

NONRESIDENT TUITION RATES - NORTH DAKOTA COMPARED TO OTHER STATES

This memorandum provides information regarding nonresident tuition rates in North Dakota compared to other states and information on tuition waiver policies in South Dakota and Montana.

NORTH DAKOTA

The 1973 Legislative Assembly amended North Dakota Century Code Section 15-10-18 to require Committee on Budget approval of nonresident tuition rates. Section 15-10-18 was amended again in 1983 to identify the Budget Section as responsible for approval of nonresident tuition rates. The 1999 Legislative Assembly removed the requirement for approval from the Budget Section, leaving the State Board of Higher Education responsible for approving nonresident tuition rates. The Budget Section generally approved nonresident tuition rates set at approximately 267 percent of the resident tuition rate for each institution. The board has never had a policy establishing a standard or default nonresident tuition rate, however, the board continued to annually approve nonresident tuition rates at approximately 267 percent of the resident rate until the 2002-03 academic year, when it approved a nonresident tuition rate at Williston State College at 150 percent of the resident tuition rate. Since the 2002-03 academic year, the board has approved various nonresident tuition rates at North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions. Some institutions have continued to set nonresident tuition at 267 percent of the resident tuition rate, but at other institutions, nonresident tuition has been set at rates equivalent to the resident tuition rate or at some other rate between the resident tuition rate and what used to be the standard 267 percent rate. State Board of Higher Education policy 805.1, relating to tuition, states in part:

- "3. Tuition rates shall include rates for residents and nonresidents, as those terms are defined by law, and, except as otherwise approved by the Board, the following rates for these special categories:
- a. For residents of South Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, a tuition rate equal to 150 per cent of the resident rate at UND or NDSU and 125 per cent of the resident rate at other institutions;
 - b. For undergraduate students who are children or spouses of graduates of NDUS institutions, a tuition rate equal to 150 percent of the resident rate, regardless of residency; and
 - c. Such other special rates as may be established by agreements entered into under N.D.C.C. § 15-10-28, N.D.C.C. ch. 15-10.1, or under regional higher education compacts."

Resident and nonresident tuition rates at University System institutions for the 2015-16 academic year are as follows:

Institution	Resident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate as a Percentage of the Resident Tuition Rate
Bismarck State College	\$3,577	\$9,550	267%
Lake Region State College	\$3,261	\$3,261	100%
Williston State College	\$3,316	\$3,316	100%
University of North Dakota	\$6,548	\$17,482	267%
North Dakota State University	\$6,762	\$18,056	267%
North Dakota State College of Science	\$3,682	\$9,831	267%
Dickinson State University	\$5,013	\$7,520	150%
Mayville State University	\$4,930	\$13,164	267%
Minot State University	\$5,066	\$5,066	100%
Valley City State University	\$5,153	\$13,759	267%
Dakota College at Bottineau	\$3,384	\$5,075	150%

COMPARISON TO OTHER STATES

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) identified non-weighted 4-year institution 2014-15 academic year tuition and fee rates for its member states were as follows:

State	Resident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate as a Percentage of the Resident Tuition Rate
Alaska	\$6,311	\$19,631	311.1%
Arizona	10,283	25,088	244.0%
California	8,608	23,064	267.9%
Colorado	9,082	22,788	250.9%

State	Resident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate as a Percentage of the Resident Tuition Rate
Hawaii	8,181	22,445	274.4%
Idaho	6,473	18,888	291.8%
Montana	5,690	18,720	329.0%
Nevada	5,947	18,646	313.5%
New Mexico	5,401	14,342	265.5%
North Dakota	6,834	12,657	185.2%
Oregon	8,393	23,595	281.1%
South Dakota	8,039	10,790	134.2%
Utah	5,898	17,283	293.0%
Washington	9,885	23,670	239.5%
Wyoming	4,646	14,876	320.2%
WICHE Average	\$7,311	\$19,099	261.2%

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education identified non-weighted 2-year institution 2014-15 academic year tuition and fee rates for its member states were as follows:

State	Resident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate	Nonresident Tuition Rate as a Percentage of the Resident Tuition Rate
Alaska ¹	\$4,690	\$4,690	100.0%
Arizona	2,437	9,489	389.4%
California	1,380	7,439	539.1%
Colorado	3,848	12,269	318.8%
Hawaii	3,499	9,559	273.2%
Idaho	3,009	8,281	275.2%
Montana	3,434	9,426	274.5%
Nevada	2,700	9,345	346.1%
New Mexico	1,603	4,132	257.8%
North Dakota	4,210	6,913	164.2%
Oregon	4,638	9,283	200.2%
South Dakota	6,020	6,020	100.0%
Utah	3,410	9,543	279.9%
Washington	4,294	9,527	221.9%
Wyoming	2,602	6,503	249.9%
WICHE Average	\$3,452	\$8,161	236.4%

¹The 2014-15 academic year 2-year institution tuition and fee rates for Alaska were not available. The rates shown for Alaska's 2-year institutions are for the 2013-14 academic year.

Methods of establishing nonresident tuition rates vary by state. As identified in a survey conducted by WICHE, basic nonresident tuition setting policy is identified as follows:

State	Nonresident Rate Indexed to the Resident Tuition Rate		Nonresident Rate Aligned with Rates at Peer Institutions		Institutions Charge What Nonresident Students Can Afford	
	2-Year	4-Year	2-Year	4-Year	2-Year	4-Year
Alaska	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Arizona ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Nevada	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Mexico ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
South Dakota	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Utah ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washington	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

¹Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah did not respond to this WICHE survey.

In a review of select other states, the South Dakota Board of Regents policy states nonresidents should pay more than residents, however, there is not a specific percentage identified in board policy. The board also has a policy allowing universities to request reduced nonresident tuition rates to manage enrollment. In addition to waivers established by the state legislature, the board has approved specific reduced tuition programs for graduate fellows and assistants, North Dakota residents, Wyoming residents, and residents of WICHE states.

The Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education has a policy stating tuition levels will bear a relationship to the costs incurred by the campus in providing the education to the student. The policy also allows campuses the flexibility to set nonresident tuition as low as 150 percent of the resident tuition rate. The board policy also provides for tuition waivers for employee dependents, American Indians, faculty and staff, veterans, war orphans, and surviving dependents of Montana National Guard members, firefighters, and peace officers. Campuses may also award discretionary waivers for nonresident students, senior citizens, qualified veterans, and other students with superior academic achievement, service to the campus, or other meritorious accomplishment.