



Buy tomorrow's college tuition today.

March 19, 2012

If a university charges “differential tuition” for a specific course of study, will my GET account cover that?

- While the prospect of differential tuition has been [in the news](#) lately, it has not yet been fully defined by universities, nor has it yet been implemented. If it is implemented, a GET account can certainly be used to pay these qualified higher education costs.
- Some customers have asked about the *payout value* for GET units, which is established at the beginning of each academic year. By law and by guarantee, GET's payout value is based on the highest residential, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at a Washington public university. Tuition is what is defined by a university as “tuition.” “State-mandated fees,” by definition in the Master Agreement, “are those provided by statute, including operating, building and student activity fees.” That statute (RCW 28B.95.050) defines operating fees as “the fees, other than building fees, charged all students registering at the state's colleges and universities... .”
- If differential tuition is implemented and eventually defined as “tuition,” GET's payout value would cover it, though the unit price would have to increase dramatically to cover these sudden additional costs. This would make it even more difficult for families to save for college. If differential tuition is eventually defined as a “fee,” that is related to a specific major and therefore not charged to all students, GET's payout value would not be based on this higher cost.
- Double-digit increases in basic residential, undergraduate tuition at Washington's public universities are predicted for the next several years and this tuition will continue to be the basis for GET's payout value. GET customers will continue to benefit as they always have and the guarantee has not changed.

NOTE: Enrollment ends May 31, 2012, which applies to new accounts and also to new Custom Monthly Plans for existing accounts. Enrollments must be posted by midnight on May 31, 2012. Lump Sum units may be added to existing accounts at the current \$163 unit price, as long as funds are *received* (not posted) by June 30, 2012.