

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

ACTION ITEM

For Meeting of January 22, 2025

APPROVAL OF NEW MULTI-YEAR PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE SUPPLEMENTAL TUITION FOR TEN GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS AND ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS OF MULTI-YEAR PLANS FOR TWO GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This action item requests the Regents' approval of the multi-year plans for charging Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) for three new graduate professional degree programs: the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at UCLA; Public Health at UC Riverside; and Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications and Research (GISTAR) at UC Santa Cruz. This item also requests approval of the multi-year plans for seven graduate professional degree programs at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Barbara. The seven programs currently assess PDST and have plans that will expire at the end of the 2024–25 academic year. The maximum annual PDST levels in the multi-year plans would be effective upon approval of the multi-year plans.

Each of the ten proposals has been reviewed by staff at the Office of the President and has been determined to meet all requirements of Regents Policy 3103: Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition. The proposals describe the programmatic needs that support the proposed PDST levels, include plans for the use of financial aid to ensure accessibility, and incorporate strategies for improving racial and ethnic diversity in the programs. Programs also shared their multi-year plans with students and faculty and solicited their feedback using a variety of engagement strategies.

Additionally, two programs with expiring multi-year plans intend to assess the same PDST levels in 2025–26 as in 2024–25 and have requested that the Regents approve a one-year extension of their existing multi-year plans.

The PDST levels in the new multi-year plans for the ten programs are shown in Display 1. Each program's multi-year plan is included in the attachments. The PDST levels for the two programs requesting a one-year extension are shown in Display 2.

RECOMMENDATION

The President of the University recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Regents approve:

1. the multi-year plans for charging Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) for ten graduate professional degree programs as shown in Display 1, and
2. a one-year extension of the multi-year plans for the two graduate professional degree programs as shown in Display 2.

DISPLAY 1: Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition Levels¹ for 10 Programs

	Current Level		Proposed Level			
	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>2027-28</u>	<u>2028-29</u>	<u>2029-30</u>
Civil and Environmental Engineering, Berkeley						
Resident PDST Level	\$7,096	\$7,310	\$7,530	\$7,758	\$7,994	\$8,236
Nonresident PDST Level	\$13,830	\$14,250	\$14,680	\$15,126	\$15,580	\$16,050
Law, Berkeley						
Resident PDST Level	\$47,040	\$49,392	\$51,862	\$54,454	\$57,178	\$60,036
Nonresident PDST Level	\$47,222	\$50,764	\$54,570	\$58,664	\$63,064	\$67,794
Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Berkeley						
Resident PDST Level	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Nonresident PDST Level	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Business, Davis						
Resident PDST Level	\$31,620	\$32,880	\$34,170	\$35,520	\$36,930	\$38,400
Nonresident PDST Level	\$31,620	\$32,880	\$34,170	\$35,520	\$36,930	\$38,400
Nursing (DNP), Los Angeles						
Resident PDST Level	N/A	\$23,904	\$24,708	\$25,548	N/A	N/A
Nonresident PDST Level	N/A	\$23,904	\$24,708	\$25,548	N/A	N/A
Public Health, Riverside						
Resident PDST Level	N/A	\$7,002	\$7,212	\$7,428	\$7,650	\$7,881
Nonresident PDST Level	N/A	\$7,002	\$7,212	\$7,428	\$7,650	\$7,881
Public Policy, Riverside						
Resident PDST Level	\$5,952	\$7,143	\$8,571	\$10,287	\$10,800	\$11,340
Nonresident PDST Level	\$5,952	\$7,143	\$8,571	\$10,287	\$10,800	\$11,340
Environmental Data Science, Santa Barbara						
Resident PDST Level	\$21,852	\$22,509	\$23,184	\$23,880	\$24,597	\$25,335
Nonresident PDST Level	\$21,852	\$22,509	\$23,184	\$23,880	\$24,597	\$25,335
Environmental Science and Management, Santa Barbara						
Resident PDST Level	\$10,926	\$11,256	\$11,592	\$11,940	\$12,297	\$12,666
Nonresident PDST Level	\$10,926	\$11,256	\$11,592	\$11,940	\$12,297	\$12,666
Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications and Research (GISTAR), Santa Cruz						
Resident PDST Level	N/A	\$2,100	\$2,163	\$2,229	\$2,298	\$2,367
Nonresident PDST Level	N/A	\$2,100	\$2,163	\$2,229	\$2,298	\$2,367

¹ The amounts reflect the maximum PDST levels to be assessed, effective as of the academic year indicated. Assessing PDST levels less than the level indicated requires approval by the President with the concurrence of the Chancellor. PDST levels may be assessed beyond the period covering the program's approved multi-year plan but not in excess of the maximum levels specified in the final year.

