Wellness Fee FAQs

How much is the Wellness Fee?
The Wellness Fee is $300 per year.
$150 – fall semester (August 1 – December 31)
$150 – spring semester (January 1 – July 31)
$  75 – new students entering May 1 – July 31 only

Why is this fee assessed?
The Wellness Fee supports programs and services offered at the MUSC Wellness Center.

Can I opt out of the Wellness Fee?
Students enrolled in residential programs cannot opt out of the fee. The Wellness Fee was approved by the Deans and Board of Trustees in April 2017 and subsequently presented to the Student Government Association. Residential students are automatically assessed the fee in the fall and spring semesters as part of the cost of attendance. Financial Aid can be used to pay the fee.

Why can't I opt out of the Wellness Fee?
MUSC, as is the case with most other universities, does not permit students to opt out of eligibility for any of the services provided to support students’ academic success and well-being. In addition to the Wellness Center, these services include Student Programs, Counseling and Psychological Services, the Center for Academic Excellence, Student Health and others. Use of these services varies by student; some students use specific services more than others. 2,500 students are members of the Wellness Center.

Does the Wellness Fee allow students to access to the Center after graduation?
No. Student access to all student support services ends after graduation. Graduated students can work with the Wellness Center Membership Desk to establish a different type of membership.

Are part-time students assessed the Wellness Fee?
Yes, part-time residential students have full access to the Center and are assessed the same fee.
Are students who matriculate in May through July assessed the Wellness Fee?
Residential students who first enter MUSC May 1 through July 31 will be assessed a fee of $75. The fee will appear on the student’s tuition statement.

How do residential students access the Wellness Center and services?
Residential students use their student ID badges to access the facility and services anytime during operational hours.

How do online (web) students use the facility and services?
MUSC online (web) students who wish to use the facility must pay $150/per semester ($300 for 12-mos) at the Wellness Center membership desk. Your student ID badge will be activated to grant access the facility at that time. Financial Aid cannot be used to cover this cost.

$150 for fall semester: August 1-December 31
$150 for spring/summer semester: January 1 – July 31
$ 75 for new students entering May 1 – July 31 only

How will the Wellness Fee benefit me directly?
Funds are used to promote a healthy campus and provide a first-rate, comprehensive wellness facility and other programs including intramural sports, student employment opportunities, group exercise classes, and other events to support student wellness. As an academic health care center, MUSC strives to provide one of the healthiest college campuses in the United States by offering students top-notch fitness facilities and robust medical and mental health services.

Why does the Wellness Center need funds to support student use?
The MUSC Wellness Center exists first and foremost to support a culture of health and wellness for students. MUSC employees and members of the community-at-large can join the Wellness Center. Their fees support the operation of the Center and allow us to provide a comprehensive, top-notch facility that would not be otherwise feasible. The Wellness Center has earned revenue (now $3.7M annually) and reduced costs year after year. However, overhead costs continue to rise. The university funds most of the costs associated with students’ use of the Center, and the new fee will cover the remaining costs for students. The Wellness Center is a “break even” operation and does not generate a profit.

Do students value the Wellness Center?
Yes, students highly value the Wellness Center and are extremely satisfied with services. MUSC students report high satisfaction levels year after year across all colleges.
2017 Student Satisfaction Results
- 97% Agree the Wellness Center “Met My Needs”
- 96% Value the Wellness Center
- 98% Agree Wellness Center staff are caring and helpful

2016 Student Satisfaction Results
- 99% Agree the Wellness Center “Met My Needs”
- 97% Value the Wellness Center
- 98% Overall Student Satisfaction

Do other schools charge a Wellness Fee?
All universities charge student tuition and fees. At least two-thirds of MUSC students attended undergraduate schools that assessed a similar Wellness Fee.

What’s included with my membership?
- 80 group exercise classes per week
- Open 7 days a week
- Full access to fitness facilities
  - Jr. Olympic swimming pool
  - Indoor/Outdoor Running tracks
  - Gymnasium
  - Yoga & Pilates Studios
  - Free weight area
  - Group Cycle Studio
  - Racquetball/Squash courts
  - Outdoor sports deck/track/tennis/basketball courts (open Fall 2017)
  - Over 100 pieces of cardiovascular equipment
  - 3,000 sq. ft. Group Exercise Studio
  - Beautiful Outdoor Relaxation Garden
- Fresh towels (accredited cleaning standards)
- Students discounts for fee-based programs and services
- Instruction from MUSC expert fitness and health professionals

Does the Wellness Center have a plan to contain future costs?
Yes, we have a proactive plan in place to control student costs. As one example to keep costs low for students, we offer memberships and programs to employees and community members. Paying memberships are at an all-time high. Over recent years, the Center has grown revenue over 200% while decreasing operating costs. This helped delay the necessity for a student
Wellness Fee. Many universities adopted a separate student wellness or recreation fee years ago.

**Does the Wellness Center support the teaching and research mission of the university?**
Yes, the Center supports the teaching and research mission of the university. It provides learning experiences for students and offers a wide range of programs for chronic disease management. These include cancer, Parkinson’s disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and musculoskeletal and neurological disorders. We also have national award-winning programs such as the Healthy Charleston Challenge and the Piece It Together specialty Program for Teens and Adults with Autism Spectrum and/or Mild Neurodevelopment Disorders.

**Does the Wellness Center support the clinical care mission of MUSC?**
Yes. As a vital part of an academic medical center, the Wellness Center creates new revenue through clinical/health referrals to MUSC Health. An impressive percentage of our members report that they chose to use MUSC clinical services for health care for the first time after using the Wellness Center facility and/or services.

**How did the university arrive at the decision to assess a Wellness Fee?**
We reached this decision only after careful consideration of other options. We share students’ concerns regarding the costs of attending MUSC and regret that it became necessary to assess a fee to cover rising expenses associated with students’ use of the center. We delayed this as long as possible and now are bringing MUSC into alignment with fees at many other schools.