



Policy Number: III.04  
Policy Level: Operating Policy  
Originally Issued: October 31, 2013  
Reviewed: November 11, 2016  
Reviewed: February 17, 2020  
Reviewed: March 15, 2023  
Policy Owner: VP for Financial Affairs  
Policy Implementation: VP for Financial Affairs, Business Manager

## Tuition and Fees

### I. Policy Statement and Purpose

Athens State University is responsible for and committed to ensuring that Alabama residents have access to quality education at affordable costs. Since the students benefit from the education they receive, they have a responsibility to pay a reasonable share of the costs through tuition. The University also has a responsibility to maximize the efficiency of its operation so as to minimize the cost to taxpayers and students.

This policy sets the standards for the authority over tuition and fee rates at the University.

### II. Authority over Tuition and Fees

The Board of Trustees has the authority to set tuition and fee rates based on the recommendations by the President. Tuition and fee rates will be communicated to all students and potential students through necessary vehicles, included but not limited to the University's website. The University's goal is to keep tuition increases predictable, enabling students to plan for their educational expenses.

In accordance with the *Code of Alabama*, Athens State shall charge each undergraduate student who is registered as a nonresident a minimum of two times the resident tuition rate charged by the institution. Furthermore, the Board of Trustees shall have the right to extend resident tuition rates to students who reside in any county within 50 miles of the main campus of the institution. Residency definitions and exceptions will be determined by the University within the guidelines of the Code of Alabama and will be included in all necessary publications, handbooks and correspondence. The University also complies with other exceptions under the Code of Alabama for military personnel and for off-campus offerings on military bases conducted by colleges and universities. Refer to [Establishing Residency for Tuition Purposes](#) for additional information.

### III. Responsibility for this Operating Policy

#### Policy Owner

As part of the initial approval of this policy by the President and subsequent to the original dissemination of the policy, the President has assigned the Vice President for Financial Affairs as the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation, review, and approval of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.



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This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed by the Policy Owner. Revisions will be reviewed/affirmed by the Cabinet and approved by the University President. This policy will be updated/published in the University's Policy Library.

#### **Responsibility for Policy Implementation**

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Vice President for Financial Affairs, the University Business Manager and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services.