

## **FAQs – Fee Structure for Undergraduate Students**

### **1- Why new fee structure is being introduced in undergraduate programs?**

LUMS is reverting back to charging fees on a per-credit hour basis, a practice that was followed in the past. In the old fee structure, students paid a flat per-semester fee for 12-20 CHs. This fee structure had several issues. While the shift to the new system is cost-neutral and doesn't increase the overall tuition payments for students, it addresses the issues with the old fee model by enabling:

- Sounder academic decisions
- More curricular options and improved learning experiences
- Greater equity

### **2- Why LUMS has introduced two fee structures in undergraduate programs?**

LUMS is now moving back to charging fees on a per-credit hour basis, a practice that was followed in the past. Certain batches (Rising Juniors, Seniors, Super Seniors) will be paying fees based on the old model till they graduate. This is for their own benefit since they had made course-plans under the old fee structure and did not anticipate this change in fee structure in their final years. Freshmen, rising Sophomore and future incoming batches will move to the per-credit fee structure.

### **3- Does new fee policy apply to the LUMS graduate programs?**

This change is applicable to undergraduate programs at LUMS only. Some graduate programs are already based on per credit rate and some graduate programs have standard fee structure. The change in fee structure is not applicable to them.

### **4- I am a Sophomore Student and there is only one course left in becoming a Junior. Which fee structure will be applicable to me?**

Batches who have completed their two years of education will remain on the old fee model. The freshmen and rising sophomores will move to new fee model.

### **5- How does the new policy apply to Rising Sophomores and Incoming First Year Students of Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering where program completion requirement is more than 130 credit hours?**

Under the new policy, students of Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering will get 4 additional credit hours on top of the 6 CH available to all students i.e. a cushion on 10 credit hours while they will be charged for 130CHs.

### **6- How does the new policy apply to Rising Sophomores and Incoming First Year Students of undergraduate Law program, which is a 5-year program?**

Under the new policy, students of Law program will be allocated 170 credit hours on payment of 162CH i.e. 8 CH cushion.

**7- I am a rising Junior and my fee falls under the old fee structure. If I takes courses in Summer Term in 2021, will I need to pay for summer courses, and which fee policy will apply to me?**

Under the old fee structure separate payment will have to be made for courses in Summer semester. The fee per credit hour in summer semester will be same as for students on new fee structure.

**8- Under new fee policy are the students allowed to take less than 12 credit hours or more than 20 credit hours in a semester?**

Full time students are required to enrol in a minimum of 12 CH and maximum of 20CH in spring and fall semesters. In their final semester, students can apply for an exception based on their graduation requirement.

**9- Is there any change in semester registration fee under new and old fee structure?**

The semester registration fee is same under new and old fee structure. Previously summer semester used to have semester registration fee but now semester registration will not be charged to any student under the new or old fee structure.

**10- I am a rising sophomore and I availed No Credit option in the Spring semester. Will I be charged for the course if I retake the same course?**

Current sophomores impacted by the pandemic who have used the no credit (NC) option will not face a financial penalty for making up CHs in the future. We will provide an extra cushion of 4 CHs only for current rising sophomores. This means that this batch will have 140 CHs or a cushion of 10 CH (FA students will have 144-149 CHs or a cushion of 14-19 CHs).

**11- I am rising sophomore; how will the new fee policy affect my financial aid?**

The Rising Sophomore and incoming First-Year students new fee system will be provided Financial Assistance for 140 CHs. You will get additional 5 credit hours of Financial Assistance based on a petition (so potentially 145 CHs of FA). Furthermore, incoming First- Year and Rising Sophomore batches will receive financial assistance in the Summer semester.

**12- Is there any change in financial aid policy for Junior/Senior/Super senior batches?**

Since the fee policy has been reverted for Juniors/Seniors/Super seniors, hence financial aid policy for aforementioned batches has also been reversed i.e.

Financial assistance will be provided to students for maximum eight (8) regular semesters for the BSC/BS and for 10 regular semesters for the BA-LL.B excluding summer semesters.

**13- I am a junior and have enrolled in Summer term this year, will my financial assistance be revoked if we have been retained on old fee and financial aid policy?**

No, financial assistance commitment made for Summer term (I & II) to rising juniors or seniors for Summer Term for this year, 2020 will not be revoked. However, this is only one-time exception and will not be provided in future.

