

# UNLV

## Nursing

**Program Name:** Nursing (differential fee increase)

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Master of Science – Direct Entry Generalist (DEMSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PHD)

**Unit: School of Nursing**

**Request:** This adjustment will support expanded operations, additional clinical instructors, faculty salary increases, and higher operational costs while keeping tuition competitive with regional programs. The requested fees are the same as those approved for UNR and NSU.

- Undergraduate courses: \$156.75 to \$220.00 per credit
- Graduate courses: \$239.50 to \$335.00 per credit

**Fiscal Impact:** The proposed differential fee increases for the UNLV School of Nursing will generate an estimated \$6.5 million annually starting Fall 2025, divided as follows:

- Undergraduate Programs: \$4.1 million
- Graduate Programs: \$2.4 million
- The budget includes personnel costs for 20 FTE, covering the cost of previous COLA increases, part-time instructors, expanded operating expenses, travel, and Simulation Center operations.

Executive Summary - FY24	A	B	C
UNLV Nursing Program - Differential Fees:			
	FY24 Actuals	FY25 Projected Actuals	FY26 Forecast/Plan
Beginning Balance	1,372,804	1,713,074**	1,736,968
Student Fees Collected	3,477,811	3,558,006	6,543,130
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>4,850,615</b>	<b>5,271,080</b>	<b>8,280,098</b>
Salaries & Benefits	1,954,315	2,979,015	3,037,877
Hosting	744	415	-
Out of State Travel	9,143	3,339	15,000
Operating	611,090	546,144	1,259,832
Financial Aid	561,965	5,198	981,470
Transfers Out*	3,337	-	-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>3,140,595</b>	<b>3,534,112</b>	<b>5,294,179</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>1,710,021</b>	<b>1,736,968</b>	<b>2,985,919</b>
Ending Balance as % of Revenue	49%	49%	46%

\*FY24 Transfer Out for student support activity (Student Snack Bag Sponsorship Fall 2023).

\*\*The FY25 starting balance for Nursing does not match the FY24 ending balance due to an audit adjustment transaction accomplished after the fiscal year ended.



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## School of Nursing

### Proposal to Increase Differential Fees

#### I. General Information

Program Name: Nursing

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Master of Science – Direct Entry Generalist (DEMSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PHD)

Unit: School of Nursing

Proposer's Name: Jackie Kinsey

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#### II. Justification for Differential Tuition Increase

The School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) requests an increase to the differential fees for both undergraduate and graduate Nursing courses. The differential fees have not changed since they were originally approved by the Board of Regents in 2010; however, healthcare in southern Nevada has experienced significant changes since that time, including a critical shortage of nurses. The healthcare industry in the region will continue to suffer from a lack of graduates entering the nursing profession as expansion of the nursing program cannot be sustained or increased with the current fee structure. For the undergraduate Nursing courses, we are requesting an increase from \$156.75/credit to \$220.00/credit and for the graduate Nursing courses an increase from \$239.50/credit to \$335.00/credit.

##### Background information

The nursing program at UNLV is well known nationally with its bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs all ranking in the top 100 programs in the United States, according to the 2024 U.S. News and World Report<sup>1</sup>. In the greater Las Vegas area, the UNLV School of Nursing is known for its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in both the classroom and the workforce as evidenced by its student body which has been heavily recruited from the surrounding region to reflect the diversity of southern Nevada's population.

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students: 87% identify as an ethnic minority, 2 or more races or unknown.
- Graduate students: 67% identify as an ethnic minority, 2 or more races or unknown.
- First-Generation students make up about 80% of our cohort made up of minority and non-minority

Additional nursing programs, however, have come into the Las Vegas Valley in recent years, making it more difficult to place students in a variety of clinical settings. There is an increased

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<sup>1</sup> #52-UNLV Bachelor of Science Nursing (tie)-<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/nursing-overall?schoolName=University+of+Nevada%2C+Las+Vegas&sort=rank&sortDirection=asc>

#20-UNLV Online Master's in Nursing (tie)- [https://www.usnews.com/education/online-](https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/nursing/rankings?school-name=University+of+Nevada--Las+Vegas)

[education/nursing/rankings?school-name=University+of+Nevada--Las+Vegas](https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/nursing/rankings?school-name=University+of+Nevada--Las+Vegas)

#63-UNLV Master's in Nursing (tie)-<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-nursing-schools/nur-rankings?name=nevada>

#81-UNLV Doctor of Nursing Practice (tie) -<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-nursing-schools/dnp-rankings?name=Nevada>

demand on limited clinical practice site placements. In order to complete these clinicals, we are in need of part-time instructors to work with students in clinical settings. Most are working nurses and have firsthand knowledge to guide and instruct students. These two issues have required the development of a clinical operations department and increased demand and use of part-time instructors.

