



Q and A: The Impact of Tuition Fee Increases on Enrollment

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How much has the per unit student tuition fee increased or decreased over the past five years?

Since 2000-01, when tuition was \$11 per unit, the tuition has increased 136%, to \$26 per unit as of Fall 2004. (See table on page 2.)

However, when cost of books, fees, and supplies (estimated to be \$612 per semester) are included, the increase in total cost, for a full-time student, is approximately 29%.

In Fall 1993, tuition increased 117%, from \$6 to \$13.

What is the expected decline in enrollment for each \$1 increase in per unit tuition?

Recent studies have shown that there is a variety of causes for the decline in enrollment, including a decline in course sections offered, and it is very difficult, therefore, to isolate the impact of the tuition increase.

A 1993 study by the CCCCCO calculated a -0.7% price elasticity, meaning a 0.7% enrollment decline for every 1% total student cost increase (including books, etc.).

How much did enrollment decline due to the last increase in tuition?

We can report enrollment decline during a tuition increase but not due to a tuition increase. Districtwide, credit enrollment declined 12% from Fall 2002 to Fall 2003 when tuition increased from \$11 to \$18. **However, in Fall 2004 with the additional increase to \$26, enrollment did not decline.**

In Fall 2003 at RSCCD, the number of credit sections offered declined $10\%^*$, from Fall 2002. This and other facts need to be considered in analyzing enrollment declines.

Additionally, enrollment had sharply increased in Fall 2001 and Spring 2002; consequently, the percentage decline for Fall 2003 was accentuated.

*10% decline for census week classes; 5% decline for "end-of-term" total classes.

Which area of enrollment experienced the largest decrease in enrollment?

In Fall 2003, there was a slight decline in enrollments in most disciplines at RSCCD. The most significant declines occurred in Fire and Criminal Justice Academies, Business Applications, Computer Science, Counseling, and Mathematics enrollments.

Is there any demographic information on the type of students who did not enroll due to the increase in tuition last year?

From the information that we have available and from the extensive research we have conducted, there is no group of students that was apparently impacted more than others.

Part-time (12 units or fewer) student enrollment has declined.

Credit Enrollment at SAC, SCC, and California Community Colleges

Semester	Fees		Percent Change in Enrollment from Prior Year*		
	Per Unit Fee	% Change from prior year	SAC	SCC	CCC
Fall 1991	\$ 5.00	-	14.9%		1.3%
Spring 1992	\$ 6.00	-	na		1.2%
Fall 1992	\$ 6.00	20%	-3.1%		-0.7%
Spring 1993**	\$ 10.00	67%	na		-6.9%
Fall 1993**	\$ 13.00	117%	-21.3%		-8.3%
Spring 1994**	\$ 13.00	30%	na		-2.3%
Fall 1994**	\$ 13.00	-	9.0%		-1.3%
Fall 2001	\$ 11.00	-	7.3%	7.9%	6.4%
Spring 2002	\$ 11.00	-	20.6%	16.6%	6.4%
Fall 2002	\$ 11.00	-	-0.4%	2.9%	3.4%
Spring 2003	\$ 11.00	-	-17.0%	-0.5%	-2.9%
Fall 2003	\$ 18.00	64%	-15.3%	-4.2%	-5.2%
Spring 2004	\$ 18.00	64%	-10.7%	-15.6%	na
Fall 2004	\$ 26.00	44%	1.5%	0.4%	na
Spring 2005	\$ 26.00	44%	-0.2%	2.1%	na