

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2026.02/08
Approval of Tuition, Fees, and
Room and Board Rates for
Academic Year 2026-2027

Resolution

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University has the authority to approve tuition, mandatory student fees, and room and board rates, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University recognizes the increasingly important role that revenue from tuition and fees plays in ensuring appropriate funding for educational excellence, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University recognizes the important role that mandatory fee and housing and dining resources play in supporting student life for a holistic educational experience, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University is committed to promoting academic innovation and program enhancements while maintaining access to and affordability of its high-quality programs:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Academic Year 2026-2027 student tuition, mandatory student fees, and room and board rates contained herein.

Board Action on:	Postpone:	
Motion by:	Amend:	
Second by:	Disapprove:	
Vote: Yeas: _____	Nays: _____	Approve: _____

ATTEST: Board Action, February 20, 2026

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University**
Approval of Student Tuition, Fees, and Room and Board Rates for Academic Year 2026-2027

Illinois State University is an institution of exceptional values and vision. By consciously adhering to the core values of the University's strategic plan, *Excellence by Design: 2024-2030*, the institution is consistently recognized nationally for a multitude of academic rankings. Achieving a student retention rate that is among the highest in the nation at 81.9% and a graduation rate of 67.3%, it is understandable that the University is included in U.S. News & World Report's 2026 rankings of America's best public national universities. In support of Illinois State's strategic focus on ensuring strong enrollment and student success, the University is prudent in its fiscal planning, balancing student financial investment with enhancing the University's financial strength and stability. Illinois State University has a reputation as a fiscally accessible institution of higher learning, as evidenced by its recognition by Washington Monthly, which has included Illinois State University on its "Best Bang for the Buck" list in the Midwest. In fall 2025, Illinois State University enrolled its second-largest incoming class in school history.

Setting tuition and fees is a complex exercise, requiring the balancing of affordability for students and their families with maintaining high educational standards while also managing the increasing costs of campus operations. Illinois State University remains the lowest-funded public university per FTE student in the state. Funding per student for FY2026 remains 47% below the average for Illinois public universities. State revenues are not sufficient to sustain university operations. The university requests a tuition increase of \$20.11/credit hour or 5% to the base tuition rate for undergraduate programs for the 2026-2027 academic year.

In January 2024, the Board approved a differential tuition rate for new undergraduate students in targeted programs: Mennonite College of Nursing, College of Business, College of Engineering, Cyber Security, and Computer Science. The differentiated rate for students in these programs remains at 15% above the base tuition rate.

The University also requests a mandatory fee/outreach fee increase of \$ 2 per credit hour, or 1.7%. The increase in fees is requested due to inflationary increases in operational expenses for student services, programs, and the repair and maintenance of related facilities.

For students using campus housing and dining, the University requests a 4% increase in room and board rates. Housing and dining operations continue to be impacted by inflationary cost factors, including food supplies, utilities, and facility repairs and maintenance.

Proposed FY2027 tuition, mandatory student fees, and room and board rates are summarized below. Also included is information supporting specialized program pricing for two graduate programs. If approved, the overall cost to new undergraduate students in programs with differential tuition, mandatory fees, room and board will be \$30,605.80, an increase of \$1,233.90 (4.2%), compared to FY2026. For all other new undergraduate students, the total cost will be \$28,705.29, an increase of \$1,143.29 (4.15%) compared to FY2026.

Undergraduate Tuition

New In-State Students in 2026-27

As determined by a student's selected major/program, Illinois State University requests authority to charge new, in-state undergraduate students the designated tuition rate per credit hour outlined in Table 1 below. This rate reflects a 5% increase in the base tuition rate for undergraduate programs and an additional 15% of that rate for students in programs with differential tuition. In accordance with the State of Illinois "Truth-in-Tuition" statute, the student will pay the applicable rate per program through the summer of 2030 upon first enrollment or selection of a major/program.

New Out-of-State Students in 2026-27

As determined by a student's selected major/program, Illinois State University requests authority to charge new out-of-state undergraduate students the designated tuition rate per credit hour outlined in Table 1 below. Rates represent a ratio of two times the in-state tuition rate. This rate per credit hour reflects a 5% increase over the rate charged to out-of-state students in 2025-2026. As with in-state students, these students will continue to pay this

rate through the summer of 2030 upon first enrollment or selection of a major/program.

Table 1 shows undergraduate tuition rates for general undergraduate programs and programs with differential tuition for the 2026-27 Academic Year (FY2027).

<u>Cohort</u>	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
New Undergraduates 1st Enrolled in Academic Yr 2026-2027		
General Undergraduate	\$422.30	\$844.60
Programs with Differential Tuition	\$485.65	\$971.29
New Undergraduates 1st Enrolled in Academic Yr 2025-2026		
General Undergraduate	\$402.19	\$804.38
Programs with Differential Tuition	\$462.52	\$925.04
New Undergraduates 1st Enrolled in Academic Yr 2024-2025		
General Undergraduate	\$402.19	\$804.38
Programs with Differential Tuition	\$462.52	\$925.04
All New Undergraduates 1st Enrolled in Academic Yr 2023-2024	\$402.19	\$804.38

Graduate Tuition

In-State Graduate Students in 2026-27

Illinois State University requests authority to charge in-state graduate students \$443.70 per credit hour, as outlined in Table 2 below. This rate reflects a 5% increase in tuition for 2026-2027. The State of Illinois “Truth-in-Tuition” statute does not apply to graduate tuition rates.

