

Guaranteed Tuition Plan Frequently Asked Questions

A. What is the Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

The University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR) approved the Guaranteed Tuition Plan policy, sometimes referred to as “Fixed for Four”, to provide greater predictability in college costs for students and their families, to encourage on time graduation and to provide for better utilization of USG assets. The Guaranteed Tuition Plan went into effect in Fall 2006 and is applicable only for those students entering a USG institution Fall 2006 and later.

The Guaranteed Tuition Plan sets a student’s tuition rate for a specified period of time according to that student’s enrollment status. A student who graduates from high school or a new transfer student who enrolls for the first time at a USG institution will be assigned a tuition rate based on the Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate set by the BOR for that year. Rates vary by type of institution.

A full description of the Guaranteed Tuition Plan can be found in the BOR Policy Manual at <http://www.usg.edu/regents/policymanual/700.phtml> in section 704.

B. Does the Guaranteed Tuition Plan cover books, fees and room and board charges?

No, the Guaranteed Tuition Plan *only* applies to tuition.

C. How do students know what their assigned Guaranteed Tuition Plan rate is?

Eligible students will be placed in a rate plan the first semester enrolled and will remain in the assigned plan year until it expires, regardless of how many times the student transfers or stops and starts.

D. How long does the Guaranteed Tuition Plan rate plan last?

The Guaranteed Tuition Plan for freshmen remains the same for four years (12 consecutive semesters) at USG regional, research, and state universities; for five years (15 consecutive semesters) at state colleges; and for three years (nine consecutive semesters) at two-year institutions. The important thing to remember is the year and semester in which your Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate began.

For example:

Institution Type	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Research, Regional and State Universities	X	⇒	⇒	X	
State Colleges (Baccalaureate programs)	X	⇒	⇒	⇒	X
Two-year Colleges	X	⇒	X		
Non-USG Transfer	X	X			

X – Rate begins in the Fall of this academic year

⇒ – Rate continues through academic year(s)

X – Rate expires at the end of the Summer semester of the academic year

E. What happens when the Guaranteed Rate Plan expires?

Students returning after their Guaranteed Tuition Plan has expired will pay the rate of the incoming freshmen class, which normally will be higher than the rate set when those students first enrolled. For example, a student who entered a four-year university in Fall 2006 and is still enrolled Fall 2010 can expect to pay the Guaranteed Tuition Plan rate established for new students entering Fall 2010. The rate is no longer guaranteed and students will be charged a new rate every year.

F. Are transfer students eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

Students who transfer into a USG institution from a non-USG institution are classified as non-USG transfers. A non-USG transfer student's Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate remains the same for two years (six consecutive semesters). Students who began as a freshman at an USG institution in Fall 2006 or later and then transfers to another USG institution are covered by the Guaranteed Tuition Plan policy. The student would pay the guaranteed tuition rate that was in affect at that institution during the time the student began as a freshman at a USG institution.

G. If a student enters a state college as a freshman in Fall 2007 and transfers to a state university Fall 2009, when does the student's Guaranteed Tuition Plan expire?

The student's Guaranteed Tuition Plan rate plan would expire at the end of Summer 2011 because the Guaranteed Tuition Plan is only fixed for 12 consecutive semesters at a state university. Beginning Fall 2011, the student would pay the current Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate each year.

H. What about a student who attended a USG institution for the first time in Fall 2006, transferred to an out-of-state or private institution for one semester, and returns to a USG constitution in Fall 2007?

A student who graduates from high school and first enrolls at a USG institution is given a Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate plan. The clock starts ticking. The student can come and go, but the Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition plan will remain in place whether a student is attending a USG institution or not.

I. Are continuing or formerly enrolled students eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

No. Students who were enrolled in the USG prior to Summer 2006 are not eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan. Continuing or former students will be charged the "continuing rate", which changes every year.

The "continuing rate" is the tuition rate in place for those students who began at a USG institution prior to Summer 2006.

J. Are joint-enrolled/dual-enrolled students eligible?

Prior to high school graduation, joint-enrolled or dual-enrolled students are charged the existing guaranteed tuition rate for the current year, however the rate plan is **not fixed**. Following graduation from high school, these students will be charged the guaranteed tuition rate in effect the semester they enroll at a USG institution. The tuition is then fixed for future semesters at this rate.

Exceptions: Students in the two Academies (GAMES and AAG) are considered new freshmen at the time they first enroll and they will be assigned the existing tuition rate for a period of 12 consecutive semesters.

K. What if a student attends only part-time?

Once a part-time student's Guaranteed Tuition Plan rate expires, the student will pay the continuing rate, which isn't fixed. Part-time students are defined as those that attempted no more than an average of 12 credit hours for each year and resulting in no more than the cumulative hours allowed for each institution type at the time their plan period expires. For example:

- ***Two-Year – 36 attempted hours***
- ***State Colleges – 60 attempted hours***
- ***Research, Regional, & Four-year Universities – 48 attempted hours***

The part-time rate provision applies only to students who began as a freshman in a USG institution Fall 2006 or later and who are on a guaranteed tuition plan. **This provision does not apply to students who were enrolled in at a USG institution prior to Fall 2006 or non-USG transfers.**

L. What rate are transient students charged?

USG students starting Fall 2006 or later and who are on a Guaranteed Tuition Plan and who decide to attend at another USG institution as transient student will be charged the Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate at the institution they are attending. USG transient students who entered the USG prior to Summer/Fall 2006 are charged the continuing rate at the institution they are attending.

Non-USG transient students are considered transfer students and are assigned the guaranteed tuition rate in effect for the semester in which they first enroll at a USG institution.

M. Are out-of-state students eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

Yes, out-of-state students who first enter the USG in Summer 2006 and later are eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

N. When is a student not eligible for Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

Students who entered the USG prior to Summer 2006 are not eligible and students who remain enrolled after their plan expires are no longer eligible. Students who entered the USG prior to Summer 2006 will pay the continuing rate each year. Students who remain enrolled after their plan expires will pay the current guaranteed tuition rate each year.

O. Are Professional and Graduate students eligible for Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

No. Professional and Graduate programs are not currently eligible for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

P. What happens if the student withdraws from all courses in a semester?

Once a student is assigned a Guaranteed Tuition Plan tuition rate, the clock starts ticking. The withdrawal semester counts as one semester in the plan.