

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY



HOW THE 2010-2011 TUITION INCREASE IMPACTS CAU QUALITY

Across the nation, colleges and universities have been impacted by the downturn in the economy. Presently, the expenses associated with educating college students steadily rise, principally due to certain costs such as utilities, campus safety and security, buildings and grounds maintenance, and institution-related insurances. While this reality manifests at Clark Atlanta University, tuition was not increased during the last two years, as has been the case at most institutions. In fact, this fall, a myriad of colleges and universities have increased tuition by an average of 6% in response to the nation's current economic conditions, with some institutions raising tuition by as much as 30%.

Furthermore, to better improve our buying power and retain our competitive advantage in this current economic environment, the Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees, after careful analysis and consideration, approved a 5.6% tuition increase for all undergraduate and graduate students, effective fall 2010.

Since 2008, the University's cost of operations has increased by 3.1% and will continue to increase by another 4.3% in the next two years—a total of 7.4% by year 2012. Therefore, the tuition increase, after two years, represents a modest adjustment necessary to offset budgetary challenges and is considered reasonable in light of tuition increases at other institutions across the nation.

The University will continue to offer a number of scholarships, grants, federal aid, and work-study programs to assist eligible students with the cost of tuition. This year, CAU received over \$7 million in private gifts and commitments for student scholarships from our alumni, friends, and external partners. The University will continue to aggressively pursue external support for students from private and governmental sources and work diligently to keep

education accessible for our students. Ostensibly, students will also notice, during the forthcoming academic year, certain differences across the campus and value-added service improvements in the following areas:

- Overall, a greater focus on financial aid processes, student satisfaction, and accountability within the Office of Student Financial Aid, with an emphasis on student feedback (i.e., How are we doing?);
- More efficient and timely financial aid packaging;
- Separate undergraduate and graduate registration;
- Improvements in campus safety;
- Improved communications systems; and
- Incrementally remodeled and updated facilities.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: In terms of dollars, how much will it cost to attend CAU in 2010-2011, and how does that compare to the cost of attendance in 2009-2010?

A: For a full-time undergraduate student (pursuing 12-18 semester hours) living on-campus, the total annual cost will be \$26,020. This represents an increase of \$1,299 from 2009-10 and will vary slightly based on the residence hall in which the student resides. For full-time undergraduate students (pursuing 12 – 18 semester hours) living off-campus, the total cost will be \$17,954.00 and the amount of the increase is \$916 per year.

For graduate students and part-time undergraduate students (1-11 semester hours), the per credit hour tuition charge will increase by \$39 from \$680 to \$719.

Q: Will there be an increase in mandatory student fees (i.e., Student Center Fee, Technology Fee, Library Capital Improvement Assessment, Student Health Fee, and Student Activity Fee)?

A: No, mandatory fees will not increase from the previous 2009-2010 levels.

Q: What about increases in residence hall rates?

A: The cost of the University owned residence halls will, on average, increase by 5% or \$230 per year, with the exception of the residential halls that were newly renovated last year (i.e., Holmes, Pfeiffer, and Merner halls). The cost of these will increase by 8% or \$358 per year. Additionally, incremental cost increases will be exercised for other partner facilities such as CAU Suites and Heritage Commons.

Q: How does the tuition increase support “institutionally-based” student financial assistance?

A: A school’s ability to provide “institutionally-based” student financial assistance is another source for helping students and parents bridge the gap between the cost of college attendance and most federal and state aid programs (e.g., Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Stafford Loans, and Perkins Loans). On average, 94% of CAU students receive some form of federal financial aid. Yet, federal aid is limited. In 2007-2008, the average “institutionally-based” award to eligible CAU students was \$10,000 and dispersed among 24% of CAU students. That only 24% of “institutionally-based” aid was dispersed to eligible CAU students suggests more be done as an institution in this regard. The tuition increase will enable CAU to maintain and increase expenditures in “institutionally-based” aid to a larger number of eligible students.

It should be noted the federal Pell Grant, which has been increased, may now be awarded to eligible students for summer semesters, effective summer 2010. This is referred to as “year-round” Pell grants. The Pell Grant amount is based on certain enrollment hours and the “Expected Family Contribution” (EFC). For the summer, an eligible student must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours to receive a summer Pell Grant.

Q: Where can more information about external scholarship opportunities be obtained?

A: Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid for assistance in obtaining information concerning external scholarship and grant opportunities. Additionally, your department chair may be able to provide you with academic major specific information concerning funding that may be available through externally sponsored programs.

Q: Will there be an increase in the Meal Plan rates?

A: Yes, Meal Plan rates will increase by approximately 3% for all meal plan categories, such as “Platinum Unlimited,” “Gold,” “Silver,” Block 150,” et cetra.

Undergraduate Tuition and Fees 2010-2011

	Semester	Year
Rate per credit hour \$719 Overload Rate (19+ hours) per credit hour \$477 *There are no additional charges for out-of-state students.		
Tuition (12-18 Hrs)*	\$8,622	\$17,244
Student Center Fee	\$100	\$200
Technology Fee	\$100	\$200
Library Capital Improvement Assessment	\$80	\$160
Student Health Fee	\$50	\$100
Student Activity Fee	\$25	\$50
Total	\$8,977	\$17,954

Graduate Tuition and Fees 2010-2011

	Semester	Year
Tuition (per credit hour)	\$719	
Student Center Fee	\$100	\$200
Technology Fee	\$100	\$200
Library Capital Improvement Assessment	\$80	\$160
Student Health Fee	\$50	\$100
Student Activity Fee	\$25	\$50

**Tuition and fees are subject to change.*

Housing 2010-2011

	Semester	Year
Beckwith Single Occupancy	\$2,617	\$5,234
Beckwith Double Occupancy	\$2,122	\$4,244
Holmes Hall	\$2,414	\$4,828
Merner Hall	\$2,414	\$4,828
Pfeiffer Hall	\$2,414	\$4,828
Brawley Hall* (4 bedroom)	\$2,774	\$5,548
Brawley Hall* (5 or 6 bedroom)	\$2,711	\$5,422
Ware & Bumstead Halls Single Occupancy	\$2,617	\$5,234
Ware & Bumstead Halls Double Occupancy	\$2,085	\$4,170

*Formerly New Residential Apartments

Note:

The Panther Platinum Board Plan (\$1,648) is required for First-year (Freshmen) students who live in any Residence Hall facility.

Board (Meal Plans)

	Semester	Year
Panther Platinum - Unlimited Meals per semester plus \$25 flex dollars	\$1,648	\$3,296
Panther Gold - 14 Meals per week plus \$125 flex dollars	\$1,648	\$3,296
Panther Silver - 10 Meals per week plus \$250 flex dollars	\$1,442	\$2,884
Block 130 - 130 Meals per semester plus \$150 flex dollars	\$1,133	\$2,266
Block 50 - 50 Meals/Semester	\$ 286	\$572
Block 25 - 25 Meals/Semester	\$ 158	\$ 316

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