

# THE TIGER

EST. 1907. SOUTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER ROARS FOR CLEMSON

## Tuition goes sky high

Students venture outside University for summer session.

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Students taking summer courses at Clemson will notice an increase in tuition from 2008. This year Maymester and Summer Session course are \$447 for in-state students and \$1,011 for out-of-state students, per credit. Those prices do not include student fees, which can range from \$125 to \$280 depending on whether or not a student takes labs.

According to the Clemson University Web Site, the tuition increases were to be expected after the Board of Trustees voted to raise tuition in the face of budget cuts in July 2008. The high fees have led students to look for other means of fulfilling course requirements during the summer months. Lower and equal priced alternatives have raised questions about the cause for such high summer tuition at a public university.

Community colleges have always been a popular alternative for students to take lower level classes. Prices for community and technical colleges are near \$90 per credit for an in-district student. These prices may vary depending on the Community College, however according to Tri-County Technical College and others' Web Sites prove the prices to be similar. Out-of-district and out-of-state students can expect to pay between \$320 and \$400 per credit.

The affordability of community colleges provides a sensible alternative for some students. "It makes no sense to take a summer course here at Clemson due to the high tuition. It makes more sense to go to a technical college and pay a few hundred dollars instead of a thousand dollars here at Clemson," said Kristen Watson, a senior sociology major.

Students needing to take upper level courses who still want to stay in South Carolina during the summer can take courses at Wofford College, a private liberal arts university for \$370 per credit. Students can access these figures on the Wofford College Web Site.

Even after the university fees, a student could

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KALI BOWERS/art director

take a three credit course for \$1270. An in-state student would pay \$1341 for the same amount of coursework at Clemson.

Students looking for a summer challenge and a chance to explore a new setting can enroll as a visiting student at Harvard University. Visiting students only need to enroll for the session during which they wish to take courses; no application or transcript is necessary. The Ivy League university charges \$2475 for a four credit course. A four credit course at Clemson costs \$4044 for an out-of-state student. Other Ivy League and top-ranked universities offer similar opportunities for students to take courses over the summer at considerably lower costs than Clemson, including the University of Chicago and Boston University.

Students in the past have elected to take summer school at Clemson to allow the credits earned to factor into their grade point average. However, the staggering prices make this option less viable for some. Biomaterials engineering student Erika Jelen said, "The online summer courses were so expensive I decided to take my class at a local college. The contribution to my GPA was not worth more than \$3,000.

In recent years major universities have made changes to encourage summer courses as a part of the undergraduate curriculum. University of California-Los Angeles, University of Arizona and other leading

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institutions have established in-state summer tuition applicable to all students, even out-of-state students. Other universities offer online courses at a reduced rate because no building or energy use is required to host the courses. Clemson currently charges the same tuition to students regardless of whether they take a course online or on campus.

Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Vice Provost Jan Murdoch explained that summer tuition is determined by many factors that facilitate the University's needs. "Summer school runs independently of the two long semesters, and must cover its own costs, including

faculty salaries," Murdoch said.

Students who wish to pursue other summer alternatives can do so through the University at a reduced rate.

Murdoch said, "We also offer some special opportunities for students, such as studying abroad for in-state tuition plus a 10 percent fee, regardless of residency."

There has not been any decision as to whether summer tuition will change in the following year. Murdoch said, "The University is currently looking at our academic calendar and at tuition models, which could result in changes to future summer school tuition."