

Tuition: Things are tough all over

Here, at a glance, is the budget picture for public higher education in selected states, and what it will mean as classes begin this fall:

ALABAMA — Four-year colleges received \$547.5 million in 1990-91, after Gov. Guy

Hunt cut \$38 million when tax collections fell below expectations. For 1991-92, the Legislature has appropriated \$570.1 million. For junior colleges and technical colleges, the budget is \$133.4 million, compared with \$126.43 million last year. Tuition at the University of

Alabama system is up an average of 7 percent.

ALASKA — State university system's \$168.1 million budget for fiscal year 1992 is nearly \$4 million more than last year — not enough to stave off reductions in course offerings. University of Alaska tuition increasing nearly 9 percent per credit hour next fall and another 10 percent in fall 1992.

ARIZONA — 1991-92 higher education appropriation is \$534 million, compared with \$522 million last year. State universities have been hit with mid-year reductions seven of last 10 years, and officials say there will be fewer and larger classes. In-state tuition increasing by \$50, to \$1,528. Out-of-state rates up \$300.

ARKANSAS — State higher education budget for 1991-92 up sharply to \$348.3 million, compared with \$318 million last year. Legislature raised corporate taxes as part of planned restructuring of vocational education. Tuition hikes range from less than 1 percent at Arkansas State University to 31.8 percent at North Arkansas Community College.

CALIFORNIA — California State University system budget down 3.2 percent from 1990 levels, to \$1.6 billion. Tuitions up 20 percent to \$936. University of California system budget 1.1 percent lower than year earlier, at \$2.1 billion. Tuition increasing by 40 percent over last year, to \$2,274 annually. About 1,000 lecturers and instructors being laid off.

DELAWARE — The University of Delaware, Delaware State College and Delaware Technical and Community Col-

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Fees for out-of-state students are soaring even faster in many states. Out-of-state rates at the University of New Hampshire, for example, will be \$9,840 this fall, 30 percent higher than 1989 levels.

Such increases could thwart campus efforts to diversify student populations ethnically and geographically, warns James Appleberry, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Appleberry and others believe the unusually steep tuition increases and lessened state support aren't just the passing consequences of a recession.

They view them as the latest signs of a sea of change in the way politicians view public higher education.

For the foreseeable future, they predict, governors and legislators will continue to shift the cost of public college education onto families, and away from taxpayers.

Compounding the impact of rising tuitions are cutbacks in state-funded college aid that already are denying thousands of prospective

students access to public campuses.

In Indiana, average state aid packages for needy students are expected to drop by about 10 percent.

In Tennessee, 3,700 students who qualified for state aid didn't get it last year because money wasn't available. This year, an additional 1,700 who qualify will be denied aid because of budget cuts.

Even students able to afford school are finding access a problem in states where budget cuts are forcing campuses to cut programs and classes.

The University of Minnesota is laying off about 500 employees and raising resident undergraduate tuition by 9.3 percent to help deal with appropriations that are \$50 million less than last year.

"Students have no idea how they're going to afford to pay for the increase," said Stephanie Hanson, chairwoman of the student services steering committee for the Minnesota Student Association. "Having a dramatic increase as we are, there are going to be students who just can't come back."

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