**14- What changes will the new fee structure bring for Rising Sophomores and Incoming First Year students?**

Students often take more than the minimum CH required for their degrees for various reasons (e.g. to repeat courses, explore minors, or take courses-of-interest after facing enrolment issues in prior semesters, etc.) The concern is that the pay-per-CH model should not pose an inordinate financial disincentive for these students taking extra CHs. The second concern relates to equity: in a fee structure that ties tuition-costs to CHs, under-resourced students should not be denied opportunities to explore extra CHs. We propose that rising Sophomore and incoming First-Year student be inducted into the new fee system and that these students be charged for 130 CHs and allowed 136 CHs (i.e. a cushion of 6 CHs). Further, we propose that students on Financial Assistance be allowed 140 CHs and be able to petition for financial assistance for up to 145 CHs (i.e. a cushion of 10-15 CHs).

**15- I am a rising sophomore and have dropped a course during 100% non-refundable period; will it be counted towards my total FA limit of 140 credits?**

Since the tuition fee and financial aid is already charged for courses dropped in non-refundable period, hence they will be counted towards the total credits for which financial assistance will be provided.

**16- Will Pass/Fail courses credit count towards the quota of 140?**

Rising Juniors and Seniors are continuing under the old fee structure which will allow them to make up for any extra CH as allowed per the old policies. Therefore, students in these batches who opted for NC (under COVID policies) will not face any adverse impact. However, the Rising sophomores will be provided an extra cushion of 4 CHs.

**17- Will this proposed system adversely impact tuition costs?**

Relying on data on recent batches, our analysis shows that this proposed system will not adversely impact the tuition costs for students, will not impose financial disincentives to take extra CHs (to repeat courses, explore minors, etc.) and will also enable under-resourced students to take additional CHs beyond their degree-requirements

Rising Sophomores will be transitioning to the new fee system. Sophomores who opt for NC already have a 6 CH cushion built into the new fee system (10-15 CH cushion for FA students); we propose an extra cushion of 4 CHs only for current rising sophomores. This means that this batch will have 140 CHs or a cushion of 10 CH (FA students will have 144-149 CHs or a cushion of 14-19 CHs). This will enable the current sophomore batch impacted by the pandemic to use the NC option and not face a financial penalty for making up CHs in the future.

**18- Will the transfer credits be counted towards 140 credits limit for financial aid?**

Yes, the transfer credits will be counted in the total credit limit of financial assistance.

**19- Will dropped off courses due to medical reasons during the semester be counted towards 140 credits?**

In case the fee is refunded, then the credits will not be counted towards the total quota allocated to financial aid students.

**20- Will financial aid be available for the next Summer semester 2021?**

Financial assistance in Summer 2021 will be available only for the Freshmen and rising Sophomores as they will follow the new fee policy. For Juniors, Seniors and Super Seniors, financial assistance will not be available for the Summer semester.

**21- In case of school transfer, will the students be eligible for credits limit of school from which he/she is getting transferred or to which he/she is being transferred? For instance, if a student has transferred from BA-LLB to SDSB, will I be given aid for 175 credits or on 140?**

Financial assistance will be available for the credits needed to complete degree requirement to which the student has been transferred to. However, in special circumstances students may contact Office of Financial Aid to seek further help.

**22- For EE students, will financial aid be given for 140 credits?**

For EE students, financial assistance will be provided for 145 credits. However, in special circumstances students may contact Office of Financial Aid to seek further help.

**23- Biology students' needs 131 to graduate, will they be given aid for 140 CHs?**

Biology students will be provided financial assistance for up to 140 credits. However, in special circumstances students may contact Office of Financial Aid to seek further help.

**24- What is the credit limit of financial aid for BA-LL.B students?**

BA-LLB students will be provided financial assistance for up to 175 credits. However, in special circumstances students may contact Office of Financial Aid to seek further help and this can be increased to 180 CHs.

**25- I am a graduating senior; will I be given financial assistance for the 9th semester?**

Since, seniors have been retained to old fee structure, hence financial assistance will only be provided for 8 regular semesters.