

Addressing the High Cost of Higher Education: A Look at the Financial Burden of Pre-Enrollment Fees

Students incur many costs before they step foot on a college campus.

Pre- Enrollment fees may include:

Application Fees Orientation Fees Transcript Fees

Key Considerations:

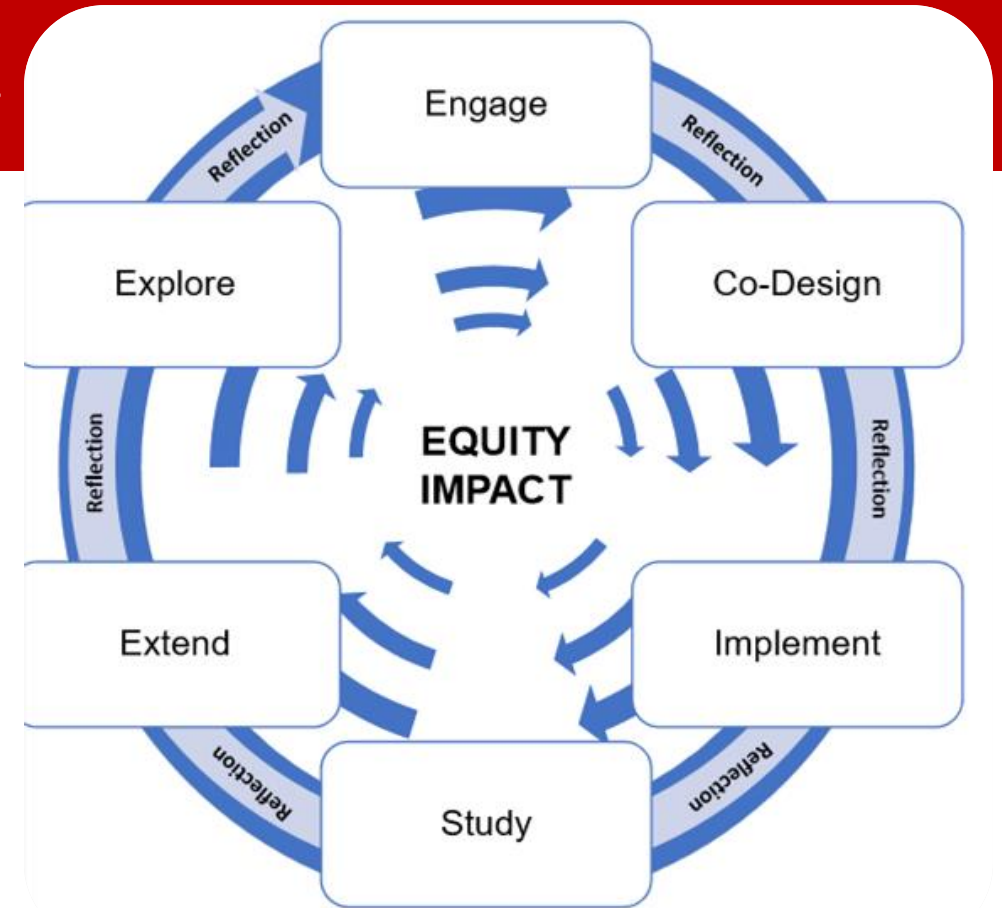
- What burden are the fees placing on students?
- How can we move away from the “Skin in the Game” mentality?
- What is the financial impact for colleges/universities?

What impact can I have?

- Serve on advisory boards and committees
- Influence policy and update practice
- Identify support systems
- Foster internal and external partnerships
- Explore best practices



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The IEL Equity Impact Framework

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Current Challenges for Students:

- Applying to multiple universities can be costly, and most universities will not process an application until the fee is paid.
- Transfer and graduate students incur transcript fees to send transcripts to employers or other IHEs. Colleges and universities will not release transcripts if students have an outstanding balance.
- Orientation fees are mandatory, non-refundable, and must be paid prior to attending.

Updated Policies for Texas A&M University San Antonio:

- Beginning Fall 2020, application fee payment status will not impact application processing.
- Conditional Admissions with unofficial transcripts.
- Partnership with National Student Clearinghouse. *In Progress
- Beginning Fall 2022, orientation fees will be automatically included in tuition bill.

College/University	Application	Orientation	Transcript
Texas State University	\$75	\$115	\$10.30
UT Austin	\$75	\$310.50	\$20
Texas Tech University	\$75	\$175	\$8
Texas A&M University	\$75	\$225	N/A
TAMUCC	\$20	\$125	\$5.50-8
TAMUSA	\$15	\$150	\$5
UTSA	\$70	\$136	\$5
Alamo CC	Free	Free	\$5-7