

# SURVEY ON 1999-2000 STATE TUITION, FEES, & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES FOR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

## Two-Year Institutions

This survey solicits information on state-level policies and procedures governing **two-year public** higher education tuition, fees, and student financial assistance. For simplicity, the term “tuition” as used in this survey includes all standard student charges including required “education fees” in states that prohibit tuition per se.

Some questions are intended to update and clarify information collected through the last SHEEO/WICHE survey on this topic in 1996. Other questions are new or expanded to reflect the changing financial and political circumstances in which tuition policies are set. This is not a survey of the actual rates or amounts of current tuition, since there are already several sources for those data.

### Section A – Tuition Philosophy and Authority

1. a) Describe the tuition philosophy or approach in your state (e.g., tuition should be as low/moderate/high as possible, tuition is guided by institutional-level policy, other).

b) Is this tuition policy formalized in the state constitution, by legislative statute, by other rule or policy, or not formalized?

Constitution     Statute     Other rule/policy     Not formalized

c) Describe, if possible, the rationale for the philosophy stated above in question 1a (e.g., tuition should be low to maximize access, institutions best understand their fiscal situation).

2. a) Describe any tuition policy changes in the past three years (not changes in tuition levels).

b) Describe any potential tuition policy changes under consideration for 2000-01.

3. a) Describe the role each of the following bodies has in establishing tuition rates and/or policies in your state.

Governor:

Legislature:

State coordinating/governing agency:

System governing board (not statewide):

Local district governing board (two-year only):

Institution:

Other (*Please specify*):

- b) Indicate which body, if any, has primary authority for establishing tuition.

4. Are public hearings required in your state prior to any changes in tuition levels or tuition policy?

Yes       No

5. Indicate which of the following tuition revenue policies are in place in your state:

- Tuition revenues are controlled and retained by an institution or campus.
- Tuition revenues are deposited in separate state tuition accounts from which all funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure for higher education purposes.
- Tuition revenues are retained at the state level under the control of a state governing or coordinating board.
- Tuition revenues are deposited in the state general funds, with their return to higher education only inferred.
- Other (*Please describe*)

## Section B – Undergraduate Tuition Setting

1. The following factors may or may not be used in setting resident tuition rates. Please check the box that best describes the relationship between each factor and the tuition rate. Are they **directly indexed, indirectly considered, or not taken into account**?

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Directly indexed</u>	<u>Indirectly considered</u>	<u>Not taken into account</u>
a. Consumer Price Index (CPI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Other cost of living indexes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. State personal or disposable income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. State general fund appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Tuition charged by peer institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Institutional mission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Cost of instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Prior year's tuition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other student fees or charges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Financial aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Has there been a curb, cap, freeze or other limit placed on tuition in the past three years?

Yes (*Please describe*)       No

3. Indicate which of the following types of differential tuition are used for residents in your state.

<u>Types of differential tuition</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. Upper division/lower division	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Undergraduate/graduate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Programmatic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Credit/non-credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. In-district/out-of-district ( <i>two-year schools only</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Credit hours beyond a specific number (e.g., credit hours above 140 are charged at a higher rate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Indicate which of the following statements describes how **resident** tuition is set in your state.

- |  | <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u>                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. State policy sets tuition per credit hour regardless of how many credits the student is taking.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. State policy sets tuition at a flat rate for full-time students.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. State policy provides for a per credit surcharge at or above a specific number of credit hours.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Tuition is set at a mandated percentage of the cost of undergraduate instruction. The percentage is _____ % | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. No formal state policy on resident tuition setting  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> ):  |                          |                          |

5. Indicate which of the following statements describes how **nonresident** (out-of-state) tuition is set in your state.

- |  | <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u>                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Tuition is indexed to the cost of instruction (e.g., 100% of instructional cost). The percentage is _____ %                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Tuition is indexed to the undergraduate resident tuition (e.g., 2 times the resident tuition rate). The percentage is _____ % | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. No formal state policy on nonresident tuition setting   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )   |                          |                          |