Out-of-State Graduate Students in 2026-27

Illinois State University requests authority to charge out-of-state graduate students \$921.61 per credit hour, as outlined in Table 2 below. This rate reflects a 5% increase in tuition for 2026-2027.

Table 2 shows the proposed Graduate Tuition rates for the 2026-2027 Academic Year (FY2027), as well as historical Graduate Tuition rates per credit hour.

Table 2 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Graduate Tuition Per Credit Hour Academic Year 2026-2027		
	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
Graduate Rate Academic Year 2026-2027	\$443.70	\$921.61
Graduate Rate Academic Year 2025-2026	\$422.57	\$877.72
Graduate Rate Academic Year 2024-2025	\$422.57	\$877.72
Graduate Rate Academic Year 2023-2024	\$422.57	\$877.72

Graduate Specialized Program Pricing

Illinois State University requests authority to charge market-demand pricing for the specialized graduate-level programs listed below. The per-credit-hour charge is the same for In-State and Out-of-State graduate students and includes tuition and fees. This pricing is based on specialized instructional and delivery costs of administering the programs and sustained by industry-supported market-based pricing for such high-demand career programs.

Table 3 shows the previously approved program pricing per credit hour for the Online Masters of Actuarial Science and Corporate Masters of Business Administration. There is no change proposed for FY2027.

Table 3 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Graduate Specialized Program Pricing Academic Year 2026-2027		
<u>Program</u>	<u>Rate per Credit Hour</u> <u>(Tuition and Fees)</u>	
Online Masters of Actuarial Science	\$	1,500.00
Corporate Masters of Business Administration	\$	625.00

Mandatory Student Fees

Mandatory Student Fees are assessed to all students for all enrolled hours, on a per-credit-hour basis, regardless of undergraduate or graduate status. Each fee is assessed for a specific operational service and/or program. These services/programs include student activities, Bone Student Center, health & wellness, athletic facilities and services, recreational facilities and services, campus enhancements to academic facilities, instructional technology support, grant-in-aid, and student-to-student grants.

Per a previous agreement by the Board of Trustees, effective with the fall 2017 semester, mandatory student fees do not have locked cohort rates. For the 2026-2027 Academic Year (FY2027), Illinois State University requests authority to charge mandatory fees of \$119.21 per credit hour to undergraduate and graduate students. The mandatory fee rate reflects a \$ 2/credit-hour increase, or 1.71%, over the FY2026 rate.

Outreach Fee

Illinois State University also requests authority to set the outreach fee at \$119.21 per credit hour for the 2026-27 Academic Year. The outreach fee is traditionally charged to students in specifically designated contracted, non-campus, or additional campus locations. The fee is also assessed to students receiving all instruction remotely. This covers costs associated with the varied methods of delivering off-campus instruction, including online instruction. The outreach fee rate reflects a \$ 2/credit-hour increase, or 1.71%, over the FY2026 rate.

Table 4 shows the mandatory student fee and outreach fee rates beginning with Academic Year 2023-24, along with the proposed rate for Academic Year 2026-2027.

Table 4 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Mandatory Student Fees and Outreach Fee Per Credit Hour Academic Year 2026-2027		
	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
Student Fee Rate for All Students Academic Year 2026-2027	\$119.21	\$119.21
Student Fee Rate for All Students Academic Year 2025-2026	\$117.21	\$117.21
Student Fee Rate for All Students Academic Year 2024-2025	\$117.21	\$117.21
Student Fee Rate for All Students Academic Year 2023-2024	\$113.11	\$113.11

Room and Board

Housing

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, University Housing will increase by 4% over Academic Year 2025-2026 rates. Services will continue to be funded to meet operational costs, support debt service, and contribute to repair and replacement reserves. Housing continues to be impacted by increases in operational expenses, including but not limited to utilities, facility maintenance and repairs, property insurance, and university overhead. In addition, personnel costs have increased due to contractual salary obligations and the campus wage program.

Table 5 shows the proposed FY2027 housing rates.

Table 5
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
On-Campus Housing Options
Academic Year 2026-2027

<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Semester Rate</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Multiple	\$3,373	4%
Single	\$4,489	4%
Multiple Rooms in Suite	\$4,556	4%
Single Room in Suite	\$5,229	4%
Super Single Room in Suite	\$5,769	4%
Cardinal Court Apartments <u>(Bedrooms x Bathrooms)</u>		
2x2 or 2x2 (double)	\$5,172	4%
3x2 or 4x2 (single)	\$5,441	4%
4x4 (single)	\$5,765	4%
2x2 (single)	\$7,234	4%

Dining

With the Board of Trustees' approval, student dining costs will increase by 4% during Academic Year 2025-2026. With the proposed increase, the department of Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality, which includes student dining, will continue to be funded to meet operational costs, support debt service, and contribute to repair and replacement reserves. Dining continues to be impacted by increases in operational expenses, including but not limited to utilities, facility maintenance and repairs, property insurance, and university overhead. In addition, personnel costs have increased due to contractual salary obligations and the campus wage program.

Table 6 shows proposed FY2027 rates for meal plans.

Table 6
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Meal Plan Rates
Academic Year 2026-2027

<u>Residential Plan Level</u>	<u>Semester Rate</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
7 Day Unlimited	\$2,857	4.0%
5 Day Unlimited	\$2,716	4.0%
19 Meal Traditional	\$2,918	4.0%
14 Meal Traditional	\$2,757	4.0%