

# Senate Bill 4 Challenge-Opportunity for Students to reduce their Cost of Attendance

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The mission of The University of Toledo is to improve the human condition; to advance knowledge through excellence in learning, discovery and engagement; and to serve as a diverse, student-centered public metropolitan research university.

The University of Toledo is committed to being an institution of higher learning that provides an excellent learning experience while providing pecuniary value to our students. The university has consistently taken actions in recent years to keep college affordable for its students, in part because of the constituencies we serve. UT is a public metropolitan university with a large percentage of our students being first generation and Pell eligible. The university has already taken the lead among Ohio public universities by freezing tuition for our undergraduate students 4 of the last 10 years. As a result, UT has the lowest net tuition and general fees of all the 4 year public universities in Ohio. Additionally, UT has the highest percentage of its students receiving institutional scholarships, at 86%.

Calculated Percent Receiving Institutional Aid and Calculated Discount Rate Based on 2013 IPEDS Data for The University of Toledo and Benchmark Institutions

unitid	institution name	year	Ave. In-State Tuition - FT UG	Ave. Out-of-State Tuition - FT UG	Required fees for full-time undergraduate students in fall cohort	Number of students in fall cohort who are paying in-state tuition	Number of students in fall cohort who are paying out-of-state tuition	Number of Students with Known Tuition Rates (Column HH)	Calculated: Total Tuition (Column D*G)	Calculated: In-State Tuition (Column E+H)	Calculated: Out-of-State Tuition (Column F+I)	Calculated: State and Out-of-State Tuition Combined (Column K+L)	Number of full-time first-time students receiving institutional grant aid	Average amount of institutional grant aid received by first-time students	Percent of Cohort Receiving Institutional Grant Aid	Calculated: Gross Tuition (Average Cohort)	Calculated: Estimated Institutional Aid (Average Inst. Aid * # Cohort)	Estimated Discount Rate (Inst. Aid/Est. Total Tuition)	Estimated Total Net Tuition (Total Tuition - Institutional Aid)	Estimated Revenue (Gross Tuition - Institutional Aid)	NTR Student
206084	University of Toledo	2013	\$7,864	\$16,984	\$1,411	3346	3024	322	\$346	\$28,047,600	\$5,923,190	\$33,970,790	\$10,153	2876	\$5,368	86.0%	\$33,970,790	\$15,438,368	45.4%	\$18,532,422	\$5,539
206695	Youngstown State University	2013	\$7,670	\$7,910	\$459	2090	1791	295	2086	\$14,559,039	\$2,468,855	\$17,027,894	\$8,163	841	\$4,113	40.2%	\$17,000,546	\$3,459,033	20.3%	\$13,601,513	\$6,508
206604	Wright State University-Main Campus	2013	\$8,542	\$16,546	\$0	2327	2190	137	2327	\$18,706,980	\$2,266,802	\$20,973,782	\$9,013	1342	\$3,354	57.7%	\$20,973,782	\$4,501,068	21.5%	\$16,472,714	\$7,079
202134	Cleveland State University	2013	\$9,449	\$12,628	\$90	1531	1395	109	1504	\$13,251,105	\$1,381,902	\$14,633,007	\$9,729	684	\$5,442	44.7%	\$14,885,701	\$3,722,328	25.0%	\$11,173,373	\$7,298
172644	Wayne State University	2013	\$10,654	\$24,454	\$1,314	2172	2129	43	2172	\$25,479,872	\$1,108,024	\$26,587,896	\$12,241	1690	\$5,347	77.8%	\$26,587,896	\$9,036,430	34.0%	\$17,551,466	\$8,081
203517	Kent State University at Kent	2013	\$9,816	\$17,776	\$0	4071	3252	819	4071	\$31,921,632	\$14,558,544	\$46,480,176	\$11,417	2887	\$4,457	70.9%	\$46,480,176	\$12,867,359	27.7%	\$33,612,817	\$8,257
200800	University of Akron Main Campus	2013	\$8,449	\$16,813	\$1,605	3927	3644	283	3927	\$36,636,776	\$5,212,294	\$41,849,070	\$10,657	1688	\$5,336	43.0%	\$41,849,070	\$9,007,168	21.5%	\$32,841,902	\$8,363
204796	Ohio State University-Main Campus	2013	\$9,168	\$24,888	\$869	7204	5447	1757	7204	\$54,671,539	\$45,255,049	\$99,926,588	\$13,871	5169	\$7,346	71.8%	\$99,926,588	\$37,971,474	38.0%	\$61,955,114	\$8,600
201441	Bowling Green State University-Main Campus	2013	\$9,096	\$16,404	\$1,630	3591	3030	561	3591	\$32,499,780	\$10,117,074	\$42,616,854	\$11,868	2760	\$4,130	76.9%	\$42,616,854	\$11,398,800	26.7%	\$31,218,054	\$8,693
201885	University of Cincinnati-Main Campus	2013	\$9,124	\$24,156	\$1,660	4106	3563	543	4106	\$38,423,392	\$14,018,088	\$52,441,480	\$12,772	2168	\$5,943	52.8%	\$52,441,480	\$12,884,424	24.6%	\$39,557,056	\$9,634
204857	Ohio University-Main Campus	2013	\$10,446	\$19,410	\$0	3869	3279	590	3869	\$34,252,434	\$11,451,900	\$45,704,334	\$11,813	2031	\$4,078	52.5%	\$45,704,334	\$8,282,418	18.1%	\$37,421,916	\$9,672
204024	Miami University-Oxford	2013	\$11,443	\$27,233	\$2,357	3730	2313	1417	3730	\$31,919,400	\$41,929,080	\$73,848,480	\$19,799	2662	\$6,522	71.4%	\$73,848,480	\$17,361,564	23.5%	\$56,486,866	\$15,144

