



December 2006

2007 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options

Overview

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is required by state law (RCW 28B.15.754, 28B.15.736, and 28B.15.758) to report to the governor and legislature every two years on the status of Washington's state-level reciprocity agreements with Idaho, Oregon, and British Columbia. Reciprocity agreements allow some Washington students to attend college in other states and pay lower tuition rates, with similar arrangements for out-of-state students coming to Washington colleges and universities.

In addition to reciprocity, this report also reviews other student exchange options and tuition reductions available to Washington students who study at out-of-state colleges and out-of-state students who enroll at Washington institutions. Under these programs, out-of-state students pay a lower tuition rate than the published nonresident rates.

State governments and citizens benefit from student exchange agreements. For a participating state, access to outside programs may eliminate the need to maintain separate and possibly costly programs in some fields. Out-of-state enrollments also may give colleges and universities the critical mass to ensure the stability of certain programs and contribute to a wider range of cultural and ideological diversity at a state's colleges and universities. Colleges and universities determine the number of students who participate in exchange programs and some institutions identify the programs that are available to exchange students.

Opportunities to study beyond a state's borders may increase the likelihood for some students to attend college. This is especially true for students whose nearest college may be across a border in another state. For students with limited resources, out-of-state tuition may be too costly without an exchange program to reduce tuition or other fees.

State-Level Reciprocity Agreements

State law authorizes the HECB to enter into reciprocity agreements with Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia.* Beginning in the early 1980s, the board negotiated separate annual agreements with each of these neighboring states/province, specifying the number of students to be served and/or dollar amounts to be waived. Agreements were designed to provide tuition waivers for a limited number of Washington residents attending college at designated public institutions in another state, with equal (or nearly equal) waivers for the other state's residents at selected Washington public institutions.

The History of Reciprocity

Participating Students

In the early 1990s, more than 1,000 Washington residents attended college in a neighboring state/province, and a roughly equivalent number of nonresidents attended college in Washington under reciprocity provisions. The highest participation occurred in 1990-1991, when 1,314 Washington residents attended college in Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia and 1,103 students from these three locations went to school in Washington. The Washington/Oregon reciprocity agreement affected the largest number of students, with more than 900 Washington residents studying in Oregon and 800 Oregon residents enrolled in Washington institutions.

Participating Colleges and Universities

Until the early 1990s, reciprocity agreements covered the six public four-year colleges and universities and 10 community colleges in Washington. Similarly, Oregon's six public four-year institutions and eight community colleges participated in reciprocity. Idaho's participation included its four public four-year institutions, and a separate agreement was signed with a public two-year college in north Idaho. British Columbia's involvement included its four public four-year institutions and six two-year institutions.

Currently, only one Washington public four-year institution continues to participate in reciprocity, along with two community colleges. Two Washington state laws adopted in 1992 affected the state's reciprocity participation. The first law changed the nature of waivers, including reciprocity. Most waivers became permissive or discretionary for institutions and institutions chose which waiver programs to offer to students. The second law allowed institutions to collect and retain tuition revenue, giving them more control over tuition revenue and waivers. Previously, tuition was remitted to the state General Fund.

By the end of the 1990s, Oregon community colleges were continuing to participate in reciprocity, but only two of the four-year institutions remained. The Oregon agreement ended in 2001. Through the 1990s, British Columbia's various institutions continued to participate,

* Oregon reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.730-736

Idaho reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.750-754

British Columbia reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.756-758

but with a reduced number of students. The British Columbia agreement ended in 1999. Reciprocity with Idaho, which includes Idaho's public four-year institutions and one two-year college—along with one Washington four-year university and two community colleges—is the only formal reciprocity agreement still in existence.

The Current State of Reciprocity Agreements

Reciprocity with Idaho is ongoing and is facilitated through agreements with the Idaho State Board of Education and North Idaho College, a two-year public college. Past agreements specified waivers in terms of the number of students and the dollar amounts per student. However, at the suggestion of the Idaho State Board of Education, current agreements now specify the total value of tuition to be waived, but waiver amounts for individual students and numbers of students who receive waivers are at the discretion of each institution. Participating institutions in each state waive all or a significant part of the difference between resident tuition and nonresident tuition for students from the other state.

