What's the Story Behind Tuition?

Tuition Trends

Tuition has been on a steady rise for more than 30 years throughout higher education. Academic veterinary medicine is no different.

Veterinary Medical College Tuition*

Adjusted for inflation to 2015 dollars.

Cost

Year

1980
1989
2000
2010
2015

10,000
20,000
30,000
40,000
50,000
60,000

Non-Resident
Resident

Check out a helpful resource on tuition at individual colleges of veterinary medicine at www.aavmc.org/costs

Public Support

In 1988, student tuition provided about 25% of a public college and university’s revenue, while state and local government provided about 75%. Thirty years later, that ratio is about 50-50.**

What’s causing the increases?

The biggest reason is reduced public support. Others include rising administrative costs for personnel, operations and compliance.

Additional Student Services
Rising Healthcare & Medical Education Costs
Increased Government Regulations
Updating, Maintaining Older Facilities & Investing in New Technology

Common Misconception!
In most cases, new buildings are not funded by tuition dollars.

* "Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: Unkept Promises: "State Cuts to Higher Education Threaten Access and Equity."
Who Sets Tuition?

There are numerous methods for setting annual tuition costs at the colleges of veterinary medicine.

Presidents & Trustees
University leaders set tuition pricing across the institution’s various academic units.

Legislatively Mandated
In some states, the legislature mandates tuition and fees at public colleges and universities.

Collaboration
University leaders & veterinary college deans collaboratively determine tuition pricing for the academic year.

Where Does that Money Go?
Tuition is just one revenue stream that supports a college budget.

Sources of Veterinary College Revenue in Percentages*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VTH &amp; Diagnostic Labs</th>
<th>University Appropriations</th>
<th>Student Tuition and Fees</th>
<th>Grants and Contracts</th>
<th>Government Appropriations</th>
<th>Philanthropic Support</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Total Veterinary College Expenditures in Percentages*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VTH and Diagnostic Labs</th>
<th>Instructional Programs</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Service Expenditures</th>
<th>University Student Aid</th>
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The Takeaway
Our colleges are very concerned about this problem and are seeking ways to make veterinary education more affordable. This includes strategies to address rising costs, increase scholarships, and shape public policy through advocacy efforts.

*AAVMC Internal Data Reports: 1980-2019