



Q AND A FOR STUDENTS ON TUITION EQUITY

1. What is “tuition equity”?

Tuition equity means that undocumented students who earn a high school diploma or Graduate Educational Development 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”?

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 Office of Admissions. Students should note that part of this affidavit must be completed in the presence of a notary public and notarized.

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 or secondary 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 or secondary school or 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
- Student has applied for a federal individual taxpayer identification number or official federal identification document

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

The student needs to provide documentation 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 US 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. 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 OUS 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 uoregon.edu/admissions.

14. 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.



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