In the current agreement with the **Idaho State Board of Education**, Washington and Idaho each agree to waive \$850,000 for residents of the other state. This same total amount of waivers has been maintained for the past several years (and is higher than the amount waived by each state in the mid-1990s).

In the current agreement with **North Idaho College**, Washington and Idaho each agree to waive an annual amount of \$100,000 for residents of the other state. This amount is somewhat lower than agreements in the late 1990s, which reached \$125,000. This agreement limits Idaho participation to residents of five northern Idaho counties.

Specifics of the two Washington/Idaho agreements for 2005-06 and 2006-07, including dollar amounts to be waived by each participating institution, as well as estimated numbers of students expected to receive waivers in each state, are displayed in the table on the next page. It should be noted that the Washington/Idaho agreements are balanced to reflect dollars waived. Although institutions try to reach the agreed-upon waiver amounts, in some instances this is not possible.

For an individual student, the waived amount varies depending on the existing tuition rates in each state and the type of institution. The waived amount covers all, or a significant part, of the difference between resident and nonresident tuition rates – and the difference varies between the states. Resident tuition is about the same in Idaho and Washington, but nonresident tuition is higher in Washington. Therefore, individual Idaho residents receive a higher waiver amount in most cases. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, over 300 Washington residents participate in reciprocity at Idaho institutions, and about 200 Idaho residents participate in reciprocity at Washington institutions. In recent years (2003-04 and 2004-05), the number of participants was slightly lower.

Current Reciprocity Agreements: Washington/Idaho

Washington/Idaho State Board of Education – Reciprocity Waivers:

<u>State of Idaho</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>
Boise State University	\$ 93,500	\$ 93,500
Idaho State University	\$ 93,500	\$ 93,500
Lewis-Clark State College	\$229,500	\$229,500
University of Idaho	<u>\$433,500</u>	<u>\$433,500</u>
Total \$ Waived (approximate)	\$850,000	\$850,000
No. of Washington students full- & part-time (estimate)	300	300
 <u>State of Washington</u>		
Eastern Washington University	\$430,000	\$430,000
Walla Walla Community College	<u>\$420,000</u>	<u>\$420,000</u>
Total \$ Waived (approximate)	\$850,000	\$850,000
No. of Idaho students full- & part-time (estimate)	175	175

Washington/North Idaho College – Reciprocity Waivers:

<u>North Idaho College</u>		
Total \$ Waived (approximate)	\$100,000	\$100,000
No. of Washington students full- & part-time (estimate)	50	50
 <u>State of Washington</u>		
Eastern Washington University	\$ 73,000	\$ 73,000
Community Colleges of Spokane	<u>\$ 27,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,000</u>
Total \$ Waived (approximate)	\$100,000	\$100,000
No. of Idaho students full-time only (estimate)	20	20

Other Student Exchange and Tuition Reduction Programs Authorized Under Washington State Statutes

In addition to state-level reciprocity agreements negotiated by the HECB, institutions participate in other types of student exchange programs to reduce tuition for selected nonresident students. State statutes authorize various programs for institutions to grant waivers for all or a portion of nonresident tuition; these statutes do not require yearly state-level agreements. And, in most cases, waivers are granted at the discretion of the institutions. Below is a review of additional student exchange/tuition reduction programs that are authorized in statute. Where available, data on numbers of participants are provided.

WICHE Student Exchange Programs

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) facilitates three types of student exchange arrangements among the 15 participating western states. WICHE coordinates undergraduate, graduate, and professional exchange programs. The following is an overview of WICHE exchange programs. (Data are derived from: “*The Statistical Report, Student Exchange Programs, Academic Year 2005-2006*,” WICHE, December 2005.)

