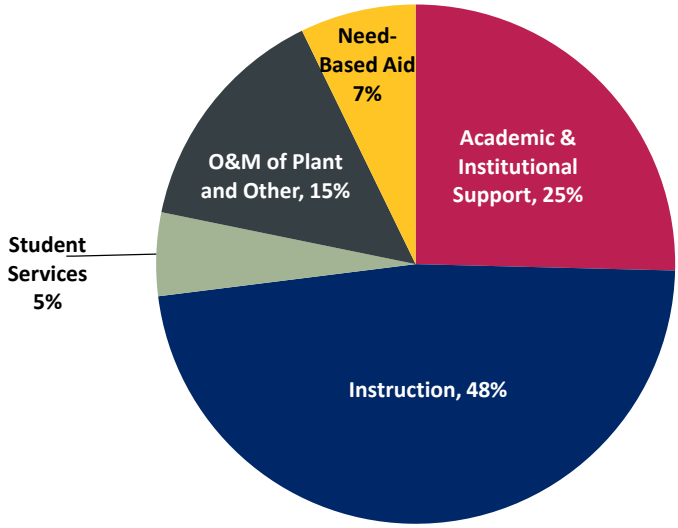
Western Carolina University

Use of Tuition



All need-based financial aid shown above is supported solely through tuition receipts.

Academic & Institutional Support - funds academic and operational administration including university leadership and business functions such as finance, human resources, and legal services

Instruction - primarily faculty salaries and benefits, supports all aspects of the direct academic mission of the university

Need-Based Financial Aid - provides tuition-related aid to students with a demonstrated financial need

Student Services - encompasses the student-related administrative needs of the university including admissions, registrar, academic counseling, and career counseling

Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Plant and Other Expenses - contributes to the operation and maintenance of the physical plant, utilities, and IT infrastructure

Undergraduate Tuition	Resident*	Nonresident*	
Annual Full-Time Tuition Rate	**$ 1,000**	**$ 5,000**	
General Fees			
Athletics	$817	$817	Funds intercollegiate athletics, including salaries and team operations.
Educational & Technology	$544	$544	Funds specialized instructional supplies and services for scientific and information technology equipment.
Health Services	$365	$365	Funds medical services for students, including the salaries, maintenance and operation of student health centers.
Student Activities	$657	$657	Funds nonacademic student services (student unions, intramural facilities, student organizations, newspapers, yearbooks, and entertainment programs).
Campus Security Fee	$60	$60	Funds campus safety and security initiatives, including salaries, training, and operations.
Debt Service	$700	$700	Funds the principal and interest for capital projects. Examples for Western Carolina University include the Student Recreation Center, University Center, Brown Hall, and Dining Facilities.
Total Fees	**$3,143**	**$3,143**	
Total Tuition and Fees	**$4,143**	**$8,143**	

Beginning in August 2017, resident undergraduate tuition is frozen for students who remain continuously enrolled for eight semesters.

In the year ended June 30, 2025, Western Carolina University received approximately $174 million in appropriations from the North Carolina General Assembly, providing an additional $20,066 towards the total cost of education for each resident student.

***The reduced tuition is a result of the NC Promise Program, which was established by the North Carolina General Assembly. This program is expected to provide an additional $38.8 million in state appropriations to WCU in FY 2024-25 to support the significant reduction in cost to students.**