

Name of Institution: The Ohio State University

Legislative Requirements

House Bill 64 Section 369.600 requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to develop and implement a plan to provide all in-state, undergraduate students the opportunity to reduce the student cost of earning a degree by five per cent.

Plans are due to the chancellor by **October 15, 2015**.

Ohio State Overview

Ohio State is aggressively focused on affordability in all facets, so there are multiple pathways by which students could reduce their bills by 5 percent or more.

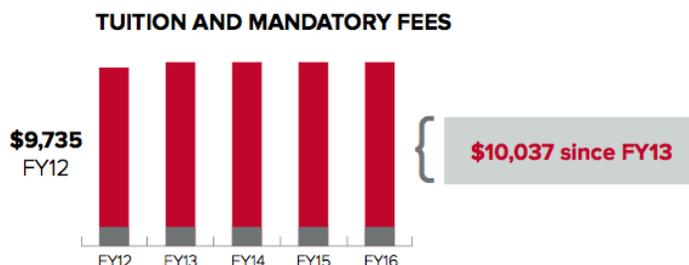
The university values student choice and seeks to provide students with a menu of options — for everything from academic programs, to living/learning environments, to dining plans — that can be applied to their individual circumstances.

The university's commitment to affordability can be tracked over the years, but was re-emphasized this year in President Drake's 2020 Vision plan. Several of the highlights below demonstrate the impact:

- The university provided Ohio undergraduates with a comprehensive freeze on in-state tuition, fees, room and board, and all program, course and learning fees.
- In-state tuition and mandatory fees have been frozen since the 2012-13 academic year, so many students who began that year will be able to graduate in four years without ever experiencing an increase.

In-state tuition: Ohioans who started in 2012-13 can graduate next year without ever seeing a tuition increase.

Mandatory fees: Ohio State hasn't increased mandatory fees in more than five years.



- The university has added \$15 million to need-based financial aid for Ohio undergraduates for the 2015-16 academic year. The President's Affordability Grants will help to reduce costs for one-third of Ohioans on our Columbus campus.
- Including the 2015-16 expansion, a total of \$100 million in need-based aid will be added through FY20 to lower student costs.

More broadly, the university is addressing affordability with a four-part strategy that includes:

1. Direct impacts on student costs
2. Operational efficiencies to save money
3. Innovative funding strategies to produce new resources to support affordability and excellence
4. Streamlining of students' paths to completing their degrees

Together, all of these strategies are working to give students opportunities to succeed in college and in life. Ohio State is empowering students to make choices that best balance their goals with the potential cost.

Total Cost of Attendance at Institution

Please provide a breakdown of average tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks, etc., for a full-time student, living on campus. (Add explanation as necessary)

Ohio State controls or influences \$22,977 of its official cost of attendance for 2015-16. This includes in-state tuition and fees, books and supplies, and room and board costs.

Another \$2,575 in miscellaneous living expenses are calculated as part of the university's officially reported cost of attendance for 2015-16. Ohio State does not control those costs, so they are not being considered as part of the university's response to the Senate Challenge.

Cost of attendance:	
Resident undergraduate living on campus	2015-16
Tuition & Fees	\$10,037
<i>Instructional Fee</i>	\$9,168
<i>General Fee</i>	\$372
<i>Activity Fee</i>	\$76
<i>Recreation Fee</i>	\$246
<i>Ohio Union Fee</i>	\$148
<i>COTA Transportation</i>	\$27
Books & Supplies	\$1,234
Meals & Housing	\$11,706
<i>Room</i>	\$7,916
<i>Board</i>	\$3,790
Cost of attendance controlled by Ohio State	\$22,977
5% reduction of controllable costs	\$1,149
Other costs (not controlled by Ohio State)	
Miscellaneous costs	\$2,575
<i>Laundry</i>	\$216
<i>Clothing</i>	\$780
<i>Transportation</i>	\$303
<i>Personal Expenses</i> <i>i.e. personal hygiene (average 9 mos. consumption for personal care products & services, and other expenditures)</i>	\$1,206
<i>Loan Origination Fee</i>	\$70
Reported resident cost of attendance (as defined by student financial aid)	\$25,552

Outline Options for reducing student costs:

(1) Reducing the credit hours required to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree offered by the institution

For the majority of students, program requirements to complete a baccalaureate degree are already at a minimum.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education's general standards require 120 semester hours to complete a bachelor's degree. Ohio State requires 121 semester hours, which includes a 1-credit hour University Survey course, which supports student retention and success by helping them adjust for the demands of college. This additional credit does not add to a student's bill.