6. Indicate other tuition policies that may be present in your state:

- |  | <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u>                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Your state has undergraduate tuition reciprocity agreements with other states. If yes, please briefly describe or provide a copy of the policy.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Your state has a "good neighbor" policy for students from neighboring states. If yes, please briefly describe or provide a copy of the policy.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Your state has a formal tuition policy for courses offered at alternative sites including distance education via technology. If yes, please briefly describe or provide a copy of the policy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )   |                          |                          |

## Section C – Fees

1. a) Describe the philosophy in your state related specifically to student fees (e.g., fees make up for tuition limitations, fees are institutionally controlled, other).

b) Is this fee philosophy formalized in the state constitution, by legislative statute, other rule or policy, or not formalized?

Constitution     Statute     Other rule/policy     Not formalized

2. Describe the relationship (formal or informal) between the tuition policies and fee policies in your state (e.g., viewed as similar but different source of funds, no relationship, other).

3. **Mandatory fees** are defined as charges that a majority of full-time students are required to pay in addition to tuition. **Designated fees** are defined as charges that apply to specific classifications only, such as certain courses, programs, or services. Indicate which entities in your state have the authority to set mandatory and/or designated fees. *Check all that apply.*

<u>Authority to set fees</u>	<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Designated</u>
a. Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Legislature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. State coordinating/governing agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. System governing board (not statewide)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Local district governing board (two-year only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Are public hearings required in your state prior to any changes in fees?

Yes     No

5. Has there been a curb, cap, freeze or other limit placed on fees in the past three years?

Yes (*Please describe*)     No

## Section D – Student Financial Aid

1. a) Describe the student financial aid policy or approach in your state including both need-based and merit-based aid.

b) Is this financial aid policy formalized in the state constitution, by legislative statute, other rule or policy, or not formalized?

Constitution    
  Statute    
  Other rule/policy    
  Not formalized

2. a) Describe any financial aid policy changes (not financial aid appropriations) in the last three years.

b) Describe any potential financial aid policy changes under consideration for 2000-01.

3. Describe the relationship (formal or informal) between the tuition policies and financial aid policies in your state (e.g., high tuition/high aid, other).

4. Check which, if any, of the following student assistance programs your state offers.

<u>Student Assistance Programs</u>	<u>Offered under state statute</u>	<u>Offered through a formal policy but not in statute</u>	<u>Offered at discretion of institutions</u>	<u>Not offered</u>
a. Need-based grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Merit-based scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Loan forgiveness programs (including conditional scholarships)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. State-based work-study programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. State-funded guaranteed loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Waivers guaranteed at early age upon meeting certain criteria (e.g., Taylor/Eugene Lang plans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other ( <i>Please specify</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section E – Affordability

1. Describe any initiatives being discussed in your state to address the affordability of college for students and their families. Include any initiatives or collaboration with other agencies to provide consumer information on college price and financing higher education (including financial aid programs).
  
2. Indicate below if your state has a tuition prepayment plan or tuition savings plan and the name of each plan. If the state does not have such plans, indicate if one is under consideration.

<u>Type of Plan</u>	<u>If yes, name of the plan</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>If no, is it under consideration?</u>	
			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. Tuition prepayment plan	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. College savings plan	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Has your state considered the impact of tuition prepayment plans or college savings plans on tuition levels?
   
 Yes (*Please describe*)       No

4. Below is a list of possible state policy responses to recent federal tax credits (HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits). Check which of these actions has been taken in your state, those currently under consideration, and those **not** under consideration. *Check all that apply.*

<u>Action</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Under consideration</u>	<u>Not under consideration</u>
a. Raise tuition to take advantage of new tax credits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Take federal tax credits into account when calculating state student aid eligibility.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Create additional programs that replicate the federal initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Conform the state tax code to federal policy to simplify the tax process for families.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create a state prepayment or college savings plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Publicize the availability of federal tax credits as a means to finance college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Provide bridge loans to students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other ( <i>Please describe</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: These options are based on The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education's 1998 report, *Maximizing the Effectiveness of the New Federal Tuition Tax Credits* (July, 1998).

**Respondent Information**

State/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance in completing this survey. Please send the completed survey by July 12, 1999 to:**

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