

Student Fees for LMS

Question:

We have a ton of students and faculty using the LMS to supplement the on-campus classroom.... which we are thrilled about.

Does anyone charge an LMS fee to the student for that? We charge a distance ed fee for the full internet course but not hybrid/supplemental.

- Pamela Morgan, PhD, Director, Center for Continuing, Professional & Distance Education, Midwestern State University
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Answers:

We have not and beginning in the fall we will no longer be charging a special fee just for online sections. Instead, we have slightly raised the high-tech portion of our mandatory student fees, and changed the fee structure, partly because the use of the LMS is becoming so prevalent.

- Ann M. Murray, LCCC IR Manager
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At the University of Wyoming we used to charge students a per credit hour fee unique to fully online courses, a lesser fee unique to what were classified as hybrid courses (partly online, partly in a classroom or via some other synchronous delivery), and if the LMS simply supplemented a course delivered entirely by some other means, there wasn't an extra LMS fee. Keeping track of all of that and, more importantly, "enforcing" it, was a challenge at best. That model was based entirely on how we were charged by the LMS vendor—Pearson eCollege.

Our new LMS is Canvas, and it is seen as a campus-wide solution. Pearson eCollege was always associated most closely with distance delivery. With Canvas, all students (distance and campus) pay a nominal per credit hour fee (\$2.00, I believe) and faculty can use the LMS however they see fit. It's very nice not to have the extra layer of red-tape/bureaucracy in which we tried to determine if a course was online or hybrid (sometimes a very difficult call to make) and the subsequent modification of the course listing on Banner and in our schedule. I would avoid differentiating for fee purposes if at all possible.

- Jeff, University of Wyoming
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At UM-Flint, we charge a “convenience” fee per credit for online courses and mixed-mode (hybrid) courses. We also create a Blackboard shell for every course offered on campus; faculty may use whatever features they choose. There is no fee for this “course companion.”

- Deborah White, Director, Office of Extended Learning, University of Michigan-Flint

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Eastern Wyoming College charges a “tech fee” to all students on a per-credit-hour basis. Oddly enough, this fee is not used to support the LMS, but it does provide salary for my tech specialist and some spending money that a committee manages via a grant application. We have no other distance or LMS fees.

- Aaron Bahmer, Director, Instructional Technology, Eastern Wyoming College

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At TESC we do not charge a specific fee for the LMS, but we do have a ‘digital resources fee’ which is used to support a broad range of digitally based resources available to our on-line learners through the LMS.

- William J. Seaton, Vice President and Provost, Thomas Edison State College

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At Idaho State University, we charge students an online/convenience/class fee on all courses that meet our definition of “online”. This pays for more than the LMS. The intent is to provide some offset for the increased costs of delivering a course fully online and includes Web Conferencing, Online Proctoring (potentially), State Authorization, Quality Assurance, specific Instructional Design, and perhaps the LMS. But as has been noted, the use of the LMS is prevalent in all courses on campus, including this tool is hard to justify for just the online students.

I would add that my personal preference would be to add a small increase to the tech fee all students pay here to cover the costs of those tools. The integration of online, or at least elements of online, is evident in so many classes, regardless of their definition, that it seems more logical at this point to stop trying to treat everything differently and allow all tools and resources for all courses.

- Blake Beck, Director, eISU and Educational Technologies, Idaho State University

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At Anne Arundel Community College, we do not charge a separate fee for online, hybrid, or web-enhanced courses.

- Patty McCarthy-O’Neill, Coordinator, Distance Education, Anne Arundel Community College

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The University of Missouri charges every student an Instructional Technology Fee per credit hour



regardless of delivery mode. Funds support a wide array of technology resources including the LMS.

- Kim L. Siegenthaler, Ph.D., Director, Mizzou Online, University of Missouri
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