Graduate Student Senate

Resolution 10.19.2026.2

A Resolution Calling for a Semesterly Printing Credit for Graduate Students

Sponsor(s): Collin A. Coil, President of the GSS
Date Introduced: October 26, 2026

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont (UVM) charges students $0.05 per black-and-white side and $0.25 per color side to print at University printers, payable only through a CAT$cratch account;[1] and

WHEREAS, adding funds to a CAT$cratch account requires a minimum deposit of $5 by credit card at library kiosks, and a minimum deposit of $20 plus a $2 fee through online or mobile deposit,[2] so that a student who needs to print a ten-page document costing $0.50 must first commit at least ten times that amount; and

WHEREAS, these minimums fall hardest on graduate students living on fixed stipends and on students who print only occasionally, and they add a deposit step to routine academic tasks such as printing course materials, exams, forms, and research documents; and

WHEREAS, American University in Washington, D.C., provides every student $25 per semester in printing funds,[3] and its Washington College of Law provides $100 per semester;[4] and

WHEREAS, institutions across New England provide recurring printing credits, including Middlebury College in Vermont ($30 per term, and $60 for Middlebury Institute graduate students),[5] Mount Holyoke College ($20 per semester, not carried over),[6] Boston College ($15 per term),[7] Rhode Island College ($25 per semester for graduate students),[8] and Tufts University,[9] whose printing allowance originated in a 2016 student senate resolution;[10] and

[1] UVM Libraries, "How can I pay for printing?," Ask a Librarian, https://askalibrarian.uvm.edu/faq/419363.

[2] UVM CATcard Service Center, "CAT$cratch," https://www.uvm.edu/catcard/catcratch.

[3] American University Library, "Printing," https://www.american.edu/library/services/printing/.

[4] American University Washington College of Law, Pence Law Library, "Printing at WCL," https://wcl.american.libguides.com/printing.

[5] Middlebury College Information Technology Services, "Student Print Quotas," https://www.middlebury.edu/information-technology-services/services/printing/student-print-quotas.

[6] Mount Holyoke College Library, "With this new system does printing allowance money carry over to the next semester if it goes unused?," LibAnswers, https://libanswers.mtholyoke.edu/faq/112542.

[7] Boston College Information Technology Services, "Student Printing (PaperCut)," https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/offices/its/support/account-network-access/printing.html.

[8] Rhode Island College, James P. Adams Library, LibAnswers, https://ric.libanswers.com/faq/75424.

[9] Tufts University, "JumboPrint (on-campus printing)," https://access.tufts.edu/jumboprint.

[10] "Students Receive Stipends for Campus Printing," *The Tufts Daily*, March 16, 2017, https://tuftsdaily.com/news/2017/03/16/students-receive-stipends-campus-printing.

WHEREAS, UVM students have asked for a printing allowance of this size since at least 2016, when an opinion piece in *The Vermont Cynic* proposed a $20 allowance;[11] and

WHEREAS, the University's strategic plan, *Green, Gold, and Bold*, commits UVM under Pillar 3 to "Improve Affordability and Access to Resources" through creative solutions that meet students' financial needs,[12] and removing disproportionate fees and minimum balance requirements would improve access to printing resources; and

WHEREAS, Pillar 4 of the strategic plan commits UVM to processes and resources that are accessible, efficient, and clear, and to a streamlined, user-centered digital experience,[13] which a credit loaded automatically to existing accounts would advance by removing the deposit step for routine printing; and

WHEREAS, a fixed, use-it-or-lose-it credit preserves the per-page price that encourages responsible printing and caps the University's cost at the face value of the credit, consistent with Pillar 4's commitment to stewardship and sustainability[14] and with the print quota systems that peer institutions have adopted to reduce paper waste;[15] and

WHEREAS, at current rates a $20 credit covers 400 black-and-white sides,[16] which is sufficient for routine academic printing while limiting the University's maximum cost to $20 per student per semester; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) calls on the University of Vermont to establish a printing credit of $20 per semester for every enrolled graduate student, loaded automatically at the start of each fall and spring semester, usable only for printing and copying at University printers, non-transferable and non-refundable, and expiring at the end of the semester in which it is issued; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the GSS requests that the printing credit be applied to print jobs before any personal CAT$cratch funds, so that student deposits are preserved for other uses; and be it further

[11] "The Trials and Tribulations of Printing," *The Vermont Cynic*, October 2016, `https://vtcynic.com/opinion/the-trials-and-tribulations-of-printing/`.

[12] University of Vermont, "Pillar 3: Create Opportunity," *Green, Gold, and Bold* Strategic Plan, `https://www.uvm.edu/president/strategicplanning/create-opportunity`.

[13] University of Vermont, "Pillar 4: Enable Excellence," *Green, Gold, and Bold* Strategic Plan, `https://www.uvm.edu/president/strategicplanning/enable-excellence`.

[14] See note 13.

[15] See, e.g., Michael Roy, Dean of Library and Information Services, Middlebury College, announcement of student print quotas citing environmental goals, `https://sites.middlebury.edu/lis/?p=20981`; Massachusetts College of Art and Design, "Policy on Student Printing on Campus," `https://servicehub.massart.edu/TDClient/173/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=4018`.

[16] Calculated at the $0.05 per-side rate cited in note 1.

RESOLVED, That the GSS encourages the University to extend the printing credit to all enrolled students and welcomes partnership with the Student Government Association in that effort; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the GSS requests that the University review the minimum deposit amounts and the $2 online deposit fee as they apply to students loading funds for printing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the GSS requests that UVM Libraries and the CATcard Service Center share aggregate usage data after the first academic year of the program, so that the amount of the credit can be evaluated and adjusted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the GSS transmit this resolution to President of the University, the Provost, the Dean of the Graduate College, and the Student Government Association.

Collin Coil

Adopted by the Graduate Student Senate on: October 26, 2026
President, Graduate Student Senate