

Date: June 24, 2026
Subject: Overview of Required Student Fees - 2026-27

INTRODUCTION

Every year, with support from Finance, Planning & Budgeting (FPB), student fee committees at all three University of Washington (UW) campuses submit fee increases to the Board of Regents (BOR) for approval, as required by state law. The New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee (NSEOF), the Student Tech Fee (STF), and the Services and Activities Fee (SAF) all require BOR approval. As part of the SAF approval, each campus' SAF Committee is also responsible for the following:

- UW Bothell: Activities & Recreation Center (ARC) Fee, ARC Programming Fee, and Sports Field Fee
- UW Seattle: Facilities Renovation Fee and Intramural Activities Building Fee
- UW Tacoma: YMCA Fee

State law ([RCW 28B.15.069](#)) caps annual Services & Activities fee increases to 4%. Bond fees (e.g., Facilities Renovation at Seattle) are governed by the S&A fee statute but fees typically do not change once established as they are set to cover a debt repayment schedule (usually over a period of 30 years). Other fees are not subject to S&A caps. Student U-PASS fee increases do not require BOR approval, as they are governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between student committees and the UW administration. They are nonetheless presented as an information item yearly to the BOR and are included in Cost of Attendance information.

2026 FEE INCREASE PROCESS

Fee increases are proposed by student committees. Using templates provided by FPB, each committee shares their estimated revenue, planned expenditures, and ending net positions. FPB reviews the information, including assumptions and revenue projections, before committees submit it to the BOR. This process allows the BOR, students, and the public to get a sense of the purpose of the fees and what they are allocated towards. FPB uses proposed fee increases to update the [Cost of Attendance](#) for the upcoming academic year. The BOR approved AY 26-27 fee increases on May 14, 2026.

Typically, annual increases to student fees are inflationary. However, this year, several increases larger than 5% were approved:

- The Seattle STF will see the largest fee increase, at 18.75%, for AY 26-27. This is a planned and phased increase to the fee, which was reduced from \$41 to \$38 per quarter in 2017 and then decreased to \$0 in 2022. The fee has since increased to \$27, then \$32, and now \$38 per quarter. The fee remains lower than it was before the original decrease in 2017.
- The Seattle U-PASS will increase by 11%, to reflect increased costs linked to program enrollment, the expansion of Sound Transit Line 1 to Federal Way, the connection of Sound Transit Line 2 to Seattle, and the implementation of \$3 fare on King County Metro buses.
- The Bothell NSEOF will increase by 7%. This is due to several factors, including salary and benefits increases for staff members covered by a bargaining agreement, and a reduction in SAF funds that go towards the NSEOF Peer Coaching Program. The fee increase will ensure that Orientation and Transition Programs, such as the Peer Coaching Program, are maintained and staff are retained.

- The Tacoma NSEOF will also increase by 7%. This is because until 2019, this fee did not increase for 14 years. Since then, there have been incremental increases, but the NSEOF fee is still much lower at UW Tacoma than at the other campuses. The increase will ensure support for international students, support for transferring first-generation students, student staff availability over the summer to respond to new student inquiries, peer academic advising, and group welcomes.

INCREASES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Table 1 shows a comparison of student fees for Academic Years (AY) 25-26 and 26-27.

Table 1. AY 25-26 and 26-27 Student Fees Comparison

Annual Student Fees	Bothell			Seattle			Tacoma		
	25-26	26-27	%Change	25-26	26-27	%Change	25-26	26-27	%Change
Annual Student Fees – Total ¹	\$1,637	\$1,697	3.67%	\$1,597	\$1,676	4.95%	\$1,617	\$1,659	2.6%
<i>NSEOF – one-time fee ²</i>	\$425	\$455	7.06%	\$451	\$467	3.55%	\$300	\$321	7%
STF	\$126	\$129	2.38%	\$96	\$114	18.75%	\$141	\$147	4.26%
SAF	\$336	\$348	3.57%	\$525	\$546	4%	\$501	\$516	2.99%
ARC	\$450	\$459	2%						
ARC Programming	\$72	\$75	4.17%						
Sports Field	\$93	\$96	3.23%						
Facilities Renovation Fee				\$210	\$210	0%			
Intramural Activities Building				\$96	\$96	0%			
U-PASS ³	\$135	\$135	0%	\$219	\$243	10.96%	\$135	\$135	0%
YMCA							\$540	\$540	0%

1. Student-led committees are responsible for all fees under this header, except NSEOF. For the NSEOF, student representatives provide support recommendations, which campus administrations weigh when developing proposals for Regental approval. Regents approve rate changes for all fees except U-PASS, which is governed by Regent-approved MOUs. Please note that many students pay fees beyond those presented here, such as course fees (which vary by discipline) and student insurance fees.

2. As of the 2025-26 academic year, all campuses are aligned with NSEOF rates beginning with students who entered in Fall 2025. However, in past years, effective dates for rate changes varied by campus.

3. Tacoma's U-PASS fee of \$45/quarter was first charged in Spring 2019. For UW Tacoma students residing in Thurston County, the U-PASS fee is \$20/quarter, or \$60 for the regular academic year. Bothell's U-PASS fee was first charged in Fall 2025.