Source: 2013 IPEDS Data, NCES.  
 Notes: 1) Fall cohort number includes full-time, first-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduates.  
 2) Fields with headers with no color are straight from IPEDS. Colored headers indicate calculated fields.

We continually look for new mechanisms to provide our students with a great combination of both a high quality education and an outstanding value. Currently we are taking steps to reduce a student's time to degree and to reduce the out of pocket cost of attendance.

### **Reduce Cost of Attendance for students**

The University is taking a number of steps to directly reduce the cost of attendance at UT.

**Increase in Scholarships** – The University has increased its Direct from High School (DHS) Scholarship budget by \$7.5M for FY2016 (representing approximately a 14% increase in DHS scholarships), which will provide students the opportunity to reduce their cost of attendance by receiving an automatic merit scholarship throughout their 4 years, provided they maintain their expected GPA and complete the required number of credits. The annual savings to the student could be as high as 60% of their total tuition and fees for Ohio residents.

**Decrease in Housing Costs** – This fall the university is offering a 25% reduction in room rates to those not required to live on campus (almost 91.86% of in-state students registered as of 8/3/15). With room charges representing between 34% and 44% of the total cost of attendance, this 25% reduction represents a 9–12% direct savings for those students choosing to live on campus, more than meeting the 5% challenge.

**Open Source Materials** – UT is developing a program to assist faculty in transitioning to open source materials. The average cost to the student for books is \$1200/year. With the average UT tuition/fees cost to the student being around \$5000/semester, books account for almost 12% of the total direct expense of attending college, which can be saved by switching to open source materials. This strategy alone can also more than meet the 5% challenge once robustly implemented.

**Developing Financial Literacy** – Financial challenges are one of the biggest causes of student attrition, and too many students take out more student loans than

necessary for things beyond the costs of attendance without realizing the long term burden of such debt. UT is developing a comprehensive strategy for enhancing student financial literacy, communication and family counseling. UT has purchased SALT software (SALT was created by American Student Assistance) to help students develop effective approaches to financing their higher education and UT will begin debt counseling for all incoming students this Fall. With the use of this software, UT will provide students and their families with access to the information they need to make smart borrowing decisions before, during and after college. The anticipated outcome will be improved financial health for the student and the University, reduction in student default rates and improved retention (since most defaults originate when a student leaves without graduating).

### **Reduce Time to Degree**

For Academic Year of 2016, we have developed a number of strategies that are focused on reducing the time to degree. Shortening the time to degree results in savings to students both in terms of direct out-of-pocket savings in tuition and increased earnings that result from graduating sooner. Every additional year that a student is not in the workforce, IUC estimates that the potential loss in income is \$45,000.