After several years of progressive growth, it is necessary to again look at revising the differential tuition rate to support increased operating costs in the midst of rising demand. Increased operating costs that also include faculty and staff salary increases from unprecedented cost of living adjustments for both fiscal year 2024 (12%) and fiscal year 2025 (11%). In comparison to other regional schools, however, the cost of tuition at UNLV, even with the increase for differential fees, still makes the program highly competitive.

### III. Student Involvement

In the spring of 2024, all School of Nursing (SON) students were sent an informational email and an attached survey link. The email provided some information of how the nursing tuition differential was used, along with the proposal to increase the differential tuition beginning Fall 2025. Students completed a survey that asked, "Would you support the change in tuition differential?" Students were not supportive of increasing tuition.

### IV. High Demand Programs:

a. Program enrollments for the most recent 5 years

Program Headcount Enrollments					
Academic Level (undergrad, graduate, professional)	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Undergraduate	379	435	469	467	489
Graduate	162	186	192	189	287
Certificate	0	0	0	8	16

b. Program Demand for the most recent 5 years of application information

Undergraduate Student Admissions					
	Number of applicants	Number admitted	Percent applicants admitted	Number enrolled	Percent of applicants enrolled
AY 2023-2024	335	265	79.1%	262	78.2%
AY 2022-2023	428	246	57.5%	245	57.2%
AY 2021-2022	583	216	37%	216	37%
AY 2020-2021	520	257	49.4%	257	49.4%
AY 2019-2020	580	216	37.2%	216	37.2%

Graduate Student Admissions					
	Number of applicants	Number admitted	Percent applicants admitted	Number enrolled	Percent of applicants enrolled
AY 2023-2024	226	169	74.7%	168	74.3%
AY 2022-2023	104	94	90.4%	82	78.8%
AY 2021-2022	97	94	96.9%	74	76.2%
AY 2020-2021	85	76	89.4%	65	76.5%
AY 2019-2020	76	69	90.8%	63	82.9%

UNLV currently has the capacity to enroll 104 students per cohort three times a year for a total of 312 students for our BSN program. In addition, we have a direct entry master's program that enrolls 96 students/year. We also currently enroll an estimated number of 65 students for the graduate program per year but we could grow that amount with additional clinical placements.

On September 20, 2023, the Nevada State Board of Nursing voted unanimously to approve admission of up to 432 pre-licensure students. The nursing shortage is intensifying as the population ages, accelerated by nurse burnout following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for healthcare professionals continues to increase. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists Registered Nurse among the top occupations for job growth through 2026. Nevada is considered a critical shortage area and has a high need for generalist nurses and primary care nurse practitioners. The need to increase the number of nurses in the pipeline is leading many programs to look for additional funding to expand educational opportunities (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2019). Admission to any school of nursing is highly competitive. Currently, RNs earn a nationwide average of \$88,000 annually, making the proposed increase still a good return on investment.

## V. High Cost Programs:

- a. The School of Nursing is proposing a fee increase of 40% as follows:
  - The differential fee rates for the Prelicensure Program will increase from \$156.75/credit hour to \$220.00/credit hour beginning in Fall 2025.
  - The differential fee rates for the Graduate Program will increase from \$239.50/credit hour to \$335.00/credit hour beginning in Fall 2025.
- b. Fee comparison tables (undergraduate and graduate).

### Undergraduate Comparisons

Program (Undergraduate)	Base Tuition/credit	Number of Credits	Differential Tuition/credit	Tuition per credit	Notes
UNLV (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)	\$281.00	60	\$220.00*	\$501.00	4 semesters of Nursing, not including general education units
Nevada State University (NSU)	\$203.00	60	\$220.00	\$423.00	4 semesters of Nursing, not including general education units
University of Nevada, Reno (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)	\$281.00	60	\$220.00	\$501.00	4 semesters of Nursing, not including gen eds.. Differential tuition increase of \$220/credit approved by the Board of Regents on 6/6/24.

Program (Undergraduate)	Base Tuition/credit	Number of Credits	Differential Tuition/credit	Tuition per credit	Notes
Galen 3-year Program (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)	\$500.00	160 quarter hours	NA	\$500.00	\$50,544 Total Cost for 3 years including general education units
Roseman University	Only accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)				\$61,800 Total Cost
Arizona College of Nursing in Las Vegas (3-years)BSN	\$793.00	120	NA		Total is not posted, but 3 years includes general education units
Chamberlain 3-years (BSN)	NA		NA		\$40,000 Total Cost for 3 years including general education units
University of Texas San Antonio				\$762.00	
University of N. Texas				\$436.00	RN-BSN Program
University of Texas Arlington				\$321.00	
University of Arizona				\$674.00	
University of New Mexico				\$526.00	
U. Hawaii Manoa				\$471.00	Plus \$1,000 nursing fee

### Graduate Comparisons

Program (Graduate)	Base Tuition/credit	Number of Credits	Differential Proposed	Tuition per credit	Notes
UNLV Graduate	\$344.25		\$335.00*	\$679.25	
UNR Graduate	\$344.25		\$335.00	\$679.25	Differential tuition increase of \$335/credit approved by the Board of Regents on 6/6/24.
University of Texas San Antonio				\$1,081.00	
University of N. Texas				\$542.00	
University of Texas Arlington				\$455.00	
University of Arizona				\$3,282.00	
University of New Mexico				\$624.00	
U. Hawaii Manoa				\$1,001.00	

\*With proposed increase.

