

University of Illinois

Guaranteed Tuition Plan

Q. What is the purpose of this plan?

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.

Q. 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 Plan and it covers undergraduates at all three campuses.

Q. What are the basic terms of the University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

- 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 calendar years*, regardless of the entering semester.
 - The four-year guarantee is given to *full-time and part-time 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.

Q. 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.

Q. 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 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.*

Q. What about students attending part-time or summer session?

A. The *plan guarantees a set tuition schedule*. If a student takes a reduced load, as many do in the summer, their *guaranteed rate is prorated* according to the tuition schedule.

Q. 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.

Q. What happens when the four-year guarantee expires?

A. At the end of the four years, students will be placed in the immediately following cohort. For example, students who entered in Fall 2004 will have their guarantee expire after the summer session in 2008. If they are still enrolled in the Fall 2008, they will be moved to the cohort of students that entered in the Fall 2005. As each cohort expires, students still enrolled will be moved to the immediately following cohort.

Q. 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 does not have additional programs 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.

Q. What about Co-Op programs?

A. Students enrolled in Co-Op programs will be entitled to an *extension* of their guarantee for *two semesters*.

Q. 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.