

Tuition & Financial Aid



Tuition makes up about 70% of the Educational and General funding, with more than 75% of tuition coming from undergraduate instruction. Resident undergraduate, non-resident undergraduate and Ecampus tuition are each 20% to 29% of the tuition revenues, totalling about \$400M.

Oregon State University is a special type of university. There are about 4,050 higher education institutions in the U.S. of which 680 are public four-year universities. Of the 680 public universities, 71 are Land Grant institutions (excluding the tribal colleges), 80 are Research 1 or R1 universities (very high research doctoral institutions), and only 34 are both Land Grants and R1 universities. OSU is one of the R1 Land Grant insitutions.

Table 1: Tuition Comparisons

Tuition Comparisons to OSU Peer Institutions		
	ANNUAL TUITION	
	Resident	Non-Resident
Undergraduate (Academic Year)		
Oregon State University	9,075	27,735
Median Strategic Peers	9,530	28,156
Median Peer Land Grant Institutions	9,635	28,215
Median Public PAC-12	9,909	34,382
Graduate (Academic Year)		
Oregon State University	12,339	22,761
Median Strategic Peers	11,224	26,604
Median Peer Land Grant Institutions	10,997	26,529
Median Public PAC-12	11,220	27,837
CREDIT HOUR COST		
Online (per credit, semester basis)	Undergrad	Graduate
Oregon State University	432	792
Median All Programs	440	627
Median Peer Institutions	476	606
Median Other Online	378	637

OSU’s tuition is similar to our peers in the public R1 institutions (Table 1)¹. Academic year tuition is for 15 credits per term for undergraduates and 12 credits per term for graduates.

However, tuition is only one part of the cost for students. Students also have costs for fees, room and board, books, transportation, and incidentals. Every university provides a cost of attendance estimate annually (Table 2):

Tuition only sets the list price for attendance. For many students, the actual cost is reduced by

awards of financial aid. Grant aid (which students do not have to pay back) comes from three sources: university aid (paid for out of tuition revenues), governmental grants (mostly Federal), and privately funded scholarships. Over the last 7 years institutional aid and

Table 2: Cost of Attendance

2017-2018 Cost of Attendance Estimates		
	Resident	Non-Resident
Oregon State University	26,046	44,707
Average Strategic Peers	27,839	47,523
Average Peer Land Grant Institutions	27,680	47,697
Average Public PAC-12	28,747	51,960
Median Strategic Peers	27,036	46,834
Median Peer Land Grant Institutions	27,168	47,085
Median Public PAC-12	27,884	51,469

¹ Strategic peers include Ohio State, Penn State, UC Davis, Purdue, Florida, Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado State, NC State, UC Riverside, Tennessee and Washington State. Other land grants used include Michigan State, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, Louisiana State, Kansas State, Arizona, and Georgia. Online comparisons include Penn State, Florida, Colorado State, Washington State and a number of other online programs ranked highly by U.S. News and World report.

scholarship aid have grown much faster than governmental aid, but even these sources are only keeping up with the growth in tuition and student numbers, not reducing the overall unmet need (Table 3).

Table 3: Change in Grant Aid from FY2010 to FY2017

Change in Principal Financial Aid Grant Sources			
	FY2010	FY2017	Change
Student Head Count	22,580	31,476	39.4%
Resident Undergraduate Tuition	5,436	9,075	66.9%
Non-Resident Tuition	18,360	27,735	51.1%
Institutional Waivers	17,280,517	37,439,801	116.7%
Federal Grants	26,288,456	30,606,022	16.4%
State Grants	6,292,665	8,433,455	34.0%
Scholarships	24,311,066	50,405,924	107.3%

Financial need is measured by the difference between cost of attendance and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), a measure defined by Federal financial aid guidelines. Unmet need is what is left after grants, work study, and subsidized loans. That unmet need is typically greater than \$5,000 for resident students with an EFC of <\$14,000 and for non-resident students with an EFC < \$18,000. Over 50% of OSU's resident undergraduate students and over 40% of the non-resident undergraduate students fall in the three lowest expected family contribution (EFC) categories.

Student debt does fill the unmet need gap for some students, but the level of debt varies greatly. At OSU, for 2016-17 graduated undergraduate students who started OSU as freshmen:

- Graduates (starting as true freshmen) = 2,814
- With debt at graduation = 1,611 or 57%
- Without debt at graduation = 1,203 or 43%
- Average level of indebtedness upon graduation = \$26,134
- Median level of indebtedness upon graduation = \$24,742

In addition, student debt is distributed differently, by level of study. Nationally in 2015, of students with debt, 67% of undergraduates had debt of less than \$20,000 on graduation and 16% had debt of more than \$40,000; 33% of graduate and professional students with debt owed less than \$20,000 but 43% owed more than \$40,000.