

Tuition Reset: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the announcement?

A. Wells College is announcing a “reset” in its published tuition price for all students. Tuition for all new and returning students will drop to \$29,400 per year for the 2019–20 academic year, compared to \$39,200 for the current year. The overall advertised price, including fees and room and board, will be \$45,000 starting next fall.

Q. Why did Wells College decide to lower its tuition?

A. As college tuition has increased nationwide in recent years, families have become more concerned than ever about the high cost of a private college education. Our new pricing structure better reflects what students actually pay after scholarships and other forms of financial aid are applied — especially since 99% of Wells students receive some form of financial aid and thus are not paying the full “sticker price.” We firmly believe that this tuition reset will help strengthen our position in the marketplace, as well as strengthen our ability to attract new students as we shift from a perception of being overpriced to one of being “right-priced” for our students.

Q. When does the reduced tuition pricing go into effect?

A. It goes into effect for the 2019–20 academic year, i.e., beginning in fall 2019.

Q. What will be the full advertised price of attendance starting in fall 2019?

A. The overall advertised price, which includes tuition, fees, and room and board, will change from the current \$54,800 for 2018-19 to \$45,000 beginning in fall 2019.

Q. How will Wells College ensure that a tuition decrease does not affect the quality of the education you provide?

A. Wells remains as committed as ever to providing a personalized, high-quality education to each and every student. We believe this reduced tuition price will open up that opportunity to an even broader number of students. In recent years, we’ve made many important long-term investments in the student experience; here are just a few examples:

1. Wells College has added several new majors and minors in the last three years alone, including health sciences, sustainability, inclusive early childhood education, and criminal justice. Certain science programs were also expanded to offer a B.S. degree option in addition to the previously existing B.A. option.
2. The new Hagedorn Learning Commons in Long Library provides a comprehensive suite of student services under one roof, including career and academic advising, tutoring and writing support, a media lab, research assistance, and much more.

3. The recent renovations to the Sommer Student Center, Zabriskie Hall, the boathouse, and dozens of residence hall rooms are just a few of many recent upgrades to campus facilities
4. We've also completely renovated the gymnasium in the Schwartz Athletic Center and constructed a new turf field that is used by multiple home and visiting teams.

Q. Will cuts be made to existing academic and co-curricular programs, athletics, student life initiatives, and so forth?

A. Absolutely not. No programs are being cut in order to implement the reduced tuition pricing structure. Furthermore, we anticipate that the new tuition pricing model will ultimately bring in more students, providing more resources to support our vibrant, engaged campus community.

Q. Will current students pay a different tuition amount under the new system?

A. We expect that the actual price of attendance (net price) for a returning student in 2019-20 will remain equal to the amount students are paying this academic year, assuming the student's FAFSA information remains the same. In addition, it is important to note that there will not be an annual increase in tuition, as has been the case in previous years.

Q. How will you work with current students to educate them about these developments? How will they be affected?

A. Starting this week, we will be working closely with all current students to help them understand what the new pricing model means for them. We have already reached out to students to offer one-on-one meetings with our financial aid staff; at these meetings, we will provide them with a side-by-side comparison of each student's current awards along with an estimate of what their awards will be under the new tuition pricing. Students can sign up for an appointment online at wells.edu/myawards.

Q. When does the College send out tuition bills? When are payments due?

A. Wells College mails tuition bills twice a year, in July and December; hence, the first bill under the new pricing will be mailed in July 2019. Each statement shows the tuition, fees, and room and board, minus any scholarships, loans, grants or other amounts that reduce the amount to be paid. The bill is sent to the parent/guardian as listed on the student's record. Students may also download a copy of the most recent bill from the Globe (<http://global.wells.edu>).

Q. How did Wells leadership make this decision?

A. President Jonathan Gibraltar and his senior leadership team consulted with a number of individuals and groups, on campus and off, over the past 12 months — including the board of trustees, faculty leaders, and colleagues from other colleges and universities that have implemented similar tuition reductions in recent years. These strategic discussions, particularly with other campus leaders, have helped Wells make the most informed decision possible.