

Locked Rate and Variable Rate Tuition FAQs

What is my tuition rate code?

Tuition and fees for *undergraduate* students are assessed based on assigned tuition rate codes.

- **Prospective Undergraduate Students** will not have a tuition rate code. They should visit the Cost of Attendance estimates on Scholarships and Financial Aid's website for estimated costs of tuition and fees.
- **Incoming Undergraduate Students** (Freshman, Transfers or Readmits) must select a tuition rate code before being allowed to register for classes for the first time.
- **Continuing Undergraduate Students** can view their tuition rate code in [Howdy \(howdy.tamu.edu\)](http://howdy.tamu.edu), My Finances, Billing Tuition and Fees, Undergraduate Tuition Rate Code. This tuition rate code was assigned or selected during the admission process and cannot be changed after the selection is made.

How do I select my tuition rate code?

All incoming undergraduate students (residents and non-residents) will have to select a tuition rate code in [Howdy \(howdy.tamu.edu\)](http://howdy.tamu.edu) (My Finances Tab in the Billing Tuition and Fees Channel) before being allowed to register for classes for the first time.

What do the tuition rate codes mean?

The first three characters indicate whether the tuition rate code is locked or variable. TLR stands for Tuition Locked Rate. TVR stands for Tuition Variable Rate. The last four characters of the Locked Rate tuition codes indicate the year the student first entered college after high school. After the expiration of four years, students will pay the current year's variable rates each term until completion.

First Entered College	Locked or Variable	Tuition Rate Code In Howdy	Tuition Calculator Rate Selection	Potentially Expires
2014-2015	Locked	TLR_1415	Locked 2014-2015	Summer 2018
2015-2016	Locked	TLR_1516	Locked 2015-2016	Summer 2019
2016-2017	Locked	TLR_1617	Locked 2016-2017	Summer 2020
2017-2018	Locked	TLR_1718	Locked 2017-2018	Summer 2021
2017-2018	Variable	TVR_VARI	Variable	2017-2018 academic year only

What is the difference between Locked Rate and Variable Rate tuition?

Locked Rate Tuition (TLR-Tuition Locked Rate) = a tuition plan that will lock in the amount of tuition and required fees at a per semester rate for 12 consecutive semesters, or 4 years, from the point of initial enrollment at any public or private institution after high school.

The Locked (Fixed) Rate allows families to plan for a fixed cost of tuition and required fees for the remainder of the student's initial enrollment period after high school.

Variable Rate Tuition (TVR-Tuition Variable Rate) = a tuition plan where the amount of tuition and required fees could vary from year to year based on the cost of higher education and on the Higher Education Price Index.

The Variable Rate for the current academic year is lower than the Locked Rate; however, increases in the cost of higher education and the Higher Education Price Index could result in increases to the Variable Rate that result in overall tuition and fee charges that are higher than the overall tuition and fee charges for the Locked Rate.

The choice is comparable to choosing between a fixed interest rate mortgage and a variable interest rate mortgage.

Should I choose Locked or Variable Rate tuition?

While we cannot tell you which choice is best for your situation, we can provide you with information to help you make an informed decision. We recommend that you discuss the choice with your parent or guardian.

In addition to the definitions of Locked and Variable Rate tuition provided above, here are some questions to consider when making your choice:

- Would I or my family benefit from having a fixed cost of tuition and required fees to pay over the course of my enrollment?
- How many semesters do I plan to attend Texas A&M University?
- How many semesters do I have remaining before I finish my undergraduate degree?
- How confident am I in my ability to finish my undergraduate degree within that time frame?
- Do I think that inflation could impact the Higher Education Price Index while I'm attending Texas A&M University?

Where can I view the cost difference between Locked and Variable Rate tuition?

You can use our Tuition Calculator (<http://sbs.tamu.edu/tuition/calculator/>) to view the cost difference between the Locked Rate tuition plan for the year you first entered college (Example: Locked 2017-2018 on Tuition Calculator = TLR_1718 rate code in Howdy) and the Variable Rate tuition plan for the current year. Tuition and required fees also vary by college so the Tuition Calculator will allow you to view the costs specific to your college.

Example costs *per semester* of 2017-2018 tuition and fees for a student in the College of Liberal Arts paying *in-state* tuition and registered for 12 or more hours:

First Entered College	Locked or Variable	Tuition Rate Code In Howdy	Tuition Calculator Rate Selection	Potentially Expires	Liberal Arts In-state Tuition 12 or more hours
2014-2015	Locked	TLR_1415	Locked 2014-2015	Summer 2018	\$4,677.66
2015-2016	Locked	TLR_1516	Locked 2015-2016	Summer 2019	\$4,803.40
2016-2017	Locked	TLR_1617	Locked 2016-2017	Summer 2020	\$5,109.75
2017-2018	Locked	TLR_1718	Locked 2017-2018	Summer 2021	\$5,201.70
2017-2018	Variable	TVR_VARI	Variable	2017-2018 only	\$5,034.48

Why do non-residents have to select a tuition rate code?

Non-resident students are charged two types of tuition, state tuition and non-resident tuition. The state portion of tuition is assessed at a locked rate over time, whereas the "non-resident" tuition will increase each year as designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Required fees and a portion of tuition will remain fixed over the course of 4 years for undergraduate non-resident students who choose the Locked Rate tuition plan.

How can I change my tuition rate code?

The tuition rate code cannot be changed once the initial selection has been made. If you are a transfer student and have a question regarding your tuition rate code based on the calculation of your transfer hours, please contact Admissions through the Applicant Information System (AIS) using Contact Us and selecting Lock Rate Tuition as the Subject.

What tuition rate code do I need to choose if my tuition and fees are covered by the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan (TGTP) or the Texas Tomorrow Promise Fund (TTPF)?

TGTP and TTPF will cover at the guaranteed amounts based on your plan eligibility regardless of which tuition rate code you select.

Which tuition rate code should I choose if ROTC is paying my tuition?

ROTC will cover at the guaranteed amounts regardless of which tuition rate code you select.

How does the tuition rate code affect me if I am on the Blinn team?

There is no difference for Blinn Team students. They must still select a tuition rate code.

For additional information, please visit sbs.tamu.edu and use the 'Search Aggie Answers' box.