



Oregon
University
System

Q&A FOR STUDENTS ON TUITION EQUITY

1. What is “tuition equity” in the Oregon University System (OUS)?

Tuition equity in OUS means that undocumented students who earn a high school diploma or GED in Oregon and meet certain other requirements will be allowed to pay resident tuition rates, and will not be required to pay nonresident tuition rates for a set period of time. On April 2, 2013, Governor John Kitzhaber signed into law the legislative bill on tuition equity, House Bill 2787, directing the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to provide tuition equity at Oregon’s public universities.

2. When a student seeks information on this new Oregon Law, should they look up “tuition equity”?

While many people know this new law as “tuition equity,” students will see it named here and in other documents as the “**exemption from nonresident tuition and fees**” for eligible undocumented students. To be exempt from nonresident tuition rates means that a student is allowed to pay the lower resident tuition rates instead.

3. How does a student request an Exemption from Nonresident Tuition and Fees?

A student requests an exemption by completing an ***Affidavit and Request for Exemption from Nonresident Tuition and Fees***, which is available at the Admissions Office of each OUS university and at www.ous.edu. Students should note that part of this Affidavit must be completed in the presence of a Notary Public and notarized. Students should also check with the campus admissions office to learn about any campus-specific procedures they will need to follow.

4. Who is eligible for the exemption from nonresident tuition and fees (otherwise known as tuition equity)?

A student needs to meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for the exemption:

- Student received a high school diploma or GED in Oregon no more than three years before initially enrolling in an OUS institution
- Student attended an elementary school or secondary/high school in Oregon during each of the three years prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma
- Student attended an elementary school or secondary/high school in a state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in each of the five years prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma
- Student shows intention to become a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States

5. How does a student demonstrate the required “intention to become a citizen or permanent resident”?

The student needs to provide documentation in order to show this intention. The statements required are included in the ***Affidavit and Request for Exemption from Nonresident Tuition and Fees***.

The following documentation is required:

- a. Student submits (in the Affidavit) a statement that application has been made for a federal individual taxpayer identification number or other federal identification document, **AND**
- b. Student submits (in the Affidavit) a statement of intent to seek to obtain U.S. citizenship as permitted by federal law, **OR** student submits an official copy of application for registration with a federal immigration program or federal deportation deferral program

6. How long will students be allowed to use the exemption?

Eligible students will be allowed to pay resident tuition, and will be exempt from paying nonresident tuition, for a **maximum of five calendar years from the date of initial enrollment** at an OUS institution. For example, if a student begins classes on Monday, September 30, 2013 (the first day of fall term, 2013) he or she can pay resident rates through September 29, 2018.

7. If students transfer into an OUS university after beginning at a community college after high school graduation, will they be eligible for the resident tuition rates?

Yes, as long as they meet all the criteria (above), including initial enrollment in an OUS public university **within three calendar years** of high school graduation or GED completion.

8. If a student transfers from one OUS university to another, how does that affect the five year maximum eligibility?

The exemption from non-resident tuition rates can only be used for a total of **five years** while enrolled in any of the campuses of the Oregon University System, regardless of how many times a student transfers.

9. Can a student take a term or more time off school and still use the exemption?

Yes, but the five year maximum still applies. For example, a student taking time off for one year after initial enrollment in an OUS university, will lose one year of the exemption but will be able to use the remaining years when they return to college until the five year maximum is reached.

10. Can a student attend a university part-time and still use the exemption?

Yes, but the five year maximum still applies. In order to reach degree goals, students should work with their universities and programs to plan their appropriate coursework over the course of five years.

11. Can a student use the exemption for both undergraduate and graduate enrollment?

Yes, but the five year maximum still applies for all. Again, in order to reach educational goals, students should work with their universities and programs to plan their appropriate coursework over the course of five years.

12. When does the tuition equity law take effect—when can students begin paying resident tuition rates at OUS universities?

The law takes effect on July 1, 2013, and students who are found eligible for the exemption will be allowed to pay resident rates starting in fall term, 2013.

13. Which public universities in Oregon provide this exemption?

Currently, the following Oregon public universities provide the exemption from nonresident tuition and fees for students as of fall term, 2013. These universities are:

- Eastern Oregon University (www.eou.edu/admissions)
- Oregon Institute of Technology (www.oit.edu/prospective-students/admissions)
- Oregon State University (oregonstate.edu/admissions)
- Portland State University (www.pdx.edu/admissions)
- Southern Oregon University (www.sou.edu/admissions)
- University of Oregon (admissions.uoregon.edu)
- Western Oregon University (www.wou.edu/student/admissions)

14. How can I find out more about the exemption?

For information, contact the Admissions Office at one of the seven public universities listed above.

15. Do students automatically receive the Exemption as soon as they are eligible?

No, students must request an Exemption using the Affidavit and Request for Exemption form. Once eligibility is determined, the Exemption becomes effective beginning with the next academic term.