

Annual Ecampus Headcount and SCH by Residency and Campus

The following document summarizes total Ecampus headcount, total Ecampus SCH, and total Ecampus SCH per student for Corvallis and distance (DSC) coded students based on their residency status (resident or non-resident). Additionally, there are figures that detail yearly growth rates of each group as well as a description of how the COVID-19 pandemic led to unusual growth rates in Ecampus headcount and SCH in AY2021. Note that spring 2021 registration is still open and that figures for AY21 are calculated as year-to-date and will likely increase in the coming weeks.

Annual SCH and SCH Growth

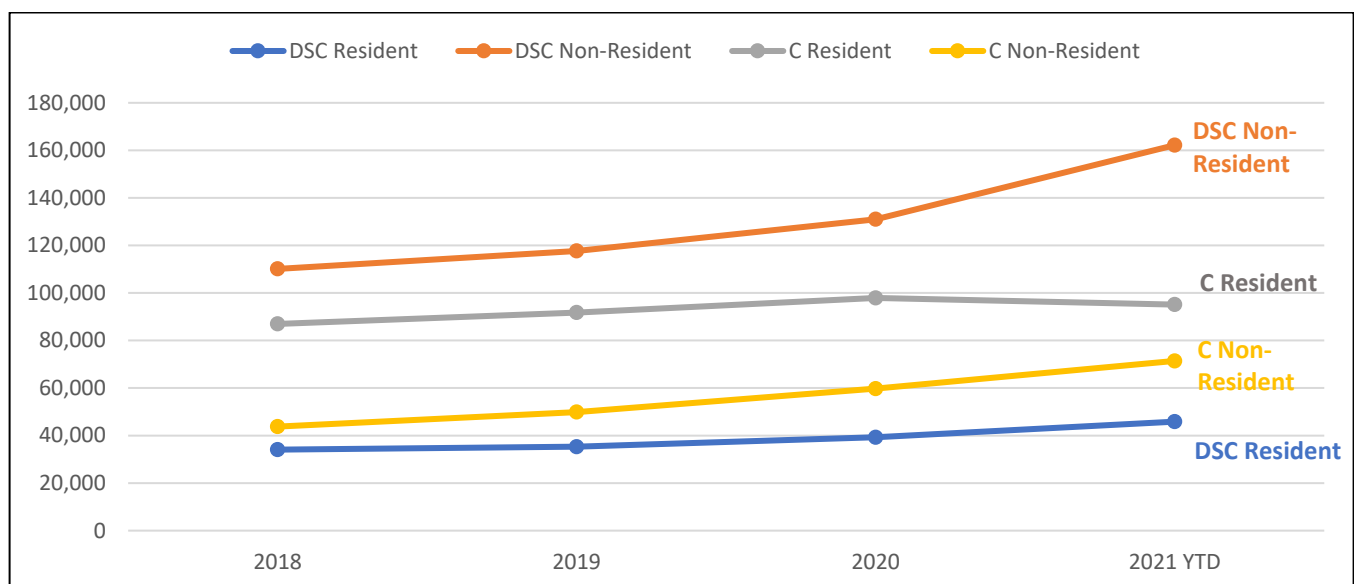
Corvallis non-residents, DSC residents, and DSC non-residents have already surpassed AY2020 SCH totals despite spring 2021 registration still being open. Table 1 shows yearly Ecampus SCH for Corvallis and DSC residents and non-residents as well as the proportion of total AY21 Ecampus SCH taken by each group. Figure 1 visualizes the same information.

Table 1: Annual Ecampus SCH by Student Campus and Residency

Campus Code and Residency Status	AY2019 SCH	AY2020 SCH	AY2021 YTD SCH	% of Total AY2021 SCH
C resident	91,768	97,900	95,106	25%
C non-resident	49,887	59,752	71,406	19%
DSC resident	35,323	39,266	45,850	12%
DSC non-resident	117,671	130,994	162,191	42%*

*Percentages do not add up to 100% since enrollment by Cascades, La Grande, and Portland students is not shown.

Figure 1: Annual Ecampus SCH by Student Campus and Residency



Ecampus SCH growth in AY21 for Corvallis non-residents, as well as DSC non-residents and residents, has already met the level observed in AY20. Corvallis residents are the only group that might ultimately show AY21 year-over-year growth in Ecampus SCH similar to AY20 growth.

