

Frequently Asked Questions:

General Student Fee

1. What is the General Student Fee and what is it for?

The General Student Fee is a single, uncapped per-credit-hour charge that covers benefits and services provided to our students. The General Student Fee was passed at the SIU Board Meeting on February 8, 2018. The services supported by the fee include:

- Unlimited access to the [Student Recreation Center](#), including exercise equipment, pools, a climbing wall, a variety of free or discounted classes, personal training options and more.
- Access to services at the [Student Health Center](#).
- Free entry to [athletic events](#).
- [Saluki Express bus service](#) around campus and to certain locations throughout Carbondale.
- Maintenance and upgrades for facilities throughout the campus.
- [“Green” initiatives](#) to make the campus more sustainable.
- Other services and obligations necessary to support [SIU’s mission and goals](#).

2. Why did the University make a change to a General Student Fee?

The prior approach resulted in a confusing array of individual fees on bursar bills. The General Student fee consolidates the individual fees for the services provided to students and presents it in a simpler and easier-to-understand for on the bursar bill.

3. How much is the General Student Fee?

As of Fall 2018, the fee is \$117 per credit hour for on-campus students, and is uncapped (the fee applies to all credit hours enrolled in by a student). More information about the fee can be found at: <http://tuition.siu.edu/genlstufee.html>.

4. What about off-campus / online students?

For off campus students, the fee is \$72.60 per credit hour, and is uncapped.

5. Will the fee change in the future?

Allocation of the General Student Fee is subject to change in order to meet the changing needs of students and the university as part of the annual budgeting process. The university’s annual budget is maintained by the [Budget Office](#), and is publicly available.

6. I am a Graduate Assistant. How does this affect me?

Under the current collective bargaining agreement, the University is responsible for paying ½ of the “Student Health Fee”. This fee, sometimes referred to in the past as the “Primary Care Fee” supports basic access to the Student Health Service (it is NOT the same as the Student Insurance Fee”. The

“Student Health Fee” is now built into the General Student Fee. Specifically, the Student Health Fee is represented as an \$18.25 / credit hour component of the General Student Fee.

For Graduate Students employed as Graduate Assistants, the University will pay ½ of the \$18.25 per-credit-hour (in keeping with the collective bargaining agreement) as follows:

- Each semester, the General Student Fee will be assessed and charged to the bursar bill based on the total # of credit hours in which the student is enrolled.
- At approximately week 3 of the semester, the University will enter a credit on the bursar bill for each graduate assistant in the amount of: 50% of \$18.25 multiplied by the # of credit hours enrolled in by the graduate assistant for the semester.
- We anticipate that for most graduate assistants, the “week 3” bursar credit will accurately complete the payment of 50% of the health care fee. However, to account for credit hour changes that may occur after application of the “week 3 credit”, an end-of-semester review will be conducted. This will ensure that the total amount paid by the University toward 50% of the health fee for the semester is correct. Such review could result in additional bursar charges or credits based on changes in enrolled credit hours since the “week 3 credit”.