Only four of the 388 degrees offered at Ohio State require more than 121 credit hours for reasons unrelated to national accreditation requirements. Ohio State will review those four programs to identify opportunities to reduce these credit hours without compromising educational outcomes or quality.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Only four programs may include opportunities for cost savings. Those are being reviewed.	N/A	N/A

(2) Offering a tuition discount or rebate to any student that completes a full load of coursework, as determined by the board of trustees. ("Tuition" means the instructional and general fees charged by a state institution of higher education.)

Ohio State offers a significant financial incentive for students to take full course loads (15 credit hours per semester) instead of the minimum required to be a full time student (12 credit hours per semester).

In fact, our tuition structure charges the same amount for students who take between 12 credit hours and 18 credit hours a semester. For in-state tuition, that rate is \$9,540 for 2015-16.

Potential savings for up to 18 hours a semester are detailed in answer No. 7.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Students may take up to 18 credit hours, which is charged at the same rate as for 12 credit hours.	Varies by student	Varies by student

(3) Offering a tuition discount or rebate or reduced tuition option to students enrolling in a summer semester or quarter ("Tuition" means the instructional and general fees charged by a state institution of higher education.)

Ohio State is revisiting the structure and pricing of summer semester to offer students more flexibility in scheduling and reduced cost for summer courses.

The current proposal restructures the 12-week summer calendar to provide multiple options, including:

- 1 – 12-week term
- 2 – six-week sessions
- 3 – four-week sessions
- 2 – eight-week overlapping sessions

Ultimately these multiple scheduling options will provide flexibility that allows our students to reduce their time to degree.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Evaluating options to reduce summer tuition and a new academic schedule to offer students more flexibility to support a shorter time to degree.	TBD	TBD

(4) Offering online courses or degrees

Last year, the university began an initiative to offer online general education courses to provide enrolled students with more flexible options for scheduling courses. This could reduce students' costs by shortening their time to degree.

In Autumn 2014, 1,170 students enrolled in 11 courses. By Autumn 2015, 2,868 students were enrolled in 22 online general education courses.

In addition, the university offers 12 online degree programs – eight graduate and four undergraduate. From Autumn 2014 to Autumn 2015, enrollment increased from 476 to 556 students in distance degree programs. As of September 2015, an additional seven degrees are working their way through the university approval process.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Continue to increase general education courses offered online. The increased flexibility for general education courses provide for a shorter time to degree.	Varies by student	Varies by student

(5) Reducing the cost of textbooks using cost-saving measures identified and implemented by the board of trustees

Ohio State has been helping faculty create hundreds of courses, textbooks and other teaching and learning resources that are accessible at little or no cost to students. By utilizing our combined expertise in digital pedagogy, instructional design, strategic partnerships across campus and books and supplies, we can save students millions of dollars.

For example, we launched the Affordable Learning Exchange (<http://affordablelearning.osu.edu/>) in September 2015 and have taken a variety of other steps to reduce the cost of textbooks and other course materials. Other examples include:

- University Libraries has thousands of subscriptions to high-quality materials that can replace some textbooks in use today.
- The OSU GE Textbook Project purchases and provides copies of required textbooks for select General Education curriculum courses via the Libraries' Closed Reserve. Currently the project is home to over 500 textbooks, covering over 200 university courses that can be loaned to students in lieu of purchasing them.
- The Unizin consortium (Ohio State is a member) recently acquired Courseware software assets to facilitate the sharing of low-cost digital content and learning analytics.
- Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely available, allowing for openly licensed media, books, course materials, documents, and even full courses that enhance teaching and learning.
- Most OER are licensed under a Creative Commons license, rather than traditional copyright, allowing content to be customized to suit teaching and learning goals.