Table 2: Annual Growth in Ecampus SCH

Campus Code and Residency Status	Change in Ecampus SCH		
	AY19	AY20	AY21 YTD
C resident	5.5%	6.7%	-2.9%
C non-resident	14.0%	19.8%	19.5%
DSC resident	3.6%	11.2%	16.8%
DSC non-resident	6.9%	11.3%	23.8%

Historically, both Corvallis and DSC-coded students have been taking more Ecampus SCH each year as reflected by the positive growth rates. Additionally, the growth rates in Ecampus SCH for each group have been increasing by approximately 1-7 percentage points each year. Of note in AY21 however, is the surprising increase in the growth rate in Ecampus SCH for DSC students and Corvallis non-residents despite spring 2021 registration being incomplete.

It is critical to note that there were temporary changes made to course modalities in AY21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the high growth in Ecampus SCH for Corvallis non-residents is not expected to continue far into the future.

Annual SCH per Student

Non-resident students from both campuses have been increasing their average Ecampus SCH totals more than their resident counterparts.

Table 3: Annual Average Ecampus SCH per Student by Campus and Residency

Campus Code and Residency Status	AY2019 SCH	AY2020 SCH	AY2021 YTD SCH	% Change AY20 to AY21*
C resident	9.4	9.8	10.2	3.6%
C non-resident	10.6	11.8	13.4	13.9%
DSC resident	18.1	18.0	18.7	3.6%
DSC non-resident	15.2	15.7	17.5	12.0%

*Percent changes are based on unrounded SCH per Student figures.

In the past three years, Corvallis students who have enrolled in Ecampus courses have taken an average of 3 Ecampus classes, and the average has been slightly greater for non-resident than for

resident students. Additionally, the average yearly number of Ecampus credits taken by Corvallis students grew faster for non-residents than residents, but most of that faster growth occurred in AY21.

Most Ecampus SCH completed by Corvallis non-resident students is at the undergraduate level, but that proportion is slowly dropping as more Corvallis students take graduate Ecampus courses. Specifically, undergraduate-level SCH accounted for 96.4% of total Corvallis-coded non-resident Ecampus SCH in AY18 and 94.7% of Ecampus SCH in AY21.

Annual Headcount

Corvallis non-residents along with DSC residents and non-residents have already surpassed AY2020 headcount totals in AY2021 as shown in Table 4 below. Corvallis residents are the only group that is lagging behind in total Ecampus headcount. Note that spring 2021 registration is still open as of the date of this report and that the figures for AY2021 will consequently increase from what is currently shown.

Table 4: Annual Ecampus Unduplicated Headcount by Campus and Residency

Campus Code and Residency Status	AY2019 Headcount	AY2020 Headcount	AY2021 YTD Headcount	AY2021 % of Total Headcount
C resident	9,786	9,951	9,334	34%
C non-resident	4,696	5,061	5,312	19%
DSC resident	1,947	2,179	2,455	9%
DSC non-resident	7,722	8,361	9,245	34%

Corvallis students have represented slightly more than half of the total Ecampus headcount in prior years, but that proportion is slowly decreasing as the DSC student population grows.

Table 5: Percentage of Ecampus Represented by Campus Students

	AY2018	AY2019	AY2020	AY2021YTD
% of Ecampus represented by campus students	62%	61%	60%	57%

Tables and Figure source: OSU data warehouse on 3/11/21 (BL)

Takeaways

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to faster growth in Ecampus SCH in AY21 for Corvallis and DSC coded non-resident students, as well as DSC resident students. Corvallis-coded resident students are the only group that is showing slower growth in Ecampus SCH. This much higher level of growth should not be expected in future years.
- Both residents and non-residents from Ecampus and Corvallis campuses have increased their Ecampus SCH over the past three years.
- Non-resident students from Corvallis and Ecampus increased their Ecampus SCH more than their Oregon-resident counterparts, particularly in AY21.
- Corvallis non-residents account for a little over 18% of Ecampus SCH. This percentage has increased about 1 percentage point per year: from 15.5% in AY18 to 18.5% in AY21 YTD.

Definitional notes

- Residency in this report refers to tuition residency, rather than current address.
- Ecampus courses in this report include any courses in the section number 400-499 range, and thus include some hybrid/PDX courses.
- Average annual SCH was calculated using the count of students who were residents or non-residents in the year listed. Note that <0.3% were both resident and non-resident in the same year, given mid-year status changes; this makes a small difference in the average SCH numbers.

