



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR STUDENTS ON TUITION EQUITY

1. What is “tuition equity”?

Tuition equity is an Oregon law that allows certain undocumented students who earn a high school diploma or Graduate Educational Development (GED) certificate 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”?

Yes, they should look it up as “tuition equity,” or as “exemption from nonresident tuition and fees” for eligible undocumented students.

3. How does a student request an exemption from nonresident tuition and fees?

A student requests an exemption by completing an *Request for Tuition Equity Form* and submitting it to the Office of Admissions. The Request for Tuition Equity form can be found at admissions.uoregon.edu/residency/tuition-equity

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
- Student attended an elementary school, middle school, or 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, middle school, or high school in a state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico during 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 lawful permanent resident or citizen of the United States

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

The student needs to check section 3 of the Request for Tuition Equity Form to show this intention.

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. For example, if a student begins classes on Monday, September 30, 2016, he or she can pay resident rates through September 29, 2021.

7. If students transfer into the UO 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 listed above, including initial enrollment within three calendar years of high school graduation or GED completion.

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

The exemption from nonresident tuition rates can only be used for a total of five years while enrolled, regardless of how many times a student transfers.

9. Can a student take a term or more off from 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 at the UO 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. To reach degree goals, students should work with their universities and programs to plan their appropriate course work over the five-year period.

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 the university and its programs to plan their appropriate course work over the five-year period.

12. When does the tuition equity law take effect? When can students begin paying resident tuition rates at UO?

The law took effect on July 1, 2013, and students who were found eligible for the exemption were allowed to pay resident rates fall term of 2013.

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

For information, visit the Office of Admissions online at admissions.uoregon.edu

14. Do students automatically receive the exemption as soon as they are eligible?

No, students must request an exemption using the Request for Tuition Equity Form. Once eligibility is determined, the exemption becomes effective beginning with the next academic term.

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