

## Affordability Questionnaire for Instructors, Course Coordinators, Chairs, and Heads

How affordable are your classes? This question is important but often difficult to answer. There are many factors that impact if a student can afford to complete a class or program. Affordability is directly related to student outcomes such as course completion and time to degree. By answering a few questions about your classes, you can picture the challenges faced by your students and develop opportunities to help them.

Answer each question. If you are unsure of an answer, consider asking the students in your class for their experiences. Not all questions may apply to your course.

### **Tuition**

1. How much is the part-time tuition pro.326 0 ~~at (t)-66 (t)10.5 (e. an)10.5(vo Td(t)-od-(i)2.1T Tdol)2.6 (as)-~~ \_\_\_\_\_ . For 2021-22, this cost is \$1,708.65 for three-credit undergraduate courses.
2. How much do students save by taking your class as one of 5 full-time classes? To calculate, divide the [full-time in-state tuition](#) by 15. For 2021-22, this cost is \$1437.60 for three-credit undergraduate courses; or a savings of \$271.05 over part-time rates.
3. Does your program or course require [any extra fees](#)

2.

## **Interpreting your results**

Now that you've completed your audit, here are a few steps you can take to interpret the results and use them for meaningful reflection on the costs associated with your class or program.

1. Share your results. Meet with other instructors to discuss how your costs compare to each other. Are there ways to reduce costs such as sharing a textbook across sequential courses?
2. Look for opportunities to reduce costs. For example, consider helping students find cheaper textbooks or working with the publisher to reduce the cost of digital access fees.
3. Communicate early and effectively. Share information with students so they can plan on upcoming costs or deadlines early or before the semester.
4. Analyze your results using the resources below:

### **Tuition**

Because tuition is set by the University, it is difficult to control this cost as an instructor. However, you can help communicate ways students can reduce their tuition.

1. Add FAFSA or university scholarship [deadline](#) to your syllabus or Canvas so students remember to apply for financial aid.
2. Encourage students to use "[15 to Finish](#)" which maximizes their savings and reduces the time to degree.
3. Flag students in [RSN \(Starfish\)](#) who are at risk of failing or needing to repeat the class early in the semester.

### **Costs of Attendance**

Again, these are often outside your control, but there are some ways you can help students anticipate these costs.

1. Help students anticipate the costs of exit or industry exams required by your program. Post information about them on Canvas or go over them in class.
2. Discuss parking with students when reviewing the syllabus. Explain the costs of nearby lots. Encourage students to move their cars during the mid-class break during 3-hour classes if using non-Rowan parking garages with free-parking windows.
3. Give students time to meet with other commuters to see if there are ways to carpool.
4. Share information about [reduced-cost and free](#) childcare options.
5. Provide contact information for [emergency funds](#) distributed through the Dean of Students.

### **Course Materials**

The cost of course materials can change each semester. Re-assess these costs often.

1. Consider switching to an [Open Educational Resource](#) (OER) or create your own class materials using a [TAP Grant](#).

