



OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

A Primer on the UP Socialized Tuition System*

Background

All students of the University of the Philippines (UP) receive financial support from the National Government.

Given that UP students come from all walks of life, there are those who may not be able to afford paying the full tuition. To identify these students and to provide additional subsidy and other forms of financial assistance, UP instituted the Socialized Tuition System (ST System) on 13 December 2013.

The ST System provides additional subsidy through tuition discount and other forms of financial assistance. The amount of assistance is based on the assessment of the paying capacity of the household to which a student belongs. This assessment looks at the income as well as the socio-economic characteristics of the household.

The ST System is an essential tool to address financial as well as psycho-social needs of UP students. The information submitted in the ST System serves as the initial basis for UP's Student Affairs units to provide relevant and timely support to UP students.

Applying for Financial Assistance through the ST System

Before enrollment, UP's Office of Admissions and the University Registrars generate a list of students who are eligible to study in the University. This is the list used by the ST System to determine who can apply for additional subsidy.

In general, all undergraduate students, who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree, can apply. UP Law and Medicine students can also apply for tuition discount and other financial assistance.

UP students who wish to apply must log-in to <https://sts.up.edu.ph/>. Online application expedites processing in order to provide financial assistance solutions during the early part of the academic year.

ST System application begins with the submission of information about income and socio-economic characteristics of their household. Using the information submitted by the students, the University may grant reduction in tuition and other school fees and, in certain cases, monthly stipends.

In a number of cases, students may be in situations where they need additional financial assistance. They may submit information about these circumstances to <https://sts.up.edu.ph/> and request these to be considered in the grant of additional subsidy.

* Primer was prepared by Richard Philip A. Gonzalo, Asst. Vice-President for Student Affairs and Director of the UP Office of Student Financial Assistance. Document was prepared on 22 January 2017



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Basis to determine Financial Assistanceⁱ

The ST System grants additional subsidy based on income and socio-economic characteristics of the household to which a student belongs. In general, UP grants tuition discounts and other financial assistance of the ST System according to values in Table 1.

Table 1: Tuition Discount and other Financial Assistance of the ST System

| Household Annual Household Income ⁱⁱ | Tuition Discount ⁱⁱⁱ | Other forms of financial assistance |
|---|--|---|
| More than P1.3 Million annually | No Tuition Discount | |
| P650,001 to P1.3 Million | Partial Discount – 33% for UP Diliman, Los Baños, and Manila Partial Discount – 40% for UP Baguio, Cebu, Mindanao, Pampanga, and Visayas] | |
| P325,001 to P650,000 | Partial Discount – 60% | |
| P135,001 to P325,000 | Partial Discount – 80% | |
| P80,001 to 135,000 ^{iv} | Full Discount (free tuition) | Free miscellaneous and lab fees |
| P80,000 and below ^v | Full Discount (free tuition) | Free miscellaneous and lab fees + Monthly stipend |

The ranges are the initial basis in the grant of financial assistance. Assignment to these categories is based on statistical analysis of data submitted by applicants.

Students may be given additional financial assistance when they submit information on situations where they may need additional support from the University. Examples include information on economic challenges encountered by a student's household or calamities and similar events that reduced the capacity of the family to cover cost of completing school requirements in the University. This information is evaluated by a Committee of UP personnel to better appreciate the circumstances that the applicant may be going through.

ⁱ The Socialized Tuition System utilizes *Tuition Discount* (e.g. No Discount, Partial Discount, Full Discount), instead of *Brackets*, to describe the amount of reduction in fees payable and to help eliminate the social and economic classes implied by the use of the term Bracket.

ⁱⁱ Except for values in the Full Discount category, all values are based on income ranges adjusted for inflation from 2007 until 2013. These values apply to 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students only since the ST System has been implemented gradually beginning AY 2014-2015. The original income range, which apply to 4th year students and other upperclassmen, are as follows:

- Bracket A – Over P1 Million
- Bracket B – P500,001 to P1 Million
- Bracket C – P250,001 to P500,000
- Bracket D – P135,001 to P250,000



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By AY 2017-2018, almost all UP undergraduate students will be covered by the income ranges adjusted for inflation.

iii Tuition discount is applied to the following tuition rate per unit: ₱1,500 for UP Diliman, Los Baños, and Manila, and ₱1,000 for UP Baguio, Cebu, Mindanao, Pampanga, and Visayas.

iv The income range was retained from the 2007 STFAP because the maximum value is above the 1 January 2014 annualized non-agriculture minimum wage. This was the data available when the UP Board of Regents approved the ST System proposal in December 2013.

v The income range was retained from the 2007 STFAP because the maximum value is above the April 2013 annualized subsistence threshold. This was the data available when the proposal was approved in December 2013.