

University of Houston  Clear Lake



UHCL Fixed Rate Tuition Plan Information





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History, Definition and Purpose

The State legislature passed House Bill 29 on May 2013 requiring academic institutions to offer a Fixed Rate Tuition Plan to undergraduate students for 12 consecutive semesters (4 years).

The Fixed Rate Tuition Plan is available only to undergraduate students (both First-Time in College and Transfer Students), admitted to and enrolled in a degree-granting course of study at University of Houston-Clear Lake. The plan is available to resident and non-resident undergraduate students and will provide students a fixed rate tuition per semester credit hour (SCH) during the term of their agreement with UHCL. The fixed rate tuition does not include any mandatory fees or course fees. Those fees will be in addition to the fixed rate tuition and may vary annually. The intent and goal of the plan is to provide tuition predictability and inspire students to graduate in four years. Consequently, there is no guarantee that a student will realize any tuition savings by participating in the plan.

The Fixed Rate Tuition plan enables undergraduate students and their families to lock in the tuition rate at enrollment for the student's entire time at UHCL (up to a maximum of four consecutive academic years). There are certain eligibility criteria and student responsibilities, such as completion of 30 SCH per academic year, maintaining good academic standing with minimum GPA, etc.

Facts of Fixed Rate Tuition Plan

- ◆ Effective Fall 2014.
- ◆ Sets fixed designated and differential designated tuition per SCH rate for a period of 4 consecutive years.
- ◆ The fixed rate does not include any mandatory fees or program/college based course fees. These fees will be in addition to the fixed tuition and may vary annually.
- ◆ Offered to undergraduates (both First-Time in College and Transfer Students). Not recommended for Transfer students with 30+ SCH.
- ◆ Student pays an accelerated rate in the early years (1st & 2nd year) and will not see a positive financial impact until the 3rd year of plan.
- ◆ The fixed rate term will always begin in the fall semester following execution of this agreement and terminate after twelve consecutive academic semesters.
- ◆ New fixed tuition rates are established for each Fall Semester cohort.

Eligibility Requirements

- ◆ Be a First-Time-in-College student (as identified by Admissions).
- ◆ Be a Transfer student with any number of hours. Fixed rate tuition plan is not recommended for Transfer students with 30+ SCH.
- ◆ Accepted into a degree-seeking program only, excluding post-baccalaureate.

Student Responsibilities

- ◆ Must opt in before student accounts are calculated or student will be defaulted to the variable rate plan.
- ◆ Be required to sign a contract.
- ◆ Successfully complete 30 SCH within each academic year in any combination during the 3 semesters (fall, spring and summer) starting in the fall of each year.
- ◆ Maintain good academic standing as per the requirements of the UHCL student handbook.

Program Requirements

- ◆ Fixed Rate Tuition plan begins in the Fall only. Students whose initial enrollment is in the spring/summer will pay the variable rate and will have the option to enroll in the fixed rate tuition plan with the next fall cohort.
- ◆ Each cohort will have a separate rate and will include the current fall semester and subsequent spring/summer of the academic year.
- ◆ Enrollment will not be blocked, but students must opt in before student accounts are calculated or they will be defaulted to the variable rate plan.
- ◆ Students will have the option to opt in, opt out or indicate undecided. For those students who do not make a decision by the determined deadline, they will be defaulted into the current variable rate.
- ◆ Academic standing will be checked at the end of each academic year.
- ◆ Once a student fails to meet academic standing and/or fails to meet the 30 hour requirement, they are no longer eligible for the Fixed Rate Tuition plan at UHCL.
- ◆ Tuition will be charged per SCH and there will be a different rate for resident versus non-resident students to accommodate the non-resident differential in tuition.
- ◆ Students who enroll in summer courses will be charged the same rate as preceding Fall and Spring semesters.

Fixed Rate Tuition Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Fixed Rate Tuition Plan?

The Fixed Rate Tuition Plan is a plan available only to undergraduate students (both First-Time in College and Transfer Students), admitted to and enrolled in a degree granting course of study at University of Houston-Clear Lake. The plan is available to resident and non-resident undergraduate students and will provide students a Fixed Rate Tuition per SCH during the term of their agreement with UHCL. The Fixed Rate Tuition does not include any mandatory fees and program/course fees. These fees will be in addition to the Fixed Rate Tuition and may vary annually.

What is the purpose and goal of this plan?

The intent and goal of this plan is to provide tuition predictability and inspire students to graduate in four years. Consequently, there is no guarantee that a student will realize any tuition savings by participating in the plan.