Starfish Initiative – The most direct and broadly applicable initiative is UT’s new collaborative effort between the staff, faculty and advisors to ensure student success and persistence through the use of Starfish Software. UT has purchased the Starfish Retention Platform, which identifies at-risk students in real time, reduces DFW rates, pinpoints areas of concern, connects students with valuable services, and helps assess which services and interventions will keep students on track to degree completion. After one semester, the DFW rates for the three courses piloted improved by 5%, 7% and 15%, and UT’s institutional retention rate for full time freshmen rose by 2%. Beginning in Fall 2015, additional Math and English classes will be added, and by the Spring of 2016 the use of Starfish will include 1000/2000 level (General Education) courses. While exact savings are hard to predict, UT is committed to significantly improving its 4 and 6 year graduation rates, saving students tuition and getting them into the workplace sooner.

Pipeline Programs – UT has created several programs where students can begin the first year of a graduate program during their senior year of undergraduate studies and apply the graduate courses taken both toward completing the bachelors and toward the graduate degree. For example, a new program was created last year between the history department and the law school. Students participating in these programs will save 25% on their undergraduate tuition and graduate a year sooner than pursuing the degrees separately. The provost has asked each college to develop at least two additional such programs next year, with the understanding that this will be an ongoing initiative.

Required Credit Hours for Degrees – UT currently sets the minimum number of credit hours for a bachelors degree at 124. This fall, the provost introduced a proposal to senate to lower this minimum to 120. A number of programs have already expressed interest in adopting this change and have prepared a new program of study based on 120 hours. Any program making such a change can potentially save a student over 3% in tuition and fees.

College Credit Plus—UT has been a leader on this initiative. UT has worked closely with local school districts, increasing the number of students participating by over 40% in the last two academic years. The university is continuing this effort and expects to see the 816 current student count increase. There are many benefits for the student who participates in College Credit Plus: earning college credit while still in high school; no cost to the student while in high school and reduced tuition and fees when the student matriculates to college based upon the credits already earned; access to UT’s support services; ease of transition from high school to college; and ultimately reducing their time to degree, which results in entering the workforce sooner. On average a high school student will complete 30 credit hours through this program, which is a 25% savings in their overall cost of attendance.

Rocket Readiness – This is another new initiative that assists students in two ways through collaboration with community colleges. UT currently has agreements with Owens Community College, Terra State CC, Northwest State CC, Monroe County CC and Schoolcraft College, and as a result has directed approximately 225 students

to our community college partners. Rocket Readiness helps students enhance their academic and financial standing through coursework at a local community college while earning credits towards a four year degree. This program allows the students to complete remedial and lower level coursework at a lower tuition rate at a community college, which reduces the overall cost of a four-year degree. Another relevant consideration is that up to 50% of students change their major at least once, and many several times, in their early academic years. Attending a community college during those potential exploratory stages is also a cost benefit to students, allowing them to test the waters before choosing their major and transferring to UT to complete their degree. Additionally, they have the opportunity to earn an academic scholarship to UT while attending the community college, further reducing their costs of attendance. Students are encouraged to earn at least 36 semester hours with a 2.00 cumulative GPA at a community college, while completing developmental math, developmental English, and at least six (6) general education courses. The 36 completed credit hours creates an approximate savings for the student of up to 30% towards the total cost of attaining an bachelors degree. Students can also earn a renewable academic scholarship based on their community college GPA.

The University of Toledo is very committed to its core mission to provide excellence in learning to its diverse student body, while continuing to be the best value in the state of Ohio. There are only 16 universities in the nation with a comparable breadth of programs to those at UT, including 12 academic colleges and over 400 degree and certificate programs, and UT is the only MAC school with a College of Medicine and university hospital. Our combination of tuition freezes, actions to create direct savings for students and programs to reduce the time to degree and improve financial literacy will ensure the University of Toledo remains a value leader for obtaining a university degree in Ohio, and meets the Senate's 5% challenge many times over.