Financial assessment of changing campus tuition charges for Corvallis students

Summary

A decision to charge academic year tuition by the student's primary campus would reduce per credit hour charges for resident students and increase charges per credit hour for non-resident students.

Based on FY20 credit hour distributions for Corvallis and Cascades (used on the assumption the distribution might be more "normal") such a change would net about \$3.0M in additional tuition, a combination of a net increase of \$12.5M in undergraduate non-resident tuition, a loss of \$8.0M in undergraduate resident tuition, a loss of \$0.1M of resident graduate tuition, and a loss of \$1.4M of non-resident graduate tuition. So, a change to charges based on campus code would net a modest increase in tuition but would have large changes in costs to different student groups.

If Summer term were treated the same way (Ecampus courses charged at Corvallis rates for Corvallis campus students) there would be an additional loss of \$3.5M (for an overall loss of \$0.5M). In summer, campus code is a less clear indication of where a student is when a course is taken so it may be preferable to leave summer as a per credit hour charge based on modality.

Assumptions

- The change would principally impact base tuition rates (differential rates per credit are usually the same for campus or Ecampus courses).
- The change does not account for any change in overall enrollment.
- There is a discount of 15% applied to the increase in non-resident undergraduate tuition to account for institutional financial aid applied to those increased costs.
- The tuition cost for Corvallis or Cascades graduate students taking Ecampus courses would drop to zero as most of those students will be within the graduate tuition plateau (same price from 9 credits to 16 credits). While a cost to overall revenue this would provide a benefit to grant paid tuition and to department budgets for graduate remissions.
- FY20 rates were used. The relative proportions of losses and gains are likely to be proportionately similar even given the increased Ecampus enrollments in FY21.

Data

Credit hour data used for FY20 is on the next page, along with the financial summary. One additional piece of information is a review we did a couple years ago showing the percentage of credit hours taken by Corvallis students had been consistently increasing through FY17:

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
UG Ecampus Corvallis of Undergrad SCH	5.1%	6.0%	6.8%	7.9%	9.3%	10.7%
Grad Ecampus Corvallis of Grad SCH	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%

Table 1: Credit hours taught by Ecampus binned by campus of student and level of student.

Ecampus SCH FY20 Fall, Winter, Spring								
		Non-res	Resident	Total	% of Total	Ecampus rate	Campus rate res	Campus rate NR
Undergraduate	Cascades	587	4,632	5,219	1.9%	309	205	632
	Corvallis	44,917	77,730	122,647	44.4%	309	212	632
	DSC	100,232	27,774	128,006	46.3%	309	N/A	N/A
	Lagrande	267	592	859	0.3%	309	N/A	N/A
	PDX	105	430	535	0.2%	309	N/A	N/A
Graduate	Cascades	13	25	38	0.0%	560	491	0
	Corvallis	2,419	1,671	4,090	1.5%	560	491	0
	DSC	8,534	5,694	14,228	5.2%	560	N/A	N/A
	Lagrande	-	-	-	0.0%	560	N/A	N/A
	PDX	132	452	584	0.2%	560	N/A	N/A
			157,206	119,000	276,206	100.0%		
Ecampus SCH FY20 Summer								
		Non-res	Resident	Total	% of Total	Ecampus rate	Campus rate res	Campus rate NR
Undergraduate	Cascades	135	1,115	1,250	2.0%	309	205	205
	Corvallis	13,159	20,866	34,025	53.6%	309	212	212
	DSC	20,508	4,616	25,124	39.6%	309	N/A	N/A
	Lagrande	3	85	88	0.1%	309	N/A	N/A
	PDX	22	51	73	0.1%	309	N/A	N/A
Graduate	Cascades	8	14	22	0.0%	560	491	491
	Corvallis	236	310	546	0.9%	560	491	491
	DSC	1,286	960	2,246	3.5%	560	N/A	N/A
	Lagrande	-	-	-	0.0%	560	N/A	N/A
	PDX	18	84	102	0.2%	560	N/A	N/A
		35,375	28,101	63,476	100.0%			