**DISPLAY 2: Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition Levels
for the Two Programs Requesting a One-Year Extension**

	Current <u>2024-25</u>	Proposed <u>2025-26</u>
Product Development, Berkeley		
Resident PDST Level	\$36,116	\$36,116
Nonresident PDST Level	\$36,116	\$36,116
Biotechnology Management, Irvine		
Resident PDST Level	\$16,167	\$16,167
Nonresident PDST Level	\$16,167	\$16,167

BACKGROUND

Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) was established in 1994–95 to allow UC’s professional schools to offset reductions in State support and maintain program quality. PDST is assessed in addition to mandatory Tuition, the Student Services Fee, and, if applicable, Nonresident Supplemental Tuition.

Historically, many of UC’s professional schools have held a place of prominence in the nation, promising an exceptional education for a reasonable price. Revenue generated from PDST has been critical to these programs’ efforts to regain and maintain excellence. The Regents’ Policy on PDST includes specific conditions for ensuring that the University’s commitments to excellence, access, inclusion, affordability, and students’ public service career decisions are not adversely affected by increases in fees for graduate professional degree students. The University affirmatively monitors related indicators such as student debt levels. Any graduate professional degree program that proposes charging PDST for the first time or proposes increasing PDST is required to submit a multi-year plan for approval.

Each multi-year plan is endorsed by the campus’ chancellor and reviewed by the Office of the President for the following information:

- the amount of resources required to sustain academic quality at, and enrollments in, the particular graduate professional degree program;
- the intended uses and justification for PDST revenue, including the educational benefits that will be provided to students;
- the tuition and fees for comparison programs at public and private institutions of higher education;
- the program’s affordability goals, financial aid strategies, and student loan debt trends;
- the program’s racial, ethnic, gender, and (when available) socioeconomic student enrollment trends and diversity strategies; and

- the views of the program's student body and faculty on the proposed PDST levels.

During the intensive multi-year plan review process, campuses must demonstrate that proposed PDST levels will not adversely affect the University's commitment to excellence, access, inclusion, and affordability. The Systemwide Provost also ensures that each program complements its proposed multi-year plans for PDST levels with financial aid measures, including scholarships, grants, and/or loan repayment assistance programs, to ensure access to the degree programs, to minimize financial barriers to the pursuit of lower-paying public interest careers, and to reduce restrictions on students' career options due to student debt. In addition, the appropriateness of each program's selection of comparator programs in public and private institutions is examined, and its total tuition and/or fees are compared to those of its comparators. A program that submits a multi-year plan that does not include sufficient information or is not satisfactory in some other way is required to reconsider its efforts and submit revised proposals.

The multi-year plans submitted by the programs at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz have proposed PDST levels consistent with the expectations of the Regents, and the President recommends their approval by the Regents.

Anticipated Multi-Year Plan Submissions and One-Year Extensions for Two Programs' Existing Multi-Year Plans

At the March 2017 Regents meeting, the Regents approved amendments to PDST policy that established a new system for proposing, reviewing, and approving PDST levels for graduate professional degree students. All PDST programs have multi-year plans approved under the amended policy. A total of 19 programs have plans that will expire at the end of this academic year. Seven programs are included in this item and ten programs will submit proposals as part of this item for approval by the Regents at the March Regents meeting.

The two remaining programs with expiring plans currently assess PDST and intend to assess the same PDST levels in 2025–26 as in 2024–25, as shown in Display 2. The two programs have requested that the Regents approve a one-year extension of their existing multi-year plan and will submit new multi-year plans as part of next year's cycle. Revenue generated from the PDST in the 2025–26 academic year will continue to be used on the goals specified in their multi-year plans.

