

Prices and Fees

2020-2021 GET Unit Purchase Price

Annually, before the GET enrollment period begins, the Committee sets the GET Unit Purchase Price. The Office of the State Actuary (OSA) provides an analysis to help the Committee set the Unit Purchase Price. This section summarizes OSA’s pricing analysis approach and the Committee’s selected 2020-2021 Unit Purchase Price.

Expected Costs. The Unit Purchase Price includes an expected costs component that estimates how much the program needs to collect in order to cover future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees based on current tuition rates and adjusted for future assumed investment returns and tuition growth:

- **Investment Returns.** The OSA currently assumes the long-term annual rate of investment return is 4.75% based on WSIB’s most recent capital market assumptions and the Program’s long-term asset allocation targets (see the *Investment Plan* section starting on page 34 of the GET Program Details Booklet). Actual investment returns may vary from OSA’s assumptions.

Best Estimate Tuition Growth Assumptions	
Academic Year(s)	Expected Tuition Growth
2020-2021	2.4%
2021-2029	5.5%
2029+	5.0%

- **Tuition Growth Assumptions.** The OSA provided in-State tuition growth assumptions with consideration for the tuition-setting policy enacted in the 2020-2021 Washington State Operating Budget (see table to the right). Actual tuition growth may vary from OSA’s assumptions.

Program Expenses. The Unit Purchase Price includes an expense component that determines the amount each future unit sold should contribute to the program’s assets for the payment of future Program administrative expenses. OSA estimates this amount based on the long-term cost of administering current unredeemed units. OSA determines this estimate by dividing the present value of estimated program expenses (as provided by the Program) by the number of unredeemed units as of the program’s most recent valuation date and increases the resulting amount with one year of assumed interest at 4.75%.

Reserve. The purpose of the reserve component is to ensure the long-term health of the Program and reduce the chance that the Program’s future obligations will exceed its assets available to pay those future obligations. OSA’s price analysis measures the adequacy of the program’s target reserve level under several scenarios, including higher than expected tuition growth, lower than expected investment returns, and repeats of past extreme events such as the 2008 Great Recession. The Committee’s current pricing policy targets a 15% reserve that may be adjusted up or down to balance risk and affordability of Tuition Units.

Amortization. State law (RCW 28B.95.030(10)) directs the Committee to include an amortization component in the Unit Purchase Price when needed to increase the program’s best-estimate funded status due to unexpected past costs. The Committee did not include this component in setting the 2020-2021 Unit Purchase Price.

Setting the Unit Purchase Price. The Committee discusses and evaluates the information and assumptions presented in OSA’s pricing analysis. The 2020-2021 Unit Pricing Analysis included a Best Estimate Unit Purchase Price of \$137, along with a Best Estimate Range of \$129-\$147. According to the OSA, any Unit Purchase Price that falls within the Best Estimate Range is considered reasonable. After discussing the analysis, the Committee selected a 2020-2021 GET Unit Purchase Price of \$133, which was within the Best Estimate Range provided by OSA.

2020-2021 GET Unit Purchase Price Components	
Expected Costs: Covers the expected present value of the cost of future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees	\$116.91
Expenses: Contributes to GET’s administrative expenses	\$3.03
Reserve: Covers unexpected future costs (e.g. higher than expected tuition growth or lower than expected investment returns)	\$13.06
Unit Purchase Price Adopted by Committee: Sum of all components rounded down to the next whole dollar	\$133
<i>Premium above 2020-2021 Unit Payout Value of \$111.03 (effective August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021)</i>	19.8%

Custom Monthly Payment Plan Components

2020-2021 Custom Monthly Payment Plan Contract Components*	
Principal Amount Calculated as the Unit Purchase Price (currently \$133) multiplied by the number of Units contracted.	Varies (depending on contract term and number of units)
Finance Charge Intended to offset lost investment earnings that would otherwise have been recognized if the Units had been purchased up front. Each payment also includes a small adjustment factor to pay finance charges accrued in the three-months prior to the first monthly payment due date.	5.5%/annual

**Future Custom Monthly Payment Plan Components are subject to change. The Committee will revisit these components following the GET Experience Study that OSA conducts every 5-6 years. OSA expects to conduct the next GET Experience Study by the end of State Fiscal Year 2021. Custom Monthly Payment Plans opened before November 1, 2019 include a 7.5% per annum Finance Charge and a \$1.54 per month Payment Processing Fee.*

