

FAQ SHEET

What is a Referendum?

A referendum is an official vote by a specific group of people on a single issue or proposal. TAMU-CC students are being asked to accept or reject a proposal to increase the Health Center fee.

Why is the Health Center having a referendum vote?

The Health Center does not have the staff or resources to meet the demands of our current student body. Currently the Health Center is turning away at least 5-10 students a day.

Due to rising costs, the current Health Center fee cannot sustain future operating costs of the Health Center, and therefore we cannot add services or staff. With additional costs being assessed for maintenance, utilities, and staff costs, health center services will have to be reduced if there is not a fee increase. Additional charges may have to be assessed to students for each visit in the future.

Does there have to be a referendum to raise the Health Center fee?

By law, we must have a referendum (student vote) to make a substantive change to the Health Center fee.

What am I currently paying for the Health Center fee?

Students enrolled in full-term semesters now pay \$60 in Fall and Spring for the Health Center fee. Students pay \$25 for each summer session and this will not change.

The fee is pro-rated for students enrolled in 7-week courses.

What services does the Health Center provide for students who pay the Health Center fee?

The Health Center’s primary emphasis is on the treatment of acute illnesses and minor injuries, preventive health care and health education. Currently students who pay the Health Center fee are allowed multiple appointments during the semester. **Office visits are free.** There are reduced fees for lab work, medications and over-the-counter products.

Services include the acute care medical clinic, lab services, women’s health clinic, the ‘Ask-a-Nurse’ line, preventive medicine services and referrals to community providers.

How much is the Health Center fee at other Universities in Texas?

TAMU Prairie View	\$75.00/fall and spring semester
TAMU International	\$75.00/fall and spring semester
TAMU Commerce	\$75.00/fall and spring semester
TAMU College Station	\$75.00/fall and spring semester
TAMU West Texas	\$70.00/fall and spring semester
TAMU Tarlton	\$4.95/credit hour

What is the proposed Health Center fee?

The proposed Health Center fee would change from a flat fee of \$60 a semester for the fall and spring Semesters to a flat fee of \$75 for fall and spring semesters. This is a \$15 increase. *Only new incoming students, graduate students, international students and students not enrolled in the Guaranteed Tuition plan would pay this new fee.

The Health Center fee for Summer Sessions I and II would not change and will be \$25 each term.

This is only the 2nd time since the inception of the Health Center in 1994 that the fee will be changed through a referendum.

I use Veteran benefits, Hazelwood or other exemptions, how will I be affected?

The fee increase will be factored into the “cost of attendance” for financial aid purposes, so most students would be minimally impacted. If your fees are currently covered by an exemption, that would continue.

How much does it cost for an office visit at the Health Center?

Currently, the Health Center fee allows for multiple visits to the Health Center. There is no charge for office visits and reduced fees for lab work, medications and over-the-counter products.

How much would it cost for one office visit at a local Urgent Care Center?

Bay Area Quick Care	\$ 85.00/office visit
Christus Trinity Urgent Care	\$126.01/office visit
Stat Care Urgent Care	\$85.00/office visit
Concentra Urgent Care	\$185/office visit
Access Total Care Corpus Christi	\$100/office visit

If the Referendum is approved, what benefits could students see?

- an increase in health provider appointments
- return of free flu shots to students
- walk-in “triage” station that will quickly evaluate students to determine urgency of medical need
- increase in outreach efforts and educational programs offered
- additional staff hired to manage student demand for services

I understand there is a “non-binding” question on the ballot? What is the question? What does ‘non-binding’ mean?

When there is a vote to increase the University Health Center fee, the University is obligated by Texas law to also ask students if they think the responsibility of providing medical services to students should be the responsibility of the institution (University employees) or a private entity (non-University employees).

This is a “non-binding” question, meaning that the University does not have to act on the outcome of the vote (i.e., change the way they provide health services to students).

If the Referendum passes, when will the fee increase take place?

The fee increase will take effect for the 2026 Fall semester for new incoming students, students not enrolled in the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, graduate students, and international students.

When can I vote?

Referendum voting takes place on November 3 – 5, 2025. The ballot will open at 9:00am on November 3, 2025 and close at 5:00pm November 5, 2025.

How do I know if I am eligible to vote?

All currently enrolled students are eligible to vote ***except for*** dual-credit students and university employees enrolled through the Employee Betterment Program.

Where can I vote?

Voting for the referendum will occur on I-Engage.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the Referendum?

Questions? Contact the University Health Center by phone at 361.825.2601 or by email at health.center@tamucc.edu.

You can also visit the Health Center website at <http://healthcenter.tamucc.edu> .