

POLICY 3.27: TUITION RATES

The board of trustees establishes the per-credit-hour tuition rate in accordance with the Illinois Public Community College Act and must remain within all state statutory limits. The board maintains a prudent, transparent and equitable process for tuition adjustments that supports the financial needs of the college while minimizing adverse impact on students.

Core responsibilities informing this policy include long-range planning, safeguarding institutional well-being, ensuring strong financial management and maintaining adequate financial reserves. Contractual obligations — particularly collective bargaining agreements — serve as mission-critical factors influencing tuition adjustments, as these obligations directly affect variable institutional costs.

Method for determining annual tuition adjustments

By Jan. 31 each fiscal year, administration will calculate the following indexes/processes:

1. **CPI-U Midwest (December-to-December change)**, consistent with Property Tax Extension Limitation Act (PTELA) practice.
2. **Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)**, using the most current index available as of Jan. 15.
3. **Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)**, defined as the highest annual increase during the agreement.

The highest index identified may be used to adjust the tuition per credit hour rate, with the adjustment applied at the summer term.

The annual tuition rate is calculated and established by the administration in support of the annual budget building and financial aid cost determination processes.

If the calculated adjustment is insufficient to meet the college's critical needs, administration may recommend an alternative adjustment amount or timeline for board approval.

Changes in fees per credit hour will be brought to the board as may be needed for a separate approval by the board of trustees.

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