

Docket Item: 8.2: Tuition Equity Report

Summary:

In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2787 (Oregon Revised Statute 352.287) to expand access to in-state resident tuition and fee rates to certain noncitizens and veterans. The program, known as, “Tuition Equity,” applies to both undergraduate and graduate students who are:

1. Not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States or who are financially dependent upon a person who is not a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States and
2. Citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States and who resided outside of Oregon while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States

The statute requires an annual report to the Legislature that includes the number of students who applied and were accepted into public universities under the program and the financial impact on the universities of the program. This report combines two years, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 as staffing shortages prevented HECC’s Office of Research and Data from producing the annual report in 2021.

Key findings from the report include:

- The Tuition Equity program served more than 900 students in each of the last two academic years. The number of students participating continued to rise in 2019-20—as it has since its inception—before plateauing in 2020-21. Just over one-third of participating students are noncitizens, and just under two-thirds are veterans. The vast majority of students in the program are undergraduates (95 percent).
- The maximum possible benefit to the universities from the Tuition Equity program is the increased revenue institutions would have received if students enrolled because of the program. Across all seven universities, this potential benefit was \$8,817,349 in 2019-20 and \$8,805,504 in 2020-21. The maximum possible cost to the universities is the difference between resident and nonresident tuition for students participating in the Tuition Equity program. Across all seven universities, this potential cost was \$14,725,146 in 2019-20 and \$14,401,295 in 2020-21.
- The Tuition Equity program results in significant cost savings for students as well, with undergraduate students saving \$12,645 to \$23,895 in tuition costs in 2019-20 and \$12,690 to \$25,452 in 2020-21, depending on their institution of attendance. Over the course of a bachelor’s degree program, the total savings for an individual student and their family is tens of thousands of dollars.

Material:

Report, *House Bill 2787 (2013): Tuition Equity at Public Universities*.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend approval of report.