**Name of Institution:** University of Toledo

### 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**.

10/14/15



*This template is intended to provide guidance for institutions' reports to the chancellor, based on the legislation – please modify and add additional detail as necessary.*

### 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)

Type of Cost	Average Cost (Dollar Amount)
Average Tuition (undergrad)	\$8,021
Fees	\$1,411
Room	\$7,154
Board	\$2,713
Textbooks	\$1,200
Discount Rate =45.4%	\$<4,282>
<i>*All Averages are Annual</i>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$16,217*4 years =\$64,868</b>

### Outline Options for reducing student costs:

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

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
This fall, the provost introduced a proposal to senate to lower the minimum from 124 to 120. A number of programs have already expressed interest in adopting this change and have prepared a new program of study based on 120 hours. Any program making such a change can potentially save a student over 3% in <u>tuition and fees</u> .	\$700	1%

<b>*\$385.09/CH x 45.4% Discount Rate</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>1%</b>

**(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.)

<b>Option offered by the institution</b>	<b>Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)</b>	<b>Percentage of total cost of attendance</b>
UT increased Under Grad Direct from high school scholarships by \$7.5M in FY2016	\$9091	14%
<i>*Discount reflected in Total Cost of Attendance Box and Not included in Total Cost Savings to Student at bottom of form</i>		

**(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.)

<b>Option offered by the institution</b>	<b>Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)</b>	<b>Percentage of total cost of attendance</b>
NA		

**(4) Offering online courses or degrees**

<b>Option offered by the institution</b>	<b>Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)</b>	<b>Percentage of total cost of attendance</b>
NA		

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

<b>Option offered by the institution</b>	<b>Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)</b>	<b>Percentage of total cost of attendance</b>
UT is developing a program to assist faculty in transitioning to open source materials. The average cost to the student for books is \$600/Semester.	\$960	1%
<i>*Assumes 8 Semesters and 20% conversion to Open Source</i>	\$960	1%

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

<b>Option offered by the institution</b>	<b>Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)</b>	<b>Percentage of total cost of attendance</b>


**(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**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

**(8) Offering fast-track degree completion programs**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
UT has created several programs (and is developing more) where students can begin the first year of a graduate program during their senior year of undergraduate studies and apply the graduate courses taken both toward completing the bachelors and toward the graduate degree, creating one Year of Undergraduate savings in time and money.	\$16,217	25%
	<b>\$16,217</b>	<b>25%</b>

**(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.)

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

**(10) Increased participation in the college credit plus program**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

College Credit Plus—UT has been a leader on this initiative. UT has worked closely with local school districts, increasing the number of students participating by over 40% in the last two academic years. The average high school student completes 30 credit hours through CCP, which is equivalent to one year of Undergraduate savings.	\$16,217	25%
	\$16,217	25%

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

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Implemented the Starfish Retention Platform (as a pilot), which identifies at-risk students in real time, reduces DFW rates, pinpoints areas of concern, connects students with valuable services, and helps assess which services and interventions will keep students on track to degree completion. After one semester, the DFW rates for the three courses piloted improved by 5%, 7% and 15%, and UT's institutional retention rate for full time freshmen rose by 2%.	\$3,466	5%*
<i>Savings based on 3 -3 credit hour courses</i>	\$3,466	5%
<i>*Assumes the typical student participating is not receiving a scholarship. As such, this is not included in Total Cost Savings to Student (bottom of form)</i>		

**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.

**(12) Academic Year 2013-2014**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
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0% Increase in General Fee	\$28	.04%
0% Increase in Tuition	\$157	.24%
<i>*Savings based on 2% avg. increase</i>	<b>\$185</b>	<b>.29%</b>

**(13) Academic Year 2014-2015**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
0% Increase in General Fee	\$28	.04%
Savings from 2013-2014 Tuition/Fee Freeze	\$185	.29%
	<b>\$213</b>	<b>.33%</b>

**(14)**

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
This fall (Academic Year 2016) the university is offering a 25% reduction in room rates to those not required to live on campus (almost 91.86% of in-state students registered as of 8/3/15).	\$1,788	3%
<b>*25% discount on 2016 avg. housing rates</b>	<b>\$1,788</b>	<b>3%</b>

**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 total cost of attendance
\$36,280	56% *

*\*(Maximum Savings to Students if Options 1,5,8,10,12,13,14 combined)*

*Items 2,3,4,6,7,9,11 (from above)are excluded from Total Savings because Savings are directed at select population of students not globally applied to all Undergrad students.*