

The tuition rate from 2019, not including the \$150 student activity fee.

\$38,300

Where does your tuition money go?

By Molly Wilson | Design by Bryson Rosell

The Clarion looked through the 'Form 990' tax document and 'Bethel University and Affiliates, Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information Years Ended May 31, 2021 and 2020' and talked to campus employees including Vice President of Finance Amy Blaz to get a sense of where tuition dollars go. Liz Miller denied the Clarion's request for information on the Health Counseling Services spending. The Clarion does not know precisely how much is allocated to specific funds. All information listed below is drawn from 2019 documents unless explicitly stated otherwise.

The breakdown

47%

Bethel provides \$44,043,003 of institutionally funded aid. That makes up about 47% of a student's tuition.

1%

1% of a student's tuition goes toward advertising to increase enrollment and donors.

4%

Retirement plans paid almost 5 million dollars in 2019-2020, accounting for 4% of students' tuition.

Alumni spent \$15 million in 2019 to pay for the new Nelson-Larson Science Center, Sodexo was paid almost \$5 million from board costs and Bethel received nearly \$90 million from traditional undergraduate tuition, all three years ago at the start of an unpredictable pandemic.

Number of full student tuitions required to cover particular costs and expenses at Bethel in 2019

32%

32% of students' tuition goes towards what is known as "instructional expenses," which includes the cost of classes, printing, public relations, information technology and other services.

5

5 students' tuition went toward Provost Deb Harless.

5.5

5.5 students' tuition covers post-retirement healthcare benefits.

9.5

9.5 students' tuitions covered the salary and benefits of President Jay Barnes in 2019.

11.5

11.5 students' tuition covers self-funded health care plans provided by Bethel.

5%

There are also a few miscellaneous expenses covered by tuition.

10%

10% of tuition money contributes to the total of \$62,229,806 which Bethel pays its employees.