

DE versus FTF Tuition and Fees for Graduate Students

Some of our graduate students may have to pay DE tuition because courses required for their program are being offered only DE. I used the Fall, 2006, rates for [campus](#) and [DE](#) classes. For students with in-state tuition, it appears that the greater DE tuition is more than offset by other fees being less for DE courses, so they actually save money by taking DE courses (unless they are taking more than three courses). For nonresident students, taking DE courses will cost them a bit more (or a lot more if they have a tuition remission, which does not apply to DE tuition).

My Calculations

Our typical graduate student takes three three-hour courses. On campus the tuition and fees total to \$2,242 for NC residents, \$7,400 for nonresidents.

Suppose our graduate student has to take **one** of the three courses **DE**. For the **in-state** student, the cost is \$1,681.50 for the two FTF courses and $3 \times 154 = \$462$ for the one DE course, for a sum of \$2,143.50, which is **\$98.50 less** than taking three courses FTF. For the **nonresident** the cost is \$5,550 for the two FTF courses and $3 \times 659 = \$1,977$ for the one DE course, for a sum of \$7,527, which is **\$127 more** than taking three courses FTF.

Suppose our graduate student has to take **two** of her courses **DE**. For the **in-state** student, the cost is \$1,121 for the one FTF course and $6 \times 154 = \$924$ for the two DE courses, for a sum of \$2,045, which is **\$197 less** than taking three courses FTF. For the **nonresident** student living in North Carolina the cost is \$3,700 for the one FTF course and $6 \times 659 = \$3,954$ for the two DE courses, for a sum of \$7,654, **\$254 more** than taking three courses FTF.

Suppose our graduate student takes all **three** of her courses **DE**. The **resident** tuition and fees total to $9 \times 154 = \$1,386$, which is **\$856 less** than taking three FTF courses. For the **nonresident** student three DE courses cost $9 \times \$659 = \$5,931$, **\$1,469 less** than taking three FTF courses.

If our student is taking four courses, things change. If all four courses were FTF, the fourth course is free, since 12 hours costs the same as 9 hours. If, however, three courses were FTF and one DE, the cost of the fourth course would be \$462 for the in-state student and \$1,977 for the nonresident student.