Our commitment to utilize low-cost or open course materials in high-enrollment courses along with digital advances has helped to reduce books and supplies costs from an estimated \$1,440 five years ago to \$1,248 — a savings of \$192 per student. The estimated average cost declined again for 2015-16 to \$1,234.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Reducing cost of books and supplies in high-enrollment courses, plus incorporating more digital and open source materials	Varies by student	Varies by student

(6) Incorporation of remediation in the coursework and curriculum of credit-bearing courses

We interpret this option to address “on-demand remediation,” which includes the embedding of remedial support into coursework. Ohio State has been part of a national effort to address the negative impact of “stumbling block courses” (also referred to as DFW courses) on the retention and progress of college students.

Those efforts include modifying five key stumbling block courses offered in the general education curriculum and adding resources that will reduce the need for not-for-credit remediation. Over the past three academic years, those courses have collectively enrolled an average of more than 12,800 students per year. After completing these revisions, we intend to address similar problems with four other high-enrollment courses.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Modify stumbling-block courses and add resources to reduce the need for not-for-credit remediation	Varies by Student	Varies by Student

(7) Offering a fixed rate of instructional and general fees for any additional credits taken by students above a full course load, as determined by the board of trustees

Ohio State students who are enrolled for a full load (15 semester credit hours) can save \$1,192 a semester because the university charges a flat rate between 12 and 18 hours. An 18-hour student is saving \$2,385 per semester compared to what he or she would pay if the per-credit costs were not capped at 12 hours.

That equates to a savings of up to \$4,770 per academic year, or 20.8 percent of the controllable cost of attendance.

Our policy is already in alignment with the overload fee requirements of House Bill 64 with regard to full-time students who take up to 18 credit hours per semester.

Of our full-time students at the Columbus campus, 40 percent are benefitting from the fact that we allow students to take up to 18 credit hours without increasing tuition:

- 12 percent of undergraduates took 12 credit hours
- 22 percent took 15 credit hours
- 40 percent took 16 to 18 credit hours
- The rest (25 percent) took more than 12 but less than 15

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Students may take up to 18 credit hours, which is charged at the same rate as for 12 credit hours.	Varies by student	Varies by student

(8) Offering fast-track degree completion programs

Ohio State is already compliant with the Department of Higher Education's three-year degree pathway requirement. More than 60 percent of degree programs make a three-year pathway available for students (<http://ugeducation.osu.edu/3-yr-degree.shtml>).

These allow first-year students who have earned substantial and applicable credit for college-level course work (30 semester hours or more) to complete some degree programs in three years. Students can earn applicable credit through a variety of sources:

- Success on Advanced Placement or College Level Examination Program exams;
- Success on foreign-language placement exams in French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish;
- College or university coursework completed in concurrent enrollment during high school through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options, International Baccalaureate, or other recognized dual-enrollment programs;
- Community colleges or technical schools, subject to articulation guidelines;
- Recognized online programs;
- Military training and coursework, subject to articulation guidelines; and
- Coursework during short sessions or summer programs.

In the 2015-16 academic year, 23.5 percent of our freshman class enrolled with more than 30 credit hours. Students who qualify and take advantage of this opportunity can reduce their time to degree by a full academic year, saving up to \$22,977.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
If a student takes advantage of the fast-track degree program, he/she can save up to two semesters	Varies by student	Varies by student

(9) Eliminating, reducing or freezing auxiliary fees ("Auxiliary fees" mean charges assessed by a state institution of higher education to a student for various educational expenses including, but not limited to, course-related fees, laboratory fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, enrollment application fees, and other miscellaneous charges. "Auxiliary fees" do not include instructional or general fees uniformly assessed to all students.)

Housing and Dining

Housing and dining rates were frozen for the 2015-16 academic year. For dining, new plans were introduced that provided more flexibility for students while maintaining or reducing the cost to students compared with the 2014-15 plans. Students living in the most popular type of residence and buying the most popular dining plan would save \$233 if the rates had increased 2 percent compared with 2014-15.

Mandatory Fees

Beyond instructional and general fees, which are part of tuition, Ohio State has four mandatory fees that all Columbus campus students pay. These are the COTA, Ohio Union, Recreational and Student Activity fees. These fees have not increased for at least five years. If the Ohio Union, Recreational, COTA and Student Activity fees increased 2 percent annually for the past six years, students would be paying about \$67 more per academic year for the combined fees. The freeze for 2015-16 accounts for a savings of \$10 compared to a 2 percent increase over the previous year.