How does Fixed Rate Tuition work?

The Fixed Rate Tuition Plan works by locking in the tuition rate at fall enrollment for your entire time at the university (up to a maximum of four consecutive academic years). Student pays an accelerated rate in the early years (1st and 2nd year) and will not see a positive financial impact until the 3rd year of plan.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued...)

How does this benefit a student?

The benefits are two-fold. This allows the student to budget and plan their finances with confidence as it relates to tuition costs from day one for the next four consecutive years. Secondly, it may motivate a student to complete their education within four years and enter into the job market sooner.

How does this benefit UHCL?

Fixed Rate Tuition allows a more transparent pricing structure focusing on affordability, access, retention and graduation. This also allows for public accountability and a potential increase in enrollment and formula funding from state.

Is this plan available to all students?

No. The Fixed Rate Tuition Plan is available only to undergraduate students (both First-Time in College and Transfer Students). Students currently enrolled in UHCL are not eligible to receive this plan. This plan is available for students enrolled in a degree-granting program and excludes non-degree courses/training.

Is the Fixed Rate Tuition the same for residents and non-residents?

No. The Fixed Rate Tuition is different for residents vs. non-residents.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued...)

Does it cost undergraduates more to take more hours?

Yes. The Fixed Rate Tuition is set per semester credit hour. Therefore, taking more hours means an increase in the fixed rate. For example, the cost for 12 hours is not the same as the cost for 15 hours for an undergraduate.

When is the Fixed Rate Tuition Plan implemented?

The plan became effective Fall 2014.

Do you have new rates each fall semester?

Yes. New fixed rate tuition will be established for each fall semester cohort. The fall semester cohort rate will include the current fall semester and subsequent spring and summer of the academic year.

Do students have to pay any other fees for the next four years?

Yes. All fees (both mandatory and non-mandatory fees) may vary each year and must be paid by all students (both resident and non-resident students) in addition to the fixed rate tuition amount. These fees include late registration fees, installment plan service charge, late payment charges, student service fees, orientation fees, etc.

Is this plan available for Transfer Students with more than 30 plus semester credit hours?

Yes. However, UHCL does not recommend this plan for students who transfer 30 or more hours.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued...)

When do I opt-in for this plan?

Students will have to select and opt-in for this plan during the enrollment period and finalize their decision before student accounts are calculated or they will be defaulted to the variable rate plan.

Is a contract involved?

Yes. Students will be required to e-sign a contract at the time of opt-in during enrollment.

How many semester credit hours must a student complete each academic year?

Students must successfully complete 30 SCH within each academic year in any combination over the three semesters (fall, spring and summer) starting the fall of each year.

Is there an academic standing requirement?

Yes. In addition to completing 30 SCH each academic year, the student must also maintain a minimum of 2.00 GPA, with good academic standing.

Can a student transfer UHCL Fixed Rate Tuition Plan to another university?

No. The Fixed Rate Tuition Plan a student starts with when he/she enrolls during fall will be applicable only at UHCL.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What happens if a student takes longer than four years to graduate?

After four academic years, the tuition rate will change to the prevailing Board approved variable tuition rate until completion.

Does a student get an exemption on this plan?

No. Any interruptions in enrollment (whether due to medical withdrawal, required military service, mission service or study abroad, etc.) do not extend the Fixed Rate Term.

Is the Fixed Rate Tuition available to students for online courses?

Yes. Fixed Rate Tuition is available to all full time undergraduate students attending UHCL with traditional classes and/or online courses.

Is there financial aid available?

Contact the Student Financial Aid Office for financial aid eligibility requirements.

Do students receive a detailed bill statement showing all of the fees?

Yes. Students will continue to receive detailed student bill statements.

How will the Fixed Rate Tuition structure work for the summer sessions?

If the student is already enrolled in the fall cohort Fixed Rate Tuition Plan for the preceding fall term and spring term, then the student will be charged the same fixed rate cohort for the summer term. However, if the student is enrolling for the first time in summer term, then the variable rate would apply for the summer term but the student is eligible to enroll in the next fall cohort Fixed Rate Tuition.

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For more additional information about Tuition and Fees at UHCL please visit: www.uhcl.edu/sbs

Student Success

UHCL is focusing on affordability, access, retention and graduation. UHCL's goal is that by offering this type of financial certainty we will assist students by retaining and graduating a greater percentage in four years. Our focus, and that of the Legislature that passed House Bill 29, is student success.

**Welcome to UHCL
and
We Wish You
Success !**

