

University of Kansas Four-Year Tuition Compact

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose and benefit of KU's Four-Year Tuition Compact?

The Compact originated with KU's student leadership, who requested a tuition plan that would enable students and their families to plan and budget for college expenses. Similar to national trends, tuition increases at KU have ranged from zero to 25.2 percent over the past 30 years, often with short notice, giving students little time to make financial arrangements to pay for college.

This Compact will enable students to accurately estimate the key costs of a four-year degree -- Tuition, Course Fees, and Campus Fees -- based on their academic major and number of credit hours taken. In addition, a two-year on-campus housing contract is available for students. The Compact gives students and their families the confidence that college will remain affordable, and provides certainty for financial planning. KU is the only college or university in Kansas to make this unprecedented commitment to students and their families.

2. Does the Compact save students money?

No. This is not a tuition discount plan. It is intended to help students and their families accurately estimate their total tuition costs for completing a four-year undergraduate degree. While the Four-Year Tuition Compact is not a savings plan, it does protect students from unanticipated rate increases during the four-year period.

3. Who will participate in the Four-Year Tuition Compact?

Beginning Fall 2007, all first-time, degree-seeking freshmen will participate in the Four-Year Tuition Compact.

4. Who is a first-time freshman?

A first-time freshman is a student who starts at KU immediately after graduating from high school or has never attended another college or postsecondary institution. Students who graduate from high school in Spring 2007 are first-time freshmen, regardless of the number of college or advanced placement credits earned. New international students who enter KU as first-time freshmen will participate in the Compact.

5. What tuition rate will sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students pay this fall?

All students, except for the entering freshman class, will pay Standard Tuition rates. Standard Tuition rates depend on whether a student has graduate or undergraduate, resident or nonresident status. The proposed Compact and Standard Tuition rates for Fall 2007, pending approval by the Kansas Board of Regents, are available online at www.tuition.ku.edu.

6. Why does the Tuition Compact expire in four years?

The Compact matches the length of time it takes for a student enrolled in 16 hours a semester to complete most bachelor's degree programs at KU. The University strongly encourages students to maintain a rigorous academic schedule and graduate in a timely manner. However, there is no penalty if a student does not complete a degree within four years.

7. What happens if a student does not finish his/her degree in four years?

After the Compact Tuition rate expires (48 months after starting at KU), students will pay the Standard Tuition rate.

8. Is there a maximum or minimum limit to the number of hours in which a student may enroll?

No. The Compact is in effect for four years (48 months) from the date the student enters KU. For example, a student who begins classes in August 2007 will pay the same Compact Tuition rate until July 2011. The Compact Tuition rate is in effect regardless of the number of courses the student takes.

9. Will a freshman entering KU in Fall 2008 pay the same Compact Tuition rate that freshmen in Fall 2007 pay?

No. Each entering class will pay a different Compact Tuition rate based on a four-year average of anticipated Standard Tuition rates. For example, a first-time freshman entering in August 2007 will pay the FY 2008 Compact Tuition rate until it expires in July 2011. A first-time freshman entering KU in August 2008 will pay the FY 2009 Compact Tuition rate until it expires in July 2012.

10. Is the Compact tuition rate the same for residents and nonresidents?

No. As in the past, tuition for Kansas residents is less than tuition for nonresidents. Kansas residents will pay a Compact Tuition rate that is the average of anticipated resident Standard Tuition rates for the next four years. Nonresident students will pay a Compact Tuition rate that is the average of anticipated nonresident Standard Tuition rates for the next four years.

11. What will happen if a student leaves KU during the four-year period and comes back later?

A student who leaves KU but returns during the four-year (48-month) period will continue to pay the same Compact Tuition rate. For example, a student enters KU in August 2007 but withdraws the following year. If that student re-enters KU in Fall 2009, s/he will pay the FY 2008 Compact Tuition rate, until it expires in July 2011.

12. What if a student participates in a full-time internship for a semester or enrolls in a study abroad program?

The student continues to pay the Compact Tuition rate for four years (48 months). The clock does not stop if the student leaves campus.

Note: Participation in an internship or study abroad program does not prevent students from graduating within four years. Notably, students who study abroad while at KU have higher four-year graduation rates.

13. Are there any exceptions to the four-year rule?

Students who need to leave KU for extenuating circumstances such as military service or emergency medical conditions, upon verification by the University Registrar, will continue to pay the Compact Tuition rate when they re-enroll.

Their Compact Tuition rate will be extended beyond its normal expiration date for a period matching their approved absence. For example, a student who enters KU in August 2007 but is called to active military duty in December and returns in August 2008 will receive an 8-month extension of the Compact Tuition rate.

14. What if a student is in a five-year or six-year academic program?

Of all undergraduate programs at KU, only four are designed to take longer than four years to complete. They are:

- Architectural engineering
- Industrial design
- Music therapy
- Visual arts education

Students enrolled in these programs will receive the same 48-month Compact Tuition rate and then pay the Standard Tuition rate for their remaining semesters.

Note: Education typically includes four years of undergraduate study and the fifth year is post-baccalaureate graduate work for certification. Students pay Standard Tuition at the graduate level for the post-baccalaureate year.

15. What about students who are admitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program?

All students who are admitted to the PharmD program, whether first enrolled as new freshmen at KU or as transfer students, pay the Compact Tuition rate for the four years of the PharmD program. A pre-pharmacy student who enters KU in August 2007 will pay the FY 2008 Compact Tuition rate. When the student is admitted to the PharmD program, s/he will pay the Compact Tuition rate for that entering class. For example, if the student is admitted to the PharmD program in August 2009, the student will pay the FY 2010 Compact Tuition rate for the next four years.

16. When will students know what the Fall 2007 tuition rates will be?

Tuition rates will be approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in mid-June. The proposed Compact and Standard Tuition rates for Fall 2007, pending approval by the Kansas Board of Regents, are available online at www.tuition.ku.edu

17. What will happen if the Kansas Board of Regents does not approve the Four-Year Tuition Compact?

If the board does not approve the Compact, it will not be offered, and students will pay the Standard Tuition rate for the 2007-2008 academic year, as approved by the Board in June 2007.