The following table contains the cost of the differential fee program for the last three fiscal years.

Year	Full-Time Faculty & Staff	Part-Time Faculty	Equipment Costs	Operating Costs (incl. Hourly)	Total Program-Related Costs	# of Students	Cost per student
FY2022	\$1,409,124			\$596,393	\$2,005,517	327	\$6,133
FY2023	\$1,597,109	\$15,015		\$463,340	\$2,075,464	430	\$4,827
FY2024	\$1,901,723	\$34,964		\$660,908	\$2,597,595	560	\$4,639

## Projected Annual Revenues and Expenditures

Projected Revenue		Projected Expenses			
	Average annual projected revenue	Financial aid at 15% of projected revenue	Simulation Center 10.1% of projected revenue	Program-related expenses at 74.9% of projected revenue	Total
Undergraduate	\$4,118,400	\$617,760	\$415,958	\$3,066,599	\$4,100,317
Graduate	\$2,424,730	\$363,710		\$1,811,622	\$2,175,332
<b>Combined total</b>	<b>\$6,543,130</b>	<b>\$981,470</b>	<b>\$415,958</b>	<b>\$5,294,179</b>	<b>\$6,275,649</b>

The projected revenue and expenditures for five consecutive years are provided in Appendix A.

### Summary of Use of Projected Differential Fee Funds Noted Above

- 15% of all differential fee revenue for financial aid
- Salaries and fringe benefits for faculty (17 FTE) and staff (3 FTE), COLA increases and additional part-time instructors
- Additional operating costs associated with program growth
- Travel
- Simulation Center operating expenses

#### a. Distribution of Fees and Tuition – Effective Fall 2025

	Upper Division Undergraduate	Graduate
Undergraduate Financial Aid	15 % of Differential Fee	NA
Graduate Financial Aid	N/A	15% of Differential Fee
Program-related Expenses	85 % of Differential Fee	85 % of Differential Fee

## VI. Proposed Fee:

- Differential fee increase effective Fall 2025
- Differential fees apply to courses as designated below:

Discipline	Course Prefix	Course Level	Amount (per credit hour)
Nursing	NURS	300-400	\$220.00/credit
Nursing	NURS	500-700	\$335.00/credit

## Appendix A. Nursing Differential Fee Increase Five-Year Budget Summary

### Nursing Differential 5-Year Budget Summary

Revenue	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Total Revenue	\$6,543,130	\$6,543,130	\$6,543,130	\$6,543,130	\$6,543,130
Expenditures	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Financial Aid (15% of Revenue)	\$981,470	\$981,470	\$981,470	\$981,470	\$981,470
Simulation Center	\$415,958	\$415,958	\$415,958	\$415,958	\$415,958
Nursing Program Expenses (see below)	\$4,878,221	\$4,892,828	\$4,976,335	\$5,051,532	\$5,128,985
Balance	\$267,481	\$252,874	\$169,367	\$94,170	\$16,717

Nursing Program Expenses	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Professional Staff (17 FTE)	\$1,655,485	\$1,672,040	\$1,722,201	\$1,773,867	\$1,827,083
Fringe Benefits	\$552,932	\$558,461	\$575,215	\$592,472	\$610,246
Total Professional Salaries + Fringe	\$2,208,417	\$2,230,501	\$2,297,416	\$2,366,339	\$2,437,329
Classified Staff (3 FTE)	\$140,892	\$142,300.47	\$146,569	\$150,966.56	\$155,496
Fringe Benefits	\$60,161	\$60,762	\$62,585	\$64,463	\$66,397
Total Classified Salaries + Fringe	\$201,052	\$203,063	\$209,155	\$215,429	\$221,892
Student/Hourly Workers	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Student Fringe	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Total Student/Hourly Wages+Fringe	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$20,400
Part-Time Instructors	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Part-Time Instructor Fringe	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500
Total Part-Time Instructor LOAs + Fringe	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500
Total Employee Expenses	\$3,967,369	\$3,991,464	\$4,064,471	\$4,139,668	\$4,217,121
Operations	\$740,852	\$731,364	\$726,864	\$726,864	\$726,864
Sim Center Operations	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000
Travel	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Financial Assistance for Dissertation Projects	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Program Expenditures	\$4,878,221	\$4,892,828	\$4,976,335	\$5,051,532	\$5,128,985