

# Differential Tuition – What you Need to Know

**What is it?** The money from standard tuition charges goes to the central administration at UNM and, along with all other revenue sources, used to pay for all University operations. Some is distributed to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). In contrast, differential tuition is an additional per credit hour charge on students majoring in the College. The money from differential tuition goes directly to the College to support instruction and student success.

**What prompted this request?** The College been chronically underfunded for years, and yet generates more revenue than it receives back from central administration. Estimates have shown this to be over \$10 million annually. State government support for higher education is falling across the country, and many public universities have had to rely more heavily on tuition revenue. State funding for the UNM Main Campus has been cut by almost \$15.5 million in just the last two years.

**Why is it important?** While students are probably willing to support most of the operations of the University with their tuition, they rightly demand and deserve transparency and accountability from the University. Differential tuition removes the middleman, lowers overhead, and allows students dollars to go most directly to instruction and student success. Differential tuition gives student more voice in where and how their tuition dollars are spent.

**What Schools and Colleges already have it?** Differential tuition has existed for several years at UNM. It is currently in place for the School of Engineering, the School of Law, the School of Architecture and Planning, and the Anderson School of Management. Many students in these Schools take classes in the College of Arts and Sciences.. They pay the differential tuition to their Schools, but none of that money goes to the College.

**How do students influence how differential tuition is spent?** Differential tuition requests are reviewed and approved by the University's leadership, including the Provost, the President, and the Board of Regents. At every review stage students and stakeholders must be consulted. If approved, the plan describing how the money will be spent must be published, and the College will make an annual report of spending available on its website. The process is described in Policy 8210 at UNM. If the College's request is approved, the College will create a Student Advisory Board to review the annual report and advise the Dean on how the money will be allocated to support student success.