University of Illinois
Guaranteed Tuition Program

• What is the purpose of the Guaranteed Tuition Program?

A. To enable students and families to plan for the cost of a college education at Illinois public universities by stabilizing the tuition rate for the four years required to complete most degree programs.

• Where did the plan come from?

A. The Illinois General Assembly approved legislation in the spring 2003 session of the Illinois General Assembly; Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed in July 2003 at the Illini Union in Urbana. Public Act 93-0228 became effective in the fall 2004. The University of Illinois supported the legislation and worked with the sponsors. Within the requirements of the new law, each university manages its own program. We call ours the University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Program and it covers undergraduates at all three campuses.

• What are the basic terms of the University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Program?

A. The program began for incoming undergraduates starting in the summer 2004.
  ➢ All new students admitted to a baccalaureate program – freshman and transfers – will receive a four-year guaranteed tuition schedule.
  ➢ A tuition schedule lists the tuition for each major and each campus. If students change majors or campuses, they will pay the rate for the new program that was in place when they entered. Students who do not change majors will pay the same tuition all four years.
  ➢ The guarantee is for four years, regardless of the entering semester.
  ➢ The four-year guarantee is given to full-time and part-time degree students.
  ➢ The guarantee applies to both in-state and out-of-state students.
  ➢ Continuing enrollment is not necessary, but the expiration date of the guarantee four years following initial enrollment) will not be extended if the student withdraws and is readmitted.
Why do transfer students receive a four-year guarantee?

A. Transfer students come to the University with varying amounts of earned credit. How much of that credit counts toward their degree will depend on the major they choose and may change if they switch majors. To simplify matters for students, advisors, and those in fee assessment, the University decided to grant transfer students the same guarantee as that given to new freshmen.

What about students who withdraw and then are readmitted to a University of Illinois campus?

A. Students who withdraw for any reason, other than for U.S. military service as the plan defines, will not be granted an extension of their guarantee. They will rejoin their original Guaranteed Tuition Plan cohort. Prior to the implementation of the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, students who withdrew from school were not protected from tuition increases, regardless of extenuating circumstances.

What about degree-seeking students attending part-time or summer session?

A. The plan guarantees a set tuition schedule. If a degree-seeking student takes a reduced load, as many do in the summer, their guaranteed rate is prorated according to the tuition schedule. The guarantee does not apply to summer session only, non-degree students.

Do online students receive a guarantee?

A. Students who enroll in online baccalaureate degree programs will be given the same tuition guarantee and fall under the same cohort policies as on-campus students.

What happens when the four-year guarantee expires?

A. At the end of the four years, a student who has not completed his/her degree will be placed in the tuition cohort immediately following. For example, a student who entered in Fall 2004 will have their guarantee expire after the summer session in 2008. If he/she is still enrolled in the Fall 2008, he/she will be moved to the cohort of students that entered in the Fall 2005, and he/she will remain in that cohort for a maximum of two years. If the student has not graduated after two years, he/she will be placed in the “without guarantee” cohort.
The Act specifies that guaranteed rates may be extended beyond four years for students who are enrolled in “programs that require more than four years to complete . . . , as determined by the University.” Do we have any such programs?

A. Other than Co-Op programs, the University has one program that cannot be completed in four years. Beginning in 2004, we have asked each college to review annually all their programs and decide whether there are some majors that require more than four years of enrollment.

What about Co-Op programs?

A. Students enrolled in Co-Op programs will be entitled to an extension of their guarantee for the number of terms they are enrolled in the off-campus portion of their program.

Does the tuition guarantee cover fees and room and board charges?

A. No, the four-year guarantee will apply only to tuition, including any tuition surcharges and program differentials.