

**Follow Up to Questions  
from the February 8, 2017, Board of Trustees Retreat**

**Re: Cost of Online Instruction**

**Question:**

At the Board Retreat on February 8, 2017, Trustee Nancy Wurzman inquired about the cost of online instruction compared to face-to-face instruction.

**Answer:**

Currently, Collin College accounts for instructional costs by campus and academic discipline or program. The cost of an online course scheduled and staffed by a particular academic division or program is accounted for in the budget for that respective discipline, program, and campus. For example, the expenses associated with an online English course scheduled and staffed by Central Park Campus, will be accounted for in the CPC English budget.

The salary and benefits of professors and instructional staff account for 87% of the District's instructional costs. Therefore, the difference in cost between courses taught exclusively online and face-to-face instruction is not significantly different. It is important to note that courses with hands-on lab components such as those in nursing, chemistry, biology, fire science, culinary, engineering, and others, have higher instructional cost. These courses are primarily offered face-to-face and therefore would contribute to a slightly higher overall cost for face-to-face courses compared to online courses.

## Re: Tuition Comparison for Regional Community Colleges and Universities

### Question:

At the Board Retreat on February 8, 2017, Trustee Nancy Wurzman inquired about how the cost of tuition at regional universities compare to regional community colleges in an effort to define affordable higher education.

### Answer:

<b>Spring 2017 Tuition Rates</b>	<b>In-District Tuition/Fees</b>	<b>Out-of-District Tuition/Fees</b>	<b>Out-of-State Tuition/Fees</b>
Collin College	\$ 42	\$ 83	\$ 143
Dallas CCCD	\$ 59	\$ 111	\$ 174
Grayson College	\$ 81	\$ 119	\$ 165
North Central Texas College	\$ 78	\$ 132	\$ 220
Tarrant CCD	\$ 59	\$ 106	\$ 255
Texas A&M Commerce*	\$267		\$675
Texas Woman's University*	\$206		\$614
University of North Texas*	\$350		\$758
University of Texas at Dallas*	\$405		\$1,122

\*University rates do not include fees and is based on a full course load of 15 semester credit hours

## Re: Tuition Comparison for Regional Community Colleges and Universities

### Question:

At the Board Retreat on February 8, 2017, Trustee Nancy Wurzman inquired about a definition of “affordable.” If Collin College was to adopt a goal to maintain affordable tuition, there must be a definition of affordable to meet the definition.

### Answer:

In *Losing Ground, A National Status Report on the Affordability of American Higher Education*, a report by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPE), affordability is defined by several factors. One factor of affordability is defined as educational expenses (tuition plus room, board, books, etc., minus financial aid) that do not exceed, generally, 20 to 25% of average family income in the state. According to the US Census Bureau, the median household income in Collin County is \$84,735. Using the NCPPE definition, annual college expenses that are between \$16,947 and \$21,184 would be considered affordable.

Each year, the Collin College Financial Aid Office must estimate the cost of attendance that includes tuition, fees, housing, food, transportation, books, and miscellaneous costs. For academic year 2016-2017, the total cost of attendance at Collin College is estimated at \$15,918 for in-district students, \$16,738 for out-of-district students, and \$17,938 for out-of-state students

<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/1617%20Budgets.pdf>. Using the NCPPE definition, Collin College tuition falls in the range of affordable for in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state students before the total is reduced by the amount of financial aid received by a student.