

Questions about the flat-fee tuition model from Brock academic advisors

Presentation to PACHRED

October 17, 2023



Current wording on the Brock website

2023 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees

[BACK TO THE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND FEES OVERVIEW](#) <

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Tuition fees are approved by the Brock University Board of Trustees, in accordance with the tuition policy set by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. This fee information is provided for illustrative purposes for typical situations, however, the actual fees assessed may vary from these schedules.

All undergraduate students with a credit load of 4.0 **or more attempted credits** in the fall/winter terms will pay a flat fee. The assessment system will calculate per term fees based on the flat fee rate as well as per term credit weight.

Tuition is assessed per term at differentiated rates between:

- First and continuing years of study
- “Arts, science and other programs” and “professional undergraduate programs” (business and computer science)
- [Domestic, Domestic Out of Province and International \(visa\) students](#)



Tuition Fee Framework Implementation Guidelines for Publicly Assisted Universities for 2021-22 and 2022-23

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Section 5: Program or Flat Fees

Program or flat fees refer to a tuition fee structure in which all students in the same program are charged the same tuition fee for course loads at or above a certain threshold of the normal course load. A normal course load is defined as that which would be required for a student to earn a given credential in a prescribed amount of time (for instance: five courses per term to complete an honours bachelor's degree in four years).

In 2012-13, the Ministry placed a moratorium on the introduction of new program/flat fees as well as changes to the existing program/flat fee structures.

After consultations with institutions and student groups, the ministry updated the program/flat fee policy. For universities that charge tuition on a program/flat fee basis, the updated policy set a threshold of a minimum of **80 per cent of a normal course load to charge program/flat fees**. After a phasing in period in 2014-15 and 2015-16, this policy took full effect in the 2016-17 academic year.

Universities that currently charge program fees for cohort-based programs that require participation in a full course load may continue to charge such fees. Examples include medicine and engineering programs. For programs that have tuition fees charged on a program/flat fee basis, students taking courses above the threshold of a normal course load may not be charged for the additional courses.

Universities are required to have policies in place, and publicize these policies, for students with permanent, documented disabilities who require a reduced course load as a learning accommodation, such that these students are exempted from paying tuition fees on a program/flat fee basis. The Ministry recognizes that minor differences in per-credit fees across universities reflect variability in program delivery costs and these differences will continue to exist under this updated policy.

The moratorium placed in 2012-13 on the introduction of new program/flat fees is maintained for the duration of this framework. Tuition fee levels within the program/flat fee structure may increase or decrease as per the rate specified under the Tuition Fee Framework.

Flat-fee tuition: Challenges we see

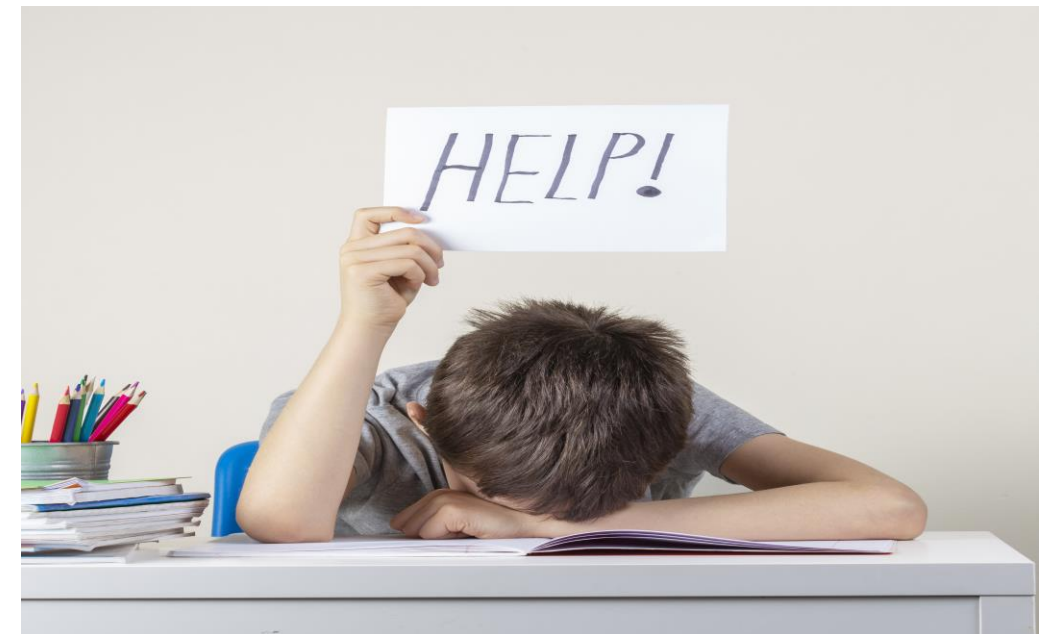
- Some students would benefit from a lighter course load
 - New admits with lower averages
- Quicker entry into workforce?
- Marketing flexible study options for students
- Lack of transparency
 - Flat-fee tuition isn't applied consistently
 - Accommodates students above 4.0 credits
 - Difficult for students to find finance information online
 - Wording is often unclear, and information buried
- Impact on physical and mental health
- Increased living expenses

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Challenge: Mental and physical health

- Increased number of students experience mental and physical health challenges since the pandemic
- Reducing course load to achieve academic goals while not jeopardizing health
- Students with accommodations through SAS vs. those without
 - Students with accommodations one year but not the next



Challenge: Increased living expenses

- Cost of living has increased drastically in the last few years
- Many students are:
 - Taking up extra employment to afford school
 - Commuting long distances because they can't afford rent
- Students may also have circumstances outside of their control (e.g., caregiving responsibilities)
- The current tuition model incentivizes students who are able take extra courses (up to 6.0 credits during F/W)



Canada: students worry about unaffordable course withdrawal

Posted on Sep 10, 2021 by Will Nott

Posted in Immigration, News, under North America.

