



# **2005 Reciprocity Agreements**

## **and Other Student Exchange Options**

**January 2005**

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H I G H E R  
E D U C A T I O N  
C O O R D I N A T I N G   B O A R D**



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Cover photo: Sutton Hall, Eastern Washington University.



January 2005

## **2005 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options**

### **Executive Summary**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is required by state law 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 public colleges in other states and pay lower tuition rates, with similar arrangements for out-of-state students coming to Washington's public colleges and universities.

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. Although formal state-level reciprocity has declined in recent years, other student exchange options continue to grow.

### **State-Level Reciprocity Agreements**

***Washington/British Columbia:*** Currently, Washington does not have a reciprocity agreement with British Columbia. In the mid-1990s, British Columbia requested that reciprocity be phased out; 1998-1999 was the final year of the agreement.

***Washington/Oregon:*** Washington has not had a reciprocity agreement with Oregon since the 2000-2001 academic year, at Oregon's request.

***Washington/Idaho:*** Washington has two reciprocity agreements with Idaho. In an agreement with the Idaho State Board of Education, Washington and Idaho each agree to waive \$850,000 for residents of the other state. In an agreement with North Idaho College, Washington and Idaho each agree to annually waive \$82,000 for residents of the other state.

### **Other Student Exchange and Tuition Reduction Programs**

***WICHE Student Exchange Programs:*** The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) sponsors three student exchange programs, which allow residents from Washington and 14 other participating western states to enroll in eligible out-of-state programs at reduced tuition rates. In 2003, Washington received 583 students and sent 2,234 students through the Western Undergraduate Exchange; received 53 students and sent 80 students through the Western Regional Graduate Program; and received 76 students and sent 14 students through the Professional Student Exchange Program.

***Border County Higher Education Opportunity Project:*** The Washington State University (WSU) Vancouver and Tri-Cities campuses and five Washington community colleges can charge resident tuition to students who live in 13 Oregon counties. Resident tuition rates at WSU Vancouver and Tri-Cities are only available to Oregon students who take eight credits or less. In fall 2004, about 90 Oregon students participated in the program at the WSU campuses. In 2003-2004, nearly 600 full-time equivalent Oregon residents took advantage of the program at Washington community colleges.

***Other Programs:*** State laws also allow other tuition reductions for some nonresident students. Specifically:

- Most community colleges waive nonresident tuition for out-of-state students under provisions of the “non-specific” tuition waiver. In 2003-2004, more than 2,000 out-of-state students received this waiver at Washington community colleges.
- Washington’s two-year and four-year institutions may negotiate student exchange arrangements with institutions in other countries. Under these agreements, participating students pay reduced tuition.
- Washington’s public four-year institutions may participate in student exchange programs with institutions in other states. Students pay the equivalent of in-state tuition and fees.
- Students who are members of certain groups, such as designated American Indian tribes and active military personnel, are considered residents for tuition purposes at Washington’s public colleges and universities.
- Washington colleges and universities may grant nonresident tuition exemptions for other students, including graduate students with graduate service appointments and medical students covered under contracts with several western states.



January 2005

## **2005 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 Higher Education Coordinating Board 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 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 the Province of British Columbia and 1,103 students from these three states/province 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.

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\* Oregon reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.730-736

Idaho reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.750-754

British Columbia reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.756-758

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, but with a reduced number of students. The British Columbia agreement ended in 1999. Idaho's two agreements, which include all of the state's public four-year institutions and one two-year college, are the only formal reciprocity agreements still in existence.

### **The Current State of Reciprocity Agreements**

The agreements between Washington and British Columbia and Washington and Oregon have been discontinued. Idaho and Washington continue to participate in reciprocity through agreements with the Idaho State Board of Education and North Idaho College.

#### ***Washington/British Columbia***

Beginning in the mid-1980s, British Columbia participated in reciprocity agreements involving several universities and community colleges on both sides of the border. These agreements waived out-of-state tuition for a specified number of students at higher education institutions on both sides of the border. In the mid-1990s, British Columbia requested that reciprocity be phased out; 1998-1999 was the final year of a written agreement. The highest participation occurred in the early 1990s, when approximately 80 Washington residents enrolled annually in British Columbia institutions. This Washington/British Columbia agreement always had the smallest reciprocity participation and covered about a dozen students from each state/province in the final year.