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

This exchange program includes some institutions from nearly all WICHE states. Students pay 150 percent of a state’s resident tuition, which is usually much lower than full nonresident tuition charges. Washington’s participation in the WUE program began in 1998. Currently, four Washington institutions participate: Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, and Washington State University. Participating institutions—in Washington and in other states—determine the number of students who will be accepted and the programs that will accommodate WUE students.

In fall 2005, Washington **received 774** students from WICHE states, including more than 300 from Idaho and Oregon. Washington **sent 2,957** students to other WICHE states, including more than 1,000 who studied in Idaho and Oregon.

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

Students pay resident tuition through this program. Two Washington institutions have been participating—Eastern Washington University and Washington State University—with a total of 10 graduate programs eligible for the WRGP (source: “*Western Regional Graduate Program 2004-2006*,” WICHE, October 2004). In addition, Central Washington University began participation in fall 2006 with one program (source: “*WRGP Programs to be added in 2006 and 2007*,” WICHE).

In 2005, Washington **received 55** students from other WICHE states and **sent 71** students to programs in other states.

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

This exchange facilitates enrollment in out-of-state professional programs. In addition to a tuition reduction for the student, the sending state pays a support fee to the receiving school. Washington sends students to out-of-state WICHE programs to study in two fields – optometry and osteopathic medicine. Several Washington public and private colleges and universities accept professional students and receive support from the sending state. Participating public institutions include the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Eastern Washington University.

In 2005-06, Washington **sent 13 students** and **received 97 students** (91 at public institutions and six at a private institution in Washington).

Border County Higher Education Opportunity Project

The border county project designates Oregon residents living in 13 of Oregon's northern border counties as Washington residents for purposes of tuition. It was instituted in 1999 in response to Oregon policies that provided reduced tuition to some Washington residents. Specifically, Oregon community colleges charged in-state tuition to Washington residents, and several public four-year institutions (including Portland State University) charged in-state tuition to Washington residents taking eight or fewer credits.

The border county project was enacted as a pilot during the 1999 legislative session and made permanent in 2003. WSU Vancouver and WSU Tri-Cities may charge in-state resident tuition to Oregon residents taking eight or fewer credits. Five community colleges, including Lower Columbia, Grays Harbor, Clark, Columbia Basin, and Walla Walla, may charge in-state tuition to Oregon residents. Participation by Oregon residents at Washington institutions has grown to several hundred since the establishment of the program.

Washington residents attending Oregon institutions have received similar benefits. Several hundred Washington residents have been able to enroll for eight or fewer credits and pay in-state tuition at Oregon's four-year public institutions. Furthermore, over 2,000 Washington residents at Oregon community colleges are able to enroll—full- or part-time—and pay in-state tuition rates.

In the current academic year (2006-07), the community colleges in Oregon continue to implement in-state tuition rates for nonresidents (including residents of Washington). However, it should be noted that starting in fall 2006, Portland State University (PSU) has indicated their intent to charge nonresidents—including those taking eight or fewer credits—the nonresident tuition rate. According to Oregon's tuition and fee policies, the part-time fee policy is optional and institutions may choose to apply the policy (source: "2006-07 Academic Year Fee Book," from the Oregon University System web site).

Non-Specific Tuition Waivers

A 1999 Washington state law allows institutions to “waive all or a portion of the operating fees [tuition] for any student” (RCW 28B.15.915). Although not limited to waivers of nonresident tuition, these waivers can be used for this purpose.

Many community colleges in Washington have applied this “non-specific” waiver provision to the nonresident portion of tuition for residents of other states. Although the formal reciprocity agreement with Idaho and the border county project with Oregon involve a number of students from these states, many other residents of these two states also receive tuition waivers at Washington community colleges based on this “non-specific” waiver statute. In 2003-04, nearly 2,500 students attending community colleges in Washington received a reduction of some portion of their nonresident tuition based on provisions of this statute.

