

## 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 the Scholarships and Financial Aid website for estimated tuition and fees costs.
- **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 \(howdy.tamu.edu\)](https://howdy.tamu.edu), **Howdy Dashboard**, then **Overview, My Record, Academics**, and **Registration Readiness**. Under **Action Items**, students can select **Tuition Rate Code Selection** to view what tuition cohort they selected during the admission process, though they can no longer change it.

### **How do I select my tuition rate code?**

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

Locked Rate Tuition is not an option for non-resident students, so they will automatically be assigned the variable rate code (TVR\_VARI).

### **What do the tuition rate codes mean?**

TLR stands for Tuition Locked Rate, and TVR stands for Tuition Variable Rate. The first three characters indicate which tuition rate code the student selected. The last four characters of the Locked Rate tuition codes show 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
2017-2018	Locked	TLR_1718	Locked 2017-2018	Summer 2021
2018-2019	Locked	TLR_1819	Locked 2018-2019	Summer 2022
2019-2020	Locked	TLR_1920	Locked 2019-2020	Summer 2023
2020-2021	Locked	TLR_2021	Locked 2020-2021	Summer 2024
2020-2021	Variable	TVR_VARI	Variable	2020-2021 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 would lock in the amount of tuition and required fees for 12 consecutive semesters. This plan starts from the point of initial enrollment at any public or private institution after high school and is only available to resident students.

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 after high school.

Locked Rate Tuition is not available for non-resident students.

**Variable Rate Tuition (TVR-Tuition Variable Rate):** A tuition plan where the amount of tuition and required fees increases annually based on factors such as inflationary cost increases, new strategic initiatives, and the overall needs of the university.

The Variable Rate for the current academic year is lower than the Locked Rate; however, the rate increases annually. These increases to the Variable Rate could 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 option with your parent or guardian.

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

- 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 complete my undergraduate degree within that time frame?
- Could inflation impact the Variable Rate while I'm attending Texas A&M?
- Would my family or I benefit from having a fixed cost of tuition and required fees?

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

You can use our Tuition Calculator ([tuition.tamu.edu](https://tuition.tamu.edu)) to view the cost difference between the Locked Rate for the year you first entered college (Example: Locked 2020-2021 on Tuition Calculator = TLR\_2021 rate code in Howdy) and the Variable Rate for the current year.

Tuition and required fees also vary depending on what college the student attends, so the Tuition Calculator will allow you to view costs specific to your college.

**Example costs *per semester* of 2018-2019 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
2017-2018	Locked	TLR_1718	Locked 2017-2018	Summer 2021	\$5,201.70
2018-2019	Locked	TLR_1819	Locked 2018-2019	Summer 2022	\$5,484.20
2019-2020	Locked	TLR_1920	Locked 2019-2020	Summer 2023	\$5,615.75
2020-2021	Locked	TLR_2021	Locked 2020-2021	Summer 2024	\$5,885.87
2020-2021	Variable	TVR_VARI	Variable	2020-2021 only	\$5,526.62

### How can I change my tuition rate code?

- **Incoming Undergraduate Students** - Incoming first-year students and transfer/re-admit students may change their selection up until the 5th class day of their first term of enrollment. Do so by logging in to your secure Howdy portal with your NetID and password, then click on the **Howdy Dashboard** icon. Once in the Howdy Dashboard, go to **Overview**, and select the drop-down under **My Record**. Under **Academics**, click on **Registration Readiness**. Under **Action Items**, you'll see **Tuition Rate Code Selection**; that is how incoming students can view or change their tuition cohort.
- **Continuing Undergraduate Students** – Continuing students cannot change their tuition rate code after the 5<sup>th</sup> class day of their first term of enrollment.

### What tuition rate code must I 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 should not be a factor in deciding which rate code to select. TGTP and TTPF will cover the guaranteed amounts based on your plan eligibility regardless of which tuition rate code you choose.

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

ROTC will cover 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.

Please visit [sbs.tamu.edu](https://sbs.tamu.edu) and click on the 'Aggie Answers' icon for additional information.