#### ***Washington/Oregon***

For two decades, reciprocity agreements between Washington and Oregon specified the number of students who would receive waivers and the amount of tuition that would be waived. In the early 1990s, about 800 students from each state participated in the program, with more than \$2 million in tuition waivers granted by each state. The last reciprocity agreement covered the 2000-2001 academic year; since then, Oregon has chosen not to participate in official reciprocity.

It is important to note that several tuition reduction options are still available to Washington residents studying in Oregon and to Oregon residents studying in Washington. These options include the exchange programs available through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and provisions related to the border county opportunity project. (Both are discussed in the next section of this report.) In addition, community colleges in Oregon charge in-state tuition to Washington residents; in Washington, most community colleges charge in-state tuition to residents of other states (based on provisions of the "non-specific" waiver statute discussed later in this report).



### *Washington/Idaho*

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). Institutions determine the number of students who receive waivers and the amounts waived for individual students. The agreement states that participating students may be undergraduates or graduates.

In the current agreement with **North Idaho College**, Washington and Idaho each agree to waive an annual amount of \$82,000 for residents of the other state. This amount is somewhat lower than agreements in the late 1990s, which reached \$125,000 for each state. This agreement limits Idaho participation to residents of five northern Idaho counties. Idaho students must be juniors, seniors, or graduate-level students to enroll at Eastern Washington University under the agreement.

Specifics of the two Washington/Idaho agreements for 2003-04 and 2004-05, 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 addition to Idaho residents receiving tuition reductions under reciprocity, other Idaho residents also may receive tuition reductions through different student exchange programs (discussed in subsequent sections of this report).

**Current Reciprocity Agreements: Washington/Idaho**

**Washington/Idaho State Board of Education – Reciprocity Waivers:**

<u>State of Idaho</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</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	\$433,500	\$433,500
<b>Total \$ Waived (approximate)</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
# of Washington students <b>full &amp; part-time</b> (estimate)	190	190

**State of Washington**

Eastern Washington University	\$430,000	\$430,000
Walla Walla Community College	\$420,000	\$420,000
<b>Total \$ Waived (approximate)</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
# of Idaho students <b>full &amp; part-time</b> (estimate)	175	175

**Washington/North Idaho College – Reciprocity Waivers:**

**North Idaho College**

<b>Total \$ Waived (approximate)</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ 82,000</b>
No. of Washington students <b>full &amp; part-time</b> (estimate)	45	45

**State of Washington**

Eastern Washington University	\$ 53,000	\$ 55,000
Community Colleges of Spokane	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000
<b>Total \$ Waived (approximate)</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ 82,000</b>
No. of Idaho students <b>full-time</b> only (estimate)	16	16

## Other Student Exchange and Tuition Reduction Programs

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 various student exchange/tuition reduction programs that are not dependent on state-level agreements.

### 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 2003-2004*,” WICHE, February 2004.)

#### *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 began in 1998; therefore, exchanges facilitated through WUE are a recent addition to the available student exchange options.

Washington statute authorizes three Washington institutions to participate: Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, and Washington State University. In addition, one other public four-year institution has chosen to accept students under the WUE program. 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 2003, Washington **received 583** students from WICHE states, including more than 200 from Idaho and Oregon. Washington **sent 2,234** students to other WICHE states, including more than 800 who studied in Idaho and Oregon.

#### *Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)*

Students pay resident tuition through this program. Two Washington institutions participate – Eastern Washington University and Washington State University – with a total of nine graduate programs eligible for the WRGP (source: “*Western Regional Graduate Program 2004-2006*,” WICHE).

In 2003, Washington **received 53** students from other WICHE states and **sent 80** 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 2003-04, Washington **sent 14 students** and **received 76 students** (69 at public institutions and seven at a private institution in Washington).

**Border County Higher Education Opportunity Project**

The border county project designates Oregon residents living in 13 of the state’s northern border counties as Washington residents for purposes of tuition. It was instituted in response to Oregon policies that provide reduced tuition to Washington residents. Specifically, Oregon community colleges charge in-state tuition to Washington residents and Portland State University (along with several other four-year institutions) charges in-state tuition to Washington residents taking eight credits or less.

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 credits or less. Five community colleges, including Lower Columbia, Grays Harbor, Clark, Columbia Basin, and Walla Walla, may charge in-state tuition to Oregon residents.