- The COTA fee has not been raised for more than 10 years and is currently set at \$27;
- The Ohio Union fee was implemented in March 2010, and then set at \$153 per year the following autumn. With the conversion to semesters in Autumn 2012, the fee was lowered to \$148.80;
- The Recreational fee was first charged in Winter 2005, and with gradual increases, rose to \$246 per year in Autumn 2008. It has remained at that level since;
- The Student Activity fee was introduced at \$45 per year in Autumn 2003. Based on student input, the fee was increased in Winter 2010 to \$75 per year.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Housing, dining and mandatory fees	\$243	1.1%

(10) Increased participation in the college credit plus program

The university is expanding College Credit Plus to assist high-school students in earning college credit, which can translate into shorter time to degree once they begin college. The university's approach complies with state policy and has three components: the Academy, specific high-school partnerships, and online general education courses:

- **Academy:** Serves approximately 300 students who take two to four courses per year (with potential increases to ~550 students for 2015-16). Assessments reveal higher first-year retention and four-year graduation rates than those not in Academy cohorts.
- **Specific school partnerships:** Strong partnerships with a small set of selected schools, often in targeted academic disciplines, generate best practices that inform other elements of the university's College Credit Plus programs. The current partnerships are with: Apollo Career Center (with Ohio State-Lima); Avon Lake High School; Marion Harding High School (with Ohio State-Marion); Metro Early College STEM High School, Springfield Global Impact High School; and St. Charles Prep High School.
- **Online General Education Courses:** The university is adding capacity for College Credit Plus students in selected online general education courses, beginning with the 2015-16 academic year and for the following three years. This component builds on the College Ready Ohio Program, funded by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Targeted enrollments	
	Seats
2015-16	80-100
2016-17	400
2017-18	500
2018-19	600

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Expanded offerings in College Credit Plus	Varies by Student	Varies by Student

(11) Offering programs to reduce or eliminate the need for remediation coursework

In addition to the work on “stumbling block” (also known as DFW) courses, the university provides tutoring and peer living communities that assist students with remedial needs.

Free certified peer tutors are available to all students who live in the residence halls in the areas of math, physics, chemistry and more. Students also can ask for tutors in non-STEM areas, and they will be acquired as needed. In 2014-15 there were 1,427 visits from 636 unique students.

Peer tutors are also available free of charge in other locations, with services that include workshops led by trained academic coaches to boost students’ success. Workshops and other outreach events reached a total of more than 7,500 students in 234 sessions during the year.

Peer learning communities are available to all first-year students within the residence halls. Some activities include remedial group study and activities that heighten the ability to understand problematic curricular content.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Tutoring, coaching and peer living communities	Varies by Student	Varies by Student

(12) Other options offered by the institution (any other option that does not fall into the categories above can be captured here or on additional pages)

A. Financial aid – Additional Funding for Students

President’s Affordability Grants — \$15 million in new financial aid

- Financial aid grants of \$1,000 or \$1,500 for about 12,000 in-state undergraduates
- This accounts for about one-third of Ohio undergraduates
- These grants are targeted to low-income and middle-income students.
- Students receiving \$1,500 grants = 6.5 percent of university-controlled cost to attend or 5.8 percent of total cost
- Those getting \$1,000 grants = 4.3 percent of university-controlled cost to attend or 3.9 percent of total cost

Ohio Scholarship Challenge – Additional funding for student scholarships

Launched in January 2013, the Ohio Scholarship Challenge has raised funds to recruit undergraduate students from Ohio’s 88 counties.

- The scholarships are renewable and portable among Ohio State’s campuses, and also transferable between colleges and majors;
- These scholarships are available to undergraduate, graduate and professional students from any geographic location; and
- With donor investment of at least \$100,000 to an approved endowment established after January 1, 2013, the provost and the college deans/units will partner to match the projected distribution amount generated by the gift to the Challenge in perpetuity.

The size of each award varies based on the gift amounts.

B. Financial Wellness Counseling – Education for Financial Literacy

Scarlet and Gray Financial provides a comprehensive suite of financial wellness services, housed within the Student Wellness Center. These include one-on-one coaching sessions, large group presentations, financial education research and professional development.