Table 2: Financial assessment based on the credit hour data for FY20

Academic Year FY20					
		Gross res. change	Gross NR change	Discounted positive Non-res 15%	Net
Undergrad	Cascades	(481,700)	189,600	161,200	(320,500)
	Corvallis	(7,539,800)	14,508,200	12,332,000	4,792,200
Graduate	Cascades	(1,700)	(7,300)		(9,000)
	Corvallis	(115,300)	(1,354,600)		(1,469,900)
Summer FY20 (if it is included)					
Undergrad	Cascades	(116,000)	(14,000)		(130,000)
	Corvallis	(2,024,000)	(1,276,400)		(3,300,400)
Graduate	Cascades	(1,000)	(600)		(1,600)
	Corvallis	(21,400)	(16,300)		(37,700)
Totals with Summer		(10,300,900)	12,028,600	12,493,200	(476,900)
Total without summer		(8,138,500)	13,335,900	12,493,200	2,992,800

Models and financial consequences of tuition plateaus for undergraduate tuition

Summary

OSU transitioned to a per credit hour undergraduate tuition structure from a plateau structure (that had the same price for 12 to 16 credits) during FY15 and FY16. The arguments for that change were that students benefiting from the plateau were more often those who could take full or greater loads and did not work or have other significant responsibilities (i.e. it was a benefit unevenly available). The arguments against were that it would discourage taking 15 credits per term thereby slowing progress to graduation, it makes financial aid awards more complex, and it discourages students from taking one or two-credit research, physical activity, and experiential learning courses. All of those arguments remain valid.

A transition back to a plateau can have significant impacts on both students' costs and university net revenues, depending on how it is instituted. OSU's move to use a more cohort-based undergraduate pricing may provide an opportunity to make this change for incoming cohorts if it is deemed advantageous.

Assumptions

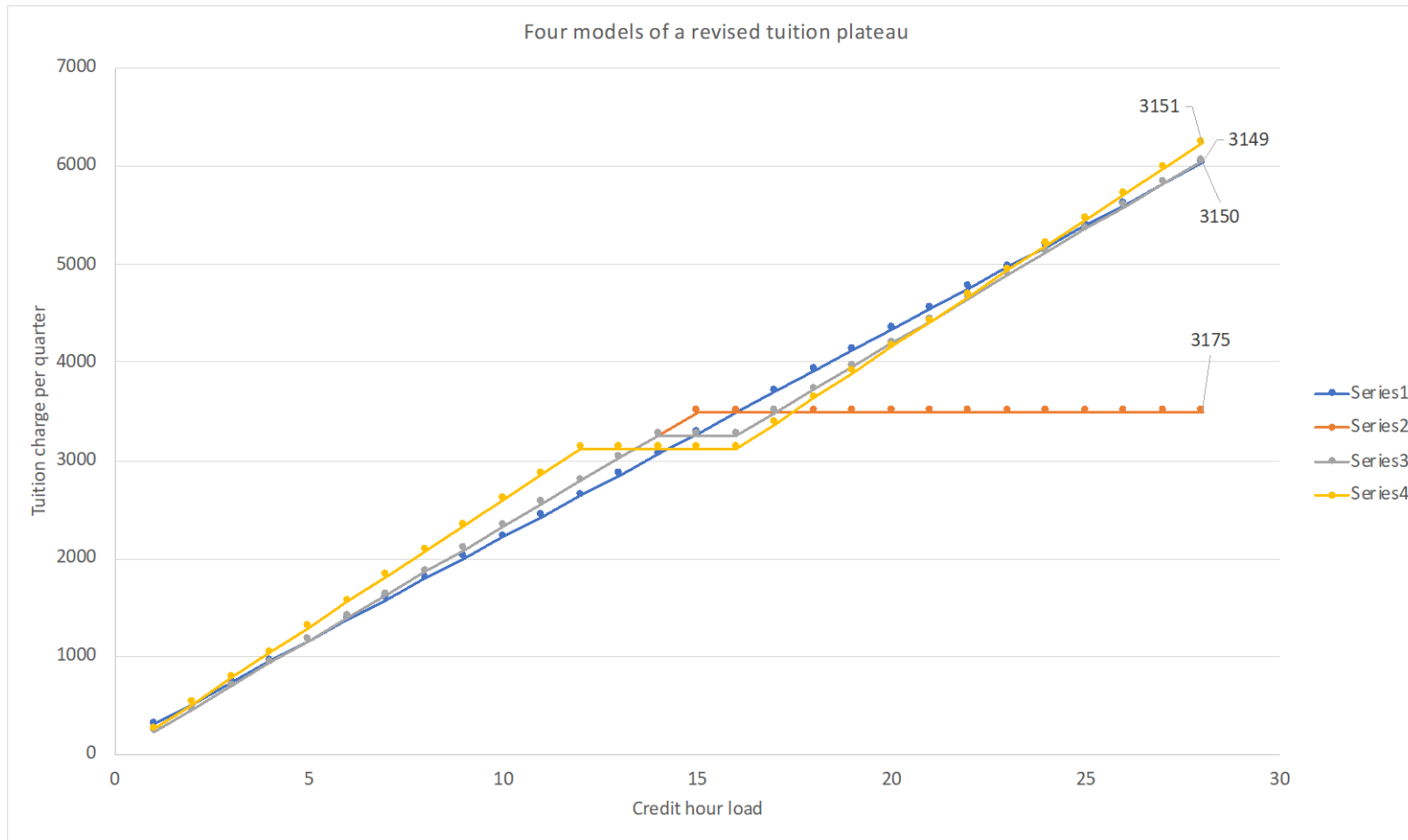
Three models of a tuition plateau were made and compared to the current undergraduate tuition charges. Some of the key assumptions:

- These were done for resident tuition, but the patterns and percentages changes will be similar for non-resident tuition.
- The modeling used the FY20 distribution of headcount by credit hour. This was used to calculate the average tuition per headcount.
- Each plateau model dropped the \$100 per student fixed charge (current resident undergraduate tuition is \$100 plus the per credit hour charge times the number of credit hours).
- The per credit hour charge was then adjusted to yield about the same tuition per headcount (i.e. effectively the same gross revenue)
- The model did not make any assumptions about additional financial aid.
- The data shows the plateau models, the headcount distribution, and the percentage change in cost for students in each credit hour headcount.
- If any particular approach had merit, there are a variety of ways those could be implemented.

Figures and tables

On the next pages I've included the graph of the three cases along with the current resident undergraduate rate structure. The next page includes the table showing the percentage change for students in each credit hour range and the distribution of undergraduate headcount by credit hour. Finally there is a graph showing an estimate of average per student course load over the last few years.

Figure 1: Illustration of the current resident undergraduate tuition structure (Series 1), a fixed-price model starting at 15 credits (Series 2), a 14 to 16 SCH plateau (Series 3), and a plateau like that in place prior to FY15 of 12 to 16 credits (Series 4). Per credit hour rates are adjusted to yield about the same average tuition per headcount (the numbers pointing to each curve).



Change from current tuition charge at each SCH level			
SCH	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4
1	-25.3%	-25.3%	-16.7%
2	-11.1%	-11.1%	-0.8%
3	-5.0%	-5.0%	6.0%
4	-1.7%	-1.7%	9.7%
5	0.4%	0.4%	12.1%
6	1.9%	1.9%	13.7%
7	3.0%	3.0%	14.9%
8	3.8%	3.8%	15.8%
9	4.4%	4.4%	16.5%
10	5.0%	5.0%	17.1%
11	5.4%	5.4%	17.6%
12	5.7%	5.7%	18.0%
13	6.1%	6.1%	9.2%
14	6.3%	6.3%	1.7%
15	6.6%	-0.5%	-4.9%
16	0.1%	-6.6%	-10.7%
17	-5.6%	-5.6%	-8.7%
18	-10.8%	-4.8%	-7.0%
19	-15.3%	-4.0%	-5.5%
20	-19.5%	-3.4%	-4.1%
21	-23.2%	-2.7%	-2.9%
22	-26.6%	-2.2%	-1.8%
23	-29.8%	-1.7%	-0.7%
24	-32.6%	-1.2%	0.2%
25	-35.3%	-0.8%	1.1%
26	-37.7%	-0.4%	1.9%
27	-40.0%	0.0%	2.7%
28	-42.1%	0.4%	3.4%

Table 1 (left). Percentage change in charge at different credit hour levels for the three models in Figure 1.

Table 2: Distribution of undergraduate headcount (as a percentage) by credit hour load.

Heacount	SCH
0.02%	1
0.02%	2
0.40%	3
0.40%	4
0.17%	5
0.60%	6
0.79%	7
1.19%	8
1.53%	9
1.28%	10
1.61%	11
17.38%	12
9.56%	13
12.74%	14
17.59%	15
17.68%	16
6.02%	17
5.07%	18
2.75%	19
0.99%	20
1.45%	21
0.21%	22
0.18%	23
0.20%	24
0.10%	25
0.04%	26
0.02%	27
0.01%	28

Figure 2: Rough estimate of average credit hour load per undergraduate (from CORE reports and some oddities in older data). This does show a drop that preceded the tuition plateau change (FY15 and FY16) and shows the significant drop in FY21.