2020-2021 Custom Monthly Plan Monthly Payment Amounts										
	Projected Benefit Use Year	Contract Term (years)	Total Number of Contracted Units							
			50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
			50 to 400 Unit Contract Options	Fall 2039	18	\$49	\$97	\$146	\$194	\$242
	Fall 2038	17	\$51	\$101	\$151	\$201	\$251	\$301	\$351	\$401
	Fall 2037	16	\$53	\$105	\$157	\$209	\$261	\$313	\$365	\$417
	Fall 2036	15	\$55	\$109	\$163	\$217	\$272	\$326	\$380	\$434
	Fall 2035	14	\$57	\$114	\$171	\$228	\$284	\$341	\$398	\$455
	Fall 2034	13	\$60	\$120	\$180	\$239	\$299	\$359	\$418	\$478
	Fall 2033	12	\$64	\$127	\$190	\$253	\$316	\$379	\$443	\$506
	Fall 2032	11	\$68	\$135	\$202	\$270	\$337	\$404	\$471	\$539
	Fall 2031	10	\$73	\$145	\$217	\$289	\$362	\$434	\$506	\$578
	Fall 2030	9	\$79	\$157	\$235	\$314	\$392	\$470	\$549	\$627
	Fall 2029	8	\$86	\$172	\$258	\$344	\$430	\$516	\$602	\$688
	Fall 2028	7	\$96	\$192	\$288	\$384	\$479	\$575	\$671	\$767
	Fall 2027	6	\$109	\$218	\$327	\$436	\$545	\$654	\$763	\$872
	Fall 2026	5	\$128	\$255	\$383	\$510	\$638	\$765	\$893	\$1,020
	Fall 2025	4	\$156	\$311	\$466	\$622	\$777	\$932	\$1,087	\$1,243
	Fall 2024	3	\$202	\$404	\$606	\$807	\$1,009	\$1,211	\$1,413	\$1,614
	Fall 2023	2	\$295	\$590	\$885	\$1,180	\$1,475	\$1,769	\$2,064	\$2,359
	Fall 2023	1	\$575	\$1,149	\$1,723	\$2,297	\$2,872	\$3,446	\$4,020	\$4,594
	Projected Benefit Use Year	Contract Term (years)	Total Number of Contracted Units							
			450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800
			450 to 800 Unit Contract Options	Fall 2039	18	\$436	\$484	\$533	\$581	\$630
	Fall 2038	17	\$451	\$501	\$552	\$602	\$652	\$702	\$752	\$802
	Fall 2037	16	\$469	\$521	\$573	\$625	\$677	\$729	\$781	\$833
	Fall 2036	15	\$489	\$543	\$597	\$651	\$705	\$760	\$814	\$868
	Fall 2035	14	\$511	\$568	\$625	\$682	\$738	\$795	\$852	\$909
	Fall 2034	13	\$538	\$598	\$657	\$717	\$777	\$836	\$896	\$956
	Fall 2033	12	\$569	\$632	\$695	\$758	\$822	\$885	\$948	\$1,011
	Fall 2032	11	\$606	\$673	\$740	\$808	\$875	\$942	\$1,009	\$1,077
	Fall 2031	10	\$650	\$723	\$795	\$867	\$939	\$1,011	\$1,084	\$1,156
	Fall 2030	9	\$705	\$783	\$862	\$940	\$1,018	\$1,097	\$1,175	\$1,253
	Fall 2029	8	\$774	\$860	\$946	\$1,032	\$1,118	\$1,203	\$1,289	\$1,375
	Fall 2028	7	\$862	\$958	\$1,054	\$1,150	\$1,246	\$1,341	\$1,437	\$1,533
	Fall 2027	6	\$981	\$1,090	\$1,199	\$1,308	\$1,417	\$1,526	\$1,635	\$1,744
	Fall 2026	5	\$1,148	\$1,275	\$1,403	\$1,530	\$1,658	\$1,785	\$1,912	\$2,040
	Fall 2025	4	\$1,398	\$1,553	\$1,709	\$1,864	\$2,019	\$2,174	\$2,330	\$2,485
	Fall 2024	3	\$1,816	\$2,018	\$2,220	\$2,421	\$2,623	\$2,825	\$3,027	\$3,228
	Fall 2023	2	\$2,654	\$2,949	\$3,243	\$3,538	\$3,833	\$4,128	\$4,423	\$4,717
	Fall 2023	1	\$5,169	\$5,743	\$6,317	\$6,891	\$7,466	\$8,040	\$8,614	\$9,188

Program Fees

Type of Fee	Amount
Account Fees	
Paper Enrollment Form Fee (<i>non-refundable</i>) We only charge this fee for mailed paper enrollment forms. Additionally, if you open more than two Accounts for Students living at the same home address, we will waive all future enrollment fees for Students living at that address (accounts that have been refunded, canceled, or rolled over to another 529 plan are not included as eligible Accounts).	Paper Enrollment Form: \$50 Online Enrollment Form: N/A*
Late Payment Fee For Custom Monthly Plans, all payments are due on the 15th day of each month. We will post a late fee to your Account if we do not receive your monthly payment by the 10th day following the due date.	\$10
Dishonored Payment Fee (Automatic withdrawal, electronic payments, and checks)	\$25 or actual fee charged by the bank, whichever is greater
Refund Fees	
Program Refund Penalty For all Refunds except in the event of death, disability, Scholarship, attendance at a U.S. service academy, or graduation/completion of a degree or certificate.	10% of earnings or \$100, whichever is greater
Account Cancellation Fee (<i>assessed on Refunds only</i>)	\$10
Account Maintenance Fee (<i>assessed on Refunds only</i>)	\$1.70 per month that the account was open and active
For Organizations	
Scholarship Set-up Fee (<i>non-refundable</i>)	\$100 per master account
Student Account Transfer Fee Assessed each time the Organization transfers Units from the master Account to a named Student Account (per Student Account).	\$25

**Prior to November 1, 2017, we charged the \$50 enrollment fee for online enrollments.*