

Concerning The Western Tuition Promise

To returning undergraduate students

As you are likely aware WOU will begin a new tuition pricing model that is called the Western Tuition Promise. This model will automatically include all new WOU undergraduate students (except international and non-residents who are not in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program). It does not include graduate students.

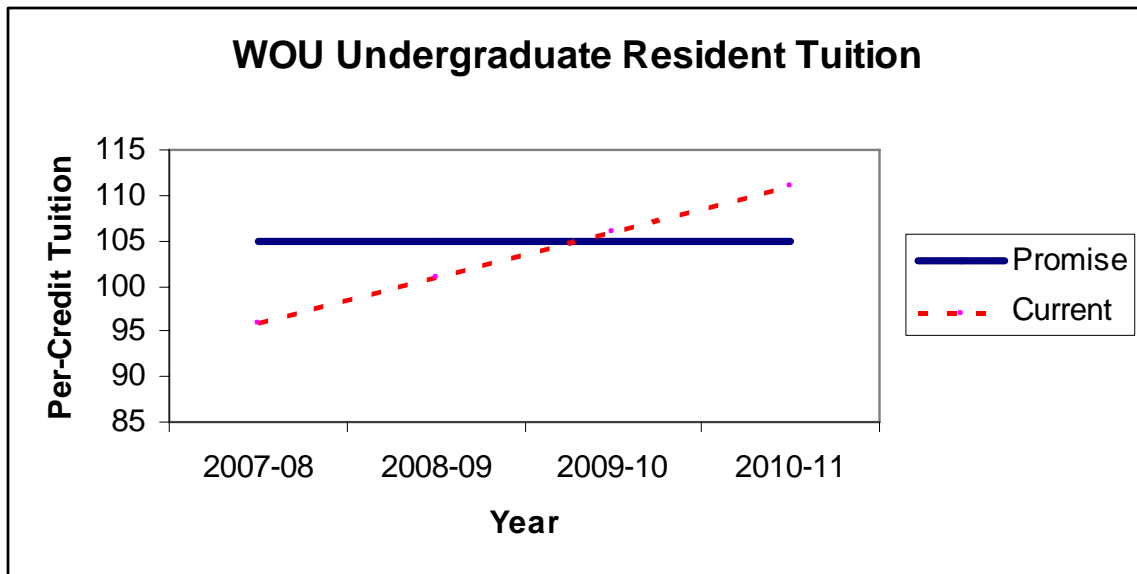
As a continuing student at WOU you may have a one-time opportunity to join the Western Tuition Promise. When you register for fall 2007 courses you will be asked to make a decision about your inclusion in the Promise. You will not be able to register without an answer. This decision will take the place of the recent on-line surveys that you have completed.

I want to provide you time to consider this program before you have to make a decision. Complete FAQ's are on the WOU webpage. In summary, the program will guarantee a per credit tuition of \$105 (or \$158 for WUE students) for four full years and five years for students in one of small number of degree programs that require five years to complete. The 2007-08 per-credit tuition rate for Oregon residents will be \$96 (pending OUS Board approval). The Promise does not include student fees or other expenses such as books or housing.

Because Study Abroad Experiences are so beneficial to students and the campus we will grant a fifth year at this rate for any student who spends at least on term on an approved SAP experience. A formal appeals process will be also be developed for Tuition Promise participants who are enrolled for more than four years at WOU.

The Promise provides the most advantage to students who have four years of study remaining. The model for the Promise results in two major benefits. The first is a predictable and frozen tuition level. The second is a net savings in total tuition paid over four years. We estimate that when compared to the normal process of annual tuition increases that the Promise will save students approximately \$1,000 by the end of the 4th year. Each new class of WOU students will have a slightly higher tuition level.

For continuing students the Promise will provide tuition stability, but may cost more in total tuition paid than the current model of annual increases. We recommend that students with less than four years remaining in their studies NOT participate. The illustration below may help better explain the cost/benefit. Please note that if tuition levels have to increase at higher levels than anticipated due to lower levels of state support that the cost/benefit will change. Thus, staying with the current plan does involve greater uncertainty and risk of higher tuition levels.



Even with the slightly higher rate that the Promise participants will pay, WOU will continue to be the most affordable OUS campus to attend and graduate. The upcoming opt-in decision is a one-time opportunity and students will not have the chance to change their decision. Thus, whatever you decide will be enforced until you graduate.

An informational session will be held on May 10 in the WUC Columbia Room at 12:00. You are encouraged to contact me if you have any questions. My email is mcdonald@wou.edu.

Sincerely,
Dave Mc Donald, Dean
Admissions, Enrollment Management and Retention