



José Antonio Bowen, Ph.D., FRSA  
President

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

Goucher College  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21204  
410-337-6040  
president@goucher.edu  
twitter: @goucher prez  
www.goucher.edu

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Dear Goucher Students and Families,

As we approach the midpoint of the spring semester, students, faculty, and staff are already looking ahead to the Fall 2018 semester. Goucher continues on its path to becoming a leader in liberal arts innovation and in advocacy for access and equity in higher education. We are nearing the end of our first full year implementing a new curriculum, and for the first time in years, students will return this fall to a campus without major construction. This summer we will complete three major projects (two additional first-year residence halls, the restoration of Tuttle, and the new dining hall) to improve the quality of our residential life.

The college remains fully committed to providing an affordable education for all our students. The cost of attending Goucher remains below both the mean and median of our peer institutions, and last year we did not increase tuition at all. This forced us to examine how we spend every dollar as we continue to try to minimize costs without hurting student services or jeopardizing the quality of learning. I am committed to reducing expenses and to passing the savings along to students and families. We are doing everything possible to control costs. A group of faculty and staff, for example, are looking at options to replace most expensive textbooks with free open educational resources.

As inflation returns, we also want to provide cost-of-living increases for our staff and faculty. Every year we continue to provide as much need-based financial assistance as possible, and raising critical dollars for student scholarships remains one of our key priorities, but tuition remains our greatest source of revenue and salaries our largest expense. While I would like to reduce tuition every year, I can pledge at least to do everything possible to keep any increase in the inflation range indicated by the consumer price index (CPI). If your own economic circumstances have changed, or if you would like to explore what aid or loan options are available, please do not hesitate to contact our Financial Aid Office by visiting [www.goucher.edu/financialaid](http://www.goucher.edu/financialaid) or by calling 410-337-6141.

Despite our best efforts, we will need to increase our full-time undergraduate tuition for the 2018-19 year but have limited it to 1.9 percent. To help balance this, we will **not increase the cost of double rooms** for returning students next year (staying at \$7,500/year) and we have **lowered the per-meal costs** for next year's new meal-plan options. We have also taken immediate steps to ease the financial burden on returning students by eliminating the requirement to pay a fall enrollment and housing deposit in order to register for fall courses and select a fall room this spring.

With the new dining hall come new dining options, and our new plans of 10, 14, or 19 meals a week (that automatically renew each Sunday) should provide greater food security for all students. For the average full-time student then, the billable costs will be:

Tuition	\$ 43,412
Fees	\$ 888
Basic Double	\$ 7,500
14 Meals/week	\$ 5,840

In this example, next year's total billable costs for a returning student in a double room with a popular meal plan would be \$57,640, before any financial aid is taken into account.

We are announcing this now, ahead of most other colleges, because we are confident that we have done everything we can to balance supporting our faculty and staff and keeping costs low. We believe this increase will be lower than most other colleges. Combined with a tuition freeze last year, we think this only increases the value of a Goucher education.

A degree from Goucher is an excellent investment in the future, as now more than ever, employers are looking for graduates who can solve complex problems together with people who are not like themselves. For the Class of 2015, we have data on 267 members of the total class of 308, and are pleased to share that **99 percent of those individuals were employed and/or in graduate school within one year of graduation.** In this day and time, price keeps too many people out of higher education, or saddles them with unsustainable debt. Colleges must do our part to keep costs down, and at Goucher College, you have my commitment that we will continue to control operating costs without ever sacrificing the high standards for which we are known.

Sincerely,



José Antonio Bowen, Ph.D.  
President