

CDSP Undergraduate Per-Credit-Hour Course Fee – Frequently Asked Questions

Effective Fall 2025 | School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics (CDSP)

1. What is the CDSP per-credit-hour course fee?

Beginning **Fall 2025**, a supplemental **\$250 fee will be assessed for every credit hour you take in designated CDSP courses**. The fee was approved by William & Mary's Board of Visitors in April 2024 (Resolution 38R).

2. Why are these fees necessary?

The fee provides a dedicated, predictable revenue stream so CDSP can meet the unusually high instructional costs of its rapidly evolving disciplines. Specifically, it supports:

- **Faculty excellence in high demand fields** – Competitive salaries help W&M recruit and retain professors at the forefront of AI, cybersecurity, quantum physics, computational biology, and more.
- **Modern infrastructure (not deferred maintenance)** – GPU accelerated clusters, secure cloud environments, quantum optics labs, fabrication equipment, and other specialized resources require frequent upgrades.
- **Individual attention at scale** – Revenue funds new faculty lines and teaching assistants, keeping class sizes small and office hour access high as enrollment in tech focused majors grows.
- **Expanded facilities** – The opening of Integrated Science Center IV (ISC IV) adds state-of-the-art laboratories and collaborative spaces for CDSP departments. Operating and outfitting these new labs is a major cost driver, making this the right moment to implement the fee.
- **Parity with other discipline specific fees** – Like the per credit charges long in place at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business and in certain graduate programs, the CDSP fee aligns costs with the resources required to deliver a premium learning experience.

In short, the fee ensures CDSP can deliver worldclass teaching and research opportunities focused on the future, without diluting W&M's hallmark student faculty engagement.

3. Who will be charged?

Only students who **first matriculate at William & Mary in Fall 2025 or later** pay the fee when they enroll in designated CDSP courses. Students continuously enrolled before Fall 2025 are grandfathered and **never** pay the fee.

4. Which courses carry the fee?

The fee applies to any undergraduate student enrolled in an eligible course offered by the **Computer Science, Data Science, Applied Science** and **Physics** departments. The courses that carry a fee are identified in the course description when registering for the class.

5. Will financial aid or scholarships cover the fee?

Absolutely. The Financial Aid Office automatically **adds the fee to your cost-of-attendance**, so need-based grants adjust upward. Merit scholarships, VA benefits, 529 plans, and employer tuition benefits can all be applied to the fee.

6. How will students benefit?

- **Computer Science & Data Science:** More faculty in software engineering, machine learning, and AI; access to high-performance computing; smaller project labs.
- **Applied Science:** Up-to-date instrumentation for robotics, biofabrication, and materials science, plus expanded undergraduate research stipends.
- **Physics:** Smaller lab sections, regularly refreshed lab equipment for mechanics, quantum information science, electronics and instrumentation, and more; leading to more hands-on research opportunities; stronger preparation for grad school or tech careers.

7. How and when is the fee billed?

The Bursar assesses the fee each semester based on your enrollment. It appears on your tuition statement and follows the same payment deadlines as tuition.

8. Are there any exceptions or future changes?

Additional exemptions or adjustments may be approved by the CDSP Dean in consultation with the Provost to maintain equity. The policy is reviewed at least every three years.

9. Where can I get more information?

- **Bursar's Office:** billing questions
- **Financial Aid Office:** aid adjustments, scholarship questions
- **CDSP Dean's Office:** policy questions, course lists, or requests for exemption