Students reached through wellness counseling				
	One on One	Presentation attendance*	Online	Total
2012-13	225	2,533	Not offered	2,758
2013-14	986	3,000	917	4,903
2014-15	1,291	3,100	1,277	5,668

*approximate

C. Second Year Transformation Experience Program (STEP)

STEP is designed to increase student success and development through more intensive engagement with faculty and a living experience that integrates academic achievement, self-awareness, and the development of life and leadership skills.

D. Veterans' Support – GI Bill, Promoting Ohio State

In 2012, Ohio State established the Office of Military and Veterans Services, which now serves more than 2,200 veteran students with programs that contribute to degree completion.

E. Career Internship Support

The university supports students' academic success, professional development and career exploration by connecting them to internships and employment opportunities with local, national, and global organizations. Fisher College of Business data shows that students with internship experience averaged starting salaries 8 percent higher than other students.

F. Affordability Summit

On August 21, 2015, President Drake hosted an Ohio State affordability summit, attended by faculty, staff and students, to focus on ways to address this issue.

G. University Innovation Alliance

As a member of this consortium of 11 large research universities, Ohio State has committed to providing enhanced educational opportunities and access to affordable degrees, as well as to optimizing the time in which students complete degrees.

Ohio State is a partner in an \$8.9 million U.S. Department of Education grant to advance interventions focused on college access and student data. The university will receive approximately \$800,000 for advancing our access and completion intervention strategies.

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
\$15 million in expanded need-based financial aid for Ohio students	\$1,000 - \$ 1,500	4.3% - 6.5 %
Ohio Scholarship Challenge	Varies by Student	Varies by Student

Options offered in previous academic years:

Please be sure to quantify savings as they roll forward into the current academic year. (For instance, a tuition freeze last year would result in \$X and Y% cost avoidance to students in this academic year). Add additional fields and details as necessary.

(13) Academic Year 2013-14

In-state tuition has been frozen since the 2012-13 academic year, so many students who began that year will be able to graduate in four years without ever experiencing a tuition increase.

For 2013-14, the freeze amounts to a \$191 savings for each in-state student compared with a 2 percent increase over the previous year. Because the university held in-state tuition flat again in 2014-15 and therefore there was no compounding effect on the cost, in-state students saved an additional \$194 on tuition that year for a total savings of \$385.

In addition, Ohio State increased the financial aid offered to in-state students in 2013-14 and 2014-15. In our analysis, we excluded the effect of discounts provided to employees and their dependents.

	Average financial aid award in-state students (excluding waivers)
2012-13	\$4,753
2013-14	\$4,821
2014-15	\$4,880

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Freeze tuition	\$191	0.8%
Additional student financial aid	\$68 on average (for total of \$4,821)	0.3%

(14) Academic Year 2014-2015

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
Freeze tuition	\$385	0.8%
Additional student financial aid	\$59 on average (for total of \$4,880)	0.3%

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
1. Reduction in credit hours to graduate	N/A	N/A
2. Rebate for full load	N/A	N/A
3. Tuition discount for non-standard terms	TBD	TBD
4. Online courses and degrees	Varies *	Varies *
5. Reducing the costs of textbooks	Varies *	Varies *
6. Remediation coursework	Varies *	Varies *
7. Reduction for course overload	Varies *	Varies *
8. Fast-track degree completion	Varies *	Varies *
9. Eliminating, reducing or freezing auxiliary fees	\$243	1.1%
10. Increased participation in College Credit Plus program	Varies *	Varies *
11. Reduce or eliminate need for remediation coursework	Varies *	Varies *
12. Increase in student scholarships for students	\$1,000 - \$1,500	4.3% – 6.5%
13. Academic Year 2013-2014 (Tuition Freeze and increased financial aid)	\$191	0.8%
	\$68	0.3%
14. Academic Year 2014-2015 (Tuition Freeze and increased financial aid)	\$385	1.7%
	\$59	0.3%
TOTAL	\$1,755 - \$2,446 (not including options listed as “varies”)	8.5% - 10.6% (not including options listed as “varies”)

* Options for achieving these savings are being made available to help shorten a student’s time to degree.

Total Possible Cost Savings for Students – Please add the previous columns and capture total possible student cost savings here.

Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of cost of attendance ¹
\$1,755 - \$2,446 (not including options listed as “varies”)	8.5% - 10.6% (not including options listed as “varies”)

¹ All percentages are based on the university-controlled cost of attendance for 2015-16, or \$22,977.