

# UTSA<sup>®</sup>

## Guaranteed Tuition Plan

### May 2014

*Effective Fall of 2014, all undergraduate students will have the option of enrolling in a guaranteed rate plan. A committee comprised of the following individuals was assembled and charged with discussing, reviewing and recommending the guaranteed rate plan:*

- Dr. Lisa Blazer, Associate Vice President for Student Financial Aid and Enrollment Services*
- Lenora Chapman, Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs*
- Dr. Joe DeCristoforo, Associate Vice President and University Registrar*
- Gary Lott, Director of Financial Services and University Bursar*
- Dr. George Norton, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions, Orientation and Family Programs*
- Becky Sanchez, Financial Assessment Analyst*
- Dr. Steve Wilkerson, Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Research*
- Dr. Larry Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of University College*
- Terry Wilson, Assistant Provost for Academic Budgets, Planning and Compliance*

#### Is the guaranteed rate plan mandatory or optional?

Optional; A student can only opt in the plan at the initial date of eligibility.

#### Who is eligible to participate?

<b>All Undergraduates</b> (First-time Freshmen, Continuing students and Transfer students)	<b>Graduates</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Non-Residents</b>
Yes	Not at this time	Yes	Yes

#### What is guaranteed?

<b>Designated Tuition</b>	<b>Mandatory Fees</b>	<b>Statutory Tuition</b>	<b>Course, College &amp; Incidental Fees</b>
Yes	Yes	No	No

Designated tuition and all mandatory fees will be guaranteed.

#### Designated Tuition

Each year, when a new cohort is established, the designated tuition rate under the guaranteed rate plan will be higher than the rate in effect under the traditional rate plan.

#### Mandatory Fees

HB29 prohibits an institution from charging higher fees to a student participating in a guaranteed rate plan; therefore, the mandatory fees of each cohort will be locked in at the same rates in effect under the traditional

rate plan at the time of enrollment in the guaranteed rate plan. If a mandatory fee should increase at some point in the future, the mandatory fee rates of cohorts already locked in will not change. Only new guaranteed rate plan cohorts and students on the traditional rate plan will pay the new increased rate.

For example, if a student is locked into the Fall 2015 cohort, the student will assume the mandatory fee rates of the traditional rate plan in effect at that time. For a first-time freshman, his or her mandatory fee rates will not change for the next 12 semesters. If a mandatory fee increases the following year, the 2016 cohort will assume the new fee rate and will lock that in for the next 12 semesters. The 2015 cohort fee rate would not change.

**When do the guaranteed rate plans expire?**

First time freshman

Guaranteed tuition plans for first-time freshmen are guaranteed for a four-year time period beginning in the initial enrollment semester. The guaranteed rates will be locked in for 12 consecutive semesters regardless if the student enrolls in each semester, unless the student does not meet the continuing eligibility criteria.

Continuing Students

Students who first enrolled before Fall 2014 and are continuing enrollment for Fall 2014 are permitted to opt-in to the guaranteed tuition rate plan for Fall 2014. They will assume the rates of the FY15 cohort and the guarantee will expire 12 consecutive semesters after their initial enrollment in the plan. (This is the same expiration date as first-time freshman in this cohort). Continuing student's only chance to opt-in to the guaranteed rate plan will be for Fall 2014.

Transfer and CAP Students

If a transfer student is interested in enrolling in UTSA's guaranteed tuition plan, the student must sign the UTSA Guaranteed Rate Plan Agreement (the agreement) at the time of their enrollment at the other institution. Transfer students who intend to lock-in a four year rate may have only one valid agreement with a four-year institution in effect at any given time.

Transfer students will assume the guaranteed rate of the cohort that was in effect the year of the transfer student's initial enrollment at *any institution* and upon their execution of the agreement. Their plans will expire 12 consecutive semesters after their initial enrollment at *any institution*.

For example, if a student attended two semesters at a community college starting in the Fall of 2015 and transferred to UTSA in the Fall of 2016, the student would be eligible for the Fall 2015 guaranteed tuition plan cohort, but only for 9 consecutive semesters. Their plan would expire after Summer 2019. This scenario also applies to Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) students.

**How much higher will the guaranteed tuition rate be over the traditional rate plan?**

For the initial cohort (FY15), the guaranteed designated tuition rate will be 6% - 10% higher than the FY14 rate. The designated tuition rate for the FY16 cohort will be 3% higher than the FY15 cohort. In terms of total academic cost, the FY15 guaranteed plan will incur an increase of 3% - 5% and the FY16 cohort will be 1.4% - 1.5% higher than the FY15 cohort. These figures are detailed in the table below.

	Designated Tuition Rate (UG Resident)	Change in Designated Tuition Rate	Designated Tuition % Increase	Total Academic Cost % Increase
FY14	\$ 149.41			
FY15	\$ 173.74	\$ 24.33	16.3%	8.0%
FY16	\$ 187.22	\$ 13.48	7.8%	4.0%

Increases to future cohorts will be determined during the biennial Tuition and Fee Proposal process.

### What is required of the student in order to keep the guaranteed tuition rate?

1. Enroll in 15 or more college credit hours in initial semester at UTSA <sup>1</sup>;
2. Successfully complete 30 semester credit hours within each academic year at UTSA<sup>1</sup>;
3. Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA at UTSA

There will be a grace period each Fall. This period will be used to determine if the requirements for the prior year have been met. Ex. In April, a student registers for Fall semester under the guaranteed plan rates and enrolls in Summer classes. During the Fall, the cumulative GPA for that student is calculated and is below 2.0. The student will pay the guaranteed rates for that Fall (grace period), but in Spring will no longer be eligible for the guaranteed rate and will default to the subsequent cohort.

<sup>1</sup> Courses taken at a community college will not count toward the 15 or 30 hour requirement. Dual credit courses will not count toward the 15 or 30 hour requirements.

### What happens if the plan expires or student is disqualified from the guaranteed tuition plan?

When the period of eligibility expires, students will default to the subsequently entering cohort until the eligibility of that cohort expires, then will join the next subsequently entering cohort and will continue to move to the next cohort until graduation.

Generally, the guarantee will not extend beyond four years, but extenuating circumstances may allow the guarantee to be extended for up to two years. Those circumstances are the following:

- A severe illness or other debilitating condition or accident that impacts enrollment;
- An indication that the student is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and that the provision of care will disrupt enrollment in a degree program
- Military deployment [Contact the Director of Financial Services;
- Other extraordinary and emergent circumstances that impact ability to be enrolled in a program such as a natural disaster

The student contact should clearly outline extenuating circumstances and the student should notify the University with valid documentation as soon as possible. The decision to extend the tuition guarantee ultimately rests with the University. The student should contact University College for severe illnesses or other debilitating conditions or accident that impact enrollment and the Director of Financial Services for the other circumstances listed above.

### Rebates

\$750 if the student completes a minimum of 30 credit hours in the first year at UTSA, maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA at UTSA

\$1,250 if the student completes a minimum of 60 credit hours by the second year at UTSA, maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA at UTSA

\$2,000 if the student completes a minimum of 90 credit hours by the third year at UTSA, maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA at UTSA