Students of Foreign Nations

State laws permit institutions to provide waivers to students of foreign nations. Four-year colleges and universities can waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for students of foreign nations. Waivers, to the extent possible, should “promote reciprocal placements and waivers in foreign nations for Washington residents,” and priority is designated for exchanges sponsored by “recognized international education organizations.” The University of Washington and Washington State University may grant 100 waivers each year; other four-year institutions may grant 20 each year.

Community colleges can waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for students of foreign nations, with a limit of 100 foreign students each year. The waiver is designed to promote reciprocal placements of Washington residents in study programs abroad.

Domestic Exchange Programs at Four-Year Institutions

State law allows four-year public colleges and universities to negotiate agreements with out-of-state institutions, provided no loss of tuition and fee revenue is incurred (that is, the exchange participant enrolled at a Washington institution must pay the equivalent amount in tuition and fees that a resident student pays). These programs are referred to as “home tuition programs” in statute and allow Washington institutions to establish exchange programs with institutions across the country. The total number of participants is not specified in statute. However, each individual student is limited to one academic year in the program.

School of Medicine and Dentistry

Both the University of Washington and Washington State University are permitted to exempt nonresident tuition for students from several western states, under contracts with Alaska, Montana, Idaho, or Wyoming (for medicine) and Utah or Idaho (for dentistry) to regionalize medical education. In 2003-04, 165 students received waivers under this statute.

Active Military and National Guard Personnel and Families – Resident Tuition

Statutory provisions designate as residents, for tuition purposes, active military personnel and members of the Washington National Guard who are residents in another state but stationed in Washington. Their spouses and dependents also are designated as residents for tuition purposes.

Members of American Indian Tribes

A student who is not a resident of Washington, but who is a member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe and who has lived for a year in one—or a combination of several—designated states (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, or Washington), is considered a resident of Washington for tuition purposes.

Students Holding Graduate Service Appointments

Nonresident graduate students holding graduate service appointments may be exempted from all or a portion of nonresident tuition and fees. In 2003-04, about 2,900 students received tuition reductions under provisions of this statute.

Other Exemptions

Employees (and their dependents) of higher education institutions, who are not residents of Washington, may be exempted from nonresident tuition and fees (about 12 waivers were granted in 2003-04). In addition, some classifications of refugees may be exempted from nonresident tuition (in 2003-04, about 900 exemptions were granted, mainly at community colleges).

Summary and Conclusion

State policy in Washington and other states has provided several avenues for tuition reductions that facilitate exchanges of students across borders. The most formal of these have been the “reciprocity agreements” between Washington and Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and Washington and British Columbia. These agreements have provided a level of tuition waivers for neighboring states’ residents studying in Washington, with similar waiver levels for Washington residents who attend out-of-state colleges and universities.

Over the last several years, reciprocity has been reduced in scope. Currently, Idaho is the only state that signs formal reciprocity agreements with Washington. British Columbia and Oregon have discontinued formal reciprocity. However, as noted in this report, other avenues exist for student exchanges between Oregon and Washington as well as with other states. These exchange options include, for example, the WICHE student exchange programs – particularly the WUE program for undergraduates, which now facilitates enrollment of nearly 3,000 Washington residents in programs in other states at a reduced tuition rate. Furthermore,

the “non-specific” waiver has given institutions the flexibility to implement tuition reductions to foster their institutional objectives and missions.

Overall, institutions in Washington and other states have continued to use tuition reductions for selected nonresident students. Although formal reciprocity agreements have diminished, other types of student exchange options continue to be available.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-39

WHEREAS, The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board is required by state law to report to the governor and legislature every two years on the status of state-level reciprocity agreements between Washington and Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, and Washington and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, The report outlines the history and current status of reciprocity agreements, including the status of the current reciprocity agreements with Idaho and the decisions by British Columbia and Oregon to discontinue reciprocity; and

WHEREAS, The report reviews other student exchange opportunities available to Washington residents and residents of neighboring states;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the *2007 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options* and directs staff to transmit the report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature.

Adopted:

December 14, 2006

Attest:

Gene Colin, Chair

Jesus Hernandez, Secretary