Proposed PDST Levels for 10 Graduate Professional Degree Programs

The DNP program at UCLA, the Public Health program at UC Riverside, and the GISTAR program at UC Santa Cruz have submitted multi-year plans that request approval to begin assessing PDST in 2025–26. The other seven programs seeking approval currently assess PDST and have plans that were approved under the amended PDST policy of 2017. These plans will expire at the end of the 2024–25 academic year and, accordingly, the seven programs have submitted new multi-year plans. As shown in Display 1, the programs have proposed PDST levels that range from \$2,100 to \$67,794. One program has requested no increases in PDST. The proposed percentage increases for the other nine programs range from three to 20 percent.

Market Comparisons

Regents Policy 3103: Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition calls upon programs to develop PDST plans that analyze the graduate professional degree program in relation to their comparators. Most programs consider both public and private comparators in their marketplace analyses. The comparison institutions chosen by UC's programs are generally current competitors for students, faculty, and national rankings or a mix of current competitors and programs with which UC aspires to compete. The ten programs have identified comparison programs of high quality at public and private institutions across the nation for the marketplace analysis. Details about the programs' peer institutions and comparisons of fee levels assessed to in-state and out-of-state students are provided in the program's multi-year plans (see attachments).

Uses of Revenue from Proposed PDST

As part of each proposal, programs describe how the PDST revenue reflected in their plans will be utilized. While specific goals and strategies vary by program, proposed uses of new PDST revenue primarily include maintaining or enhancing program quality, student services, affordability, and access and inclusion. Other proposed uses of PDST revenue include purchasing instructional equipment, facilities expansion and renewal, and funding necessary personnel-related costs such as faculty salary adjustments and employee benefits. The multi-year plans in the attachment show each program's anticipated expenditures by category of expense.

Financial Aid and Student Indebtedness

In each multi-year plan, programs express their commitment to providing students with grant and scholarship support in order to attract and enroll a highly talented and socioeconomically diverse student body, consistent with the financial aid policy goals first articulated by the Regents in 1994. Each program plans to supplement financial aid sources by an amount equivalent to at least 33 percent of new PDST revenue, or by the amount needed to provide financial aid totaling at least 33 percent of all PDST revenue. Details of each program's financial aid strategy are included in the program's multi-year plans.

Strategies for Inclusion of Underrepresented Groups

Each program reported several factors related to enrollment trends and diversity strategies in their multi-year plans. The plans were reviewed by campus Vice Chancellors for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion or their equivalent. Examples of strategies for inclusion of diverse populations include:

- hiring and allocating more staff resources committed to outreach and helping remove obstacles in the admissions process for all students, including those from underrepresented groups;
- conducting more outreach to California State University campuses, Historically Black

Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions;

- targeting financial aid and fellowship support to students who contribute to the diversity of the student body; and
- developing direct pathways to graduate professional programs from institutions with higher proportions of students from underrepresented groups.

Additional details on the programs' diversity strategies are provided in the programs' multi-year plans.

Faculty and Student Consultation

Regents Policy requires that programs provide opportunities for faculty and students to engage with program leadership about multi-year plans, the rationale for PDST increases or new PDSTs, the impact on program quality of various PDST levels, and how any potentially adverse consequences of PDST levels will be mitigated by financial aid, outreach, and recruitment of students from low-income backgrounds and underrepresented groups. The ten programs confirmed that the campus graduate dean; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) executive leadership; and graduate student leadership had an opportunity to review each proposal, which was endorsed by the chancellor.

In addition, each of the multi-year plans describes efforts to solicit student and faculty input. Programs gathered this input in a variety of ways, including conducting focus group discussions with both current and prospective students, holding town hall meetings, sending surveys to all students, meeting with class representatives, and arranging for discussions during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.

KEY TO ACRONYMS

PDST	Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1: Multi-year Plans for Ten Graduate Professional Degree Programs – Executive Summaries
2. Attachment 2: Multi-year Detail Plans for Ten Graduate Professional Degree Programs