameters for making public comments for consideration whether in person and/or submitted in advance pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

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## **Who Should Know this Policy**

All members of the VCU Board of Visitors are responsible for knowing the contents of this policy. The President and staff of the Office of the President must be familiar with its contents and provisions as well as any other individual.

## **Definitions**

### **Undergraduate Tuition**

Undergraduate tuition refers to the base undergraduate tuition applicable to the majority of students. Rates for both resident and non-resident students will be included.

### **Mandatory Fees**

Mandatory fees refers to those fees required of all students such as the library fee, technology fee, university fee, student health fee, activity fee, and the academic support services fee. Tuition and fees relating to specific programs or courses are excluded here but are provided to the Board of Visitors when tuition and fees are voted on, typically at the May meeting.

## **Contacts**

The Office of the President officially interprets this policy and is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions and questions regarding this policy should be directed to this office.

## **Policy Specifics**

A noticed public comment period will be utilized as an opportunity for the leadership and governance functions of VCU to make the most informed decisions concerning the budget and tuition and fee increases.

This policy codifies the University's commitment to accessibility and affordability and provides detailed information as to what can be expected related to notice of meetings and opportunities for public comment. Specifically, no approval for an increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees shall be brought to a vote without providing students and the public a projected range of the planned increase, an explanation of the need for the increase, and notice of the date and location of any vote on such increase at least 30 days prior to such vote.

Typically, a vote to approve the budget, including any tuition and fee increases, occurs at the May Board of Visitors meeting.

The Board of Visitors has determined that public comment will be permitted prior to the Board's vote. It is

the Board's discretion to determine the parameters for making public comments for consideration whether in person and/or submitted in advance, pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

## Forms

Public Comment Portal: <https://president.vcu.edu/board/open-comment-portal/>

## Related Documents

[Code of Virginia, §2.2-3701](#)  
[Code of Virginia, §23.1-307\(D\) - \(E\)](#)

## Revision History

This policy has been revised on the following dates:

<b>12/13/2019</b>	<b>Initially Adopted</b>
<b>09/13/2024</b>	<b>Amended</b>

## FAQ

### Why do I have to register to participate in the public comment period?

Registering is not required, however in the interest of planning and maximizing the time within the meeting, preference will be given on a first-come first-serve basis to those who have registered, allotting the maximum amount of permitted time for each registrant. After all registrants have been given their time opportunity, the individuals who signed up the day of the meeting will be given opportunity in the order of first come, first serve. In addition should it be necessary to postpone the meeting it will provide a means to advise the registrant of the same.

### Who can I contact if I have problems registering?

Contact the VCU Board Liaison. Please see <https://president.vcu.edu/board/> for the contact information for the Board Liaison.