Participation at Washington institutions has grown over the last several years. In fall 2000, about 60 Oregon residents participated at WSU Vancouver; this number grew to 85 students in fall 2004. WSU Tri-Cities, which recently became part of the project, reported eight students in fall 2004. Community colleges in Washington enrolled nearly 600 full-time equivalent Oregon residents in 2003-2004, an increase from previous years.

Washington residents attending Oregon institutions receive similar benefits. Specifically, residents who enroll for eight credits or less pay in-state tuition at Oregon’s four-year public institutions. And, Washington residents at Oregon community colleges pay in-state tuition rates. Data from fall 2000 indicate that about 240 Washington residents who enrolled for eight credits or less paid in-state tuition rates at several four-year Oregon institutions. Also, in fall 2000, approximately 2,000 Washington residents paid in-state tuition at Oregon community colleges. (Recent data from Oregon are not available, but Oregon state statutes continue to reflect reduced tuition for Washington residents.)

### **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.” Although not limited to waivers of nonresident tuition, these waivers can be used for this purpose.

Most community colleges in Washington have applied this “non-specific” waiver provision to the nonresident portion of tuition for residents of other states (although not for foreign students). In 2003-2004, community colleges used the “non-specific” waiver to reduce tuition for more than 2,000 nonresident students. 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.

Four-year public colleges and universities determine the use of this “non-specific” waiver. The waiver could be used for nonresidents, but data are not available on the exact usage at four-year institutions.

### **Students of Foreign Nations**

State laws permit institutions to provide waivers to students of foreign nations. In 2003-2004, about 200 foreign students received tuition reductions.

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.

### **Home Tuition Programs for 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. These programs are often referred to as “domestic student exchange programs” and allow Washington institutions to establish exchange programs with institutions across the country. Participating students enroll in an out-of-state institution and pay the equivalent of resident tuition and fees. 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 and Idaho (for dentistry) to regionalize medical education.

### **Active Military and National Guard Personnel and Families**

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 Designated American Indian Tribes**

A nonresident student who is a member of an American Indian tribe (names of tribes are designated in state statute) and who has lived for a year in one or more 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.

### **Other Exemptions**

Employees of higher education institutions who are not residents of Washington may be exempted from nonresident tuition and fees. In addition, some classifications of refugees may be exempted from nonresident tuition.

## **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 the WICHE exchange programs and the border county higher education opportunity project. 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.



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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**RESOLUTION NO. 04-04**

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 5135, a bill dealing with student academic progress; and

WHEREAS, The law directed each public four-year institution and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to develop policies to ensure that undergraduate students complete their degree and certificate programs in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, These policies were to address students who (1) accumulate more than 125 percent of the credits required to complete their degree or certificate programs; (2) drop more than 25 percent of their course loads; and (3) remain on academic probation for more than one quarter or semester; and

WHEREAS, The law required each public four-year institution and the SBCTC to report to the Higher Education Coordinating Board by January 30, 2004 on the policies adopted regarding student academic progress, including baseline data on the number and characteristics of the students affected by these policies; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board was charged with summarizing these reports and developing recommendations for additional legislative action, including whether increased tuition and fees should be uniformly charged to students as an additional incentive for timely completion of degree and certificate programs; and

WHEREAS, The public four-year institutions and the SBCTC submitted their reports and made presentations to the Board on February 17; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board reviewed a summary of the institutions' reports on February 17 and submitted the summary to the Legislature's higher education committees on March 1; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board submitted the 2004 Interim Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education to the Legislature on December 15 and is in the process of finalizing the 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education; and



WHEREAS, The 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education likely will address efficiency in the areas of enrollment, accountability, and performance contracts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, at this time, the Higher Education Coordinating Board does not recommend that the Legislature take any specific action regarding student academic progress and that such recommendations, if any, will be included in the 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board believes that the current statutory provision allowing individual institutions to collect tuition surcharges from students who are not making adequate academic progress is sufficient; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That state goals for efficiency in higher education should be expressed broadly to allow colleges and universities to determine how best to make progress toward the goals, while recognizing differences in student needs and the missions of the individual colleges and universities.

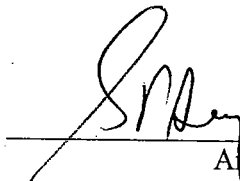
Adopted:

March 25, 2004

Attest:



Bob Craves, Chair



Ann Ramsay-Jenkins, Secretary