Tagged with Canada, Indian students, IRCC, tuition fee refunds, Visa, Visa processing delays.

Bookmark the permalink.

International students enrolled at Canadian institutions have said they are unable to withdraw from their courses and get refunds due to college policies and visa processing delays.



Canada · PRICED OUT

Rising tuition, student debt weigh heavily on post-secondary students

'It's so hard to get out of university and just start your life with so much debt already,' says undergrad

Dannielle Piper, Jessica Wong · CBC News ·
Posted: Mar 14, 2022 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: March 14, 2022



In the News

What a difference a decade makes...Inflation crunches today's post-secondary students, with almost half now living at home while attending school and assuming their parents will take care of their financial needs - RBC poll Français

NEWS PROVIDED BY
[RBC Royal Bank](#) →
06 Sep, 2023, 04:01 ET

Indirect consequences of this tuition model

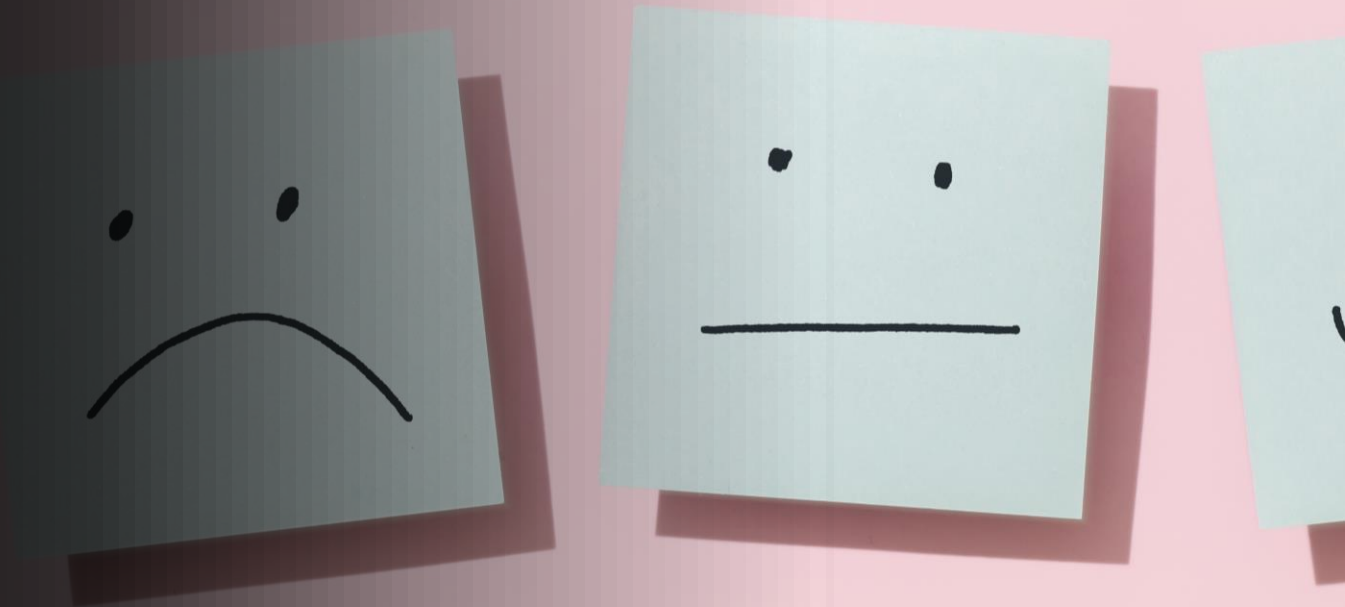
- Locking student accounts
 - Has come up more than ever this year
 - Impacts their progression and our course enrollments
- Financial penalties
- Staying in courses they are likely to fail

August 19, 2021

The 'Human Cost' of Stranded Credits

A new report explores the lived experiences of students sidelined by college credits withheld because of unpaid debts owed to the institutions they attend.

By [Sara Weissman](#)



Our questions



1. Are there programs that are exempt from the flat fee tuition rate? If yes, why are they exempt? Is this fair and equitable?
2. How are students with differing circumstances—like those who are registered with SAS, student athletes, etc. — affected by the flat fee tuition rate?
3. Does the University have plans to change this tuition model to better serve students?
4. If the tuition model stays the same, is the University willing to increase transparency about the fees?

We're not the only ones asking questions about this...



OUSA releases policy paper "Tuition"

November 19, 2018

[HOME](#) > [NEWSROOM](#) > [OUSA RELEASES POLICY PAPER "TUITION"](#)

November 19, 2018

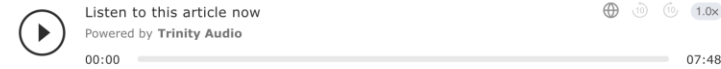
TORONTO, ON - A policy paper released by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) this morning, focuses on the cost and affordability of post-secondary education in Ontario. The paper was written, approved, and published by students with the purpose of providing recommendations for renewing Ontario's tuition framework, reducing tuition costs, and restoring public funding to Ontario's universities.

"Increasing tuition costs are a barrier for students to access post-secondary education in Ontario, particularly for first-generation, lower-income students, LGBTQ2+ students, Indigenous students and students with disabilities," said Cat Dunne, student at Western



Tuition models analysis: How some students pay for others' education

Judy Basmaji Mar 15, 2019 0 4 min to read



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