Student's forum>

Saving Money on College Tuition with WUE

By Michelle Lanphere Green

Did you know that a college-bound student from California could attend the University of Hawaii, Washington State University, or the University of Oregon at a substantial discount? There are dozens of two and four-year college options that provide a big tuition discount to students who live in the sixteen states that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program.

When a student applies to a college that is outside of their home state, they typically have to pay "out of state" tuition fees, which can be up to three times the cost of what an "in-state" student might pay. Public, or state colleges, offer low tuition prices to students who are residents of the state because of tax dollar subsidies. An out-of-state student will almost always pay at a higher rate, because they haven't been contributing to the tax base that lowers these tuition costs and other student fees. This can add up to quite a lot of money. For example, a student coming to UCLA from Arizona or Colorado will likely pay over \$40,000 in tuition, housing and fees for just one year of attendance.

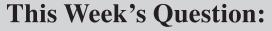
The WUE program allows prospective students a chance to attend participating colleges outside of a student's home state, but with the tuition capped at 150 percent of what a resident of that state might pay. Some colleges even charge less than this rate, offering big discounts and renewable scholarships to students interested in attending and making that state their home for the next four years. Not every public university in the participating states offers WUE. For those that do, this can provide students with affordable options to experience a great education at a bargain price.

In order to get the discount, students must apply at the time of their initial college application, usually by checking a box on the application. There is no additional application or fee involved with this program. Students can log on to http://wue.wiche.edu/ to learn more about this and which colleges are participating in this program.

While every college on the WUE list offers tuition discounts, there are rules about which programs qualify for the program. Not every major is WUE-eligible, but the information is easily found in the student section of the WUE website, in the "List All WUE institutions" section on the student page. By clicking through to the specific college, it is possible to see if there are any programs or majors that don't offer the discount.

While California experiences a major funding crisis of its notable public colleges and universities, applying to WUE can provide an affordable option for prospective students willing to cross state lines for a college education. For more information, check out: http://wue.wiche.edu/

My College Admissions Coach offers personalized help for students and their parents as they navigate the college search and admissions process. Follow my blog at: http://collegeoptions.blogspot.com/ •



As you are growing up, would you rather have your mom stay at home with you or would you rather she go to work?

Answers to Last Week's Question: What is your hobby? Tell us about it.

J.S.

I like to wrestle with my Pitbulls on a daily basis.

A.T. My favorite hobby is baking. My best friend and I always bake together and have a great time finding new recipes to try. Our latest creations have been doughnuts, pretzels and bread! Her brothers love to sample our creations

I collect coins from all around the world. Some of my family members live in different parts of the world so whenever they visit or we visit them I get coins from that city. Now everyone knows I collect coins so when our friends visit other countries they bring me coins as souvenirs. My mom gave me some paper bills-money that she has been collecting but I like the coins better since they are easier to keep in better shape.

P.M. Making jewelry with metals and natural stones, quilting and reading.

Building dollhouses is one of my hobbies. I electrified the dollhouse I am currently

working on. To electrify a dollhouse, it requires a lot of tedious work and I had to take a class to learn how to do this. It was worth it because I have miniature outlets for lamps, overhead lighting and porch lighting for my dollhouse!

M.A.

I have three hobbies actually! My first one is collecting stamps. I love all the designs that are on the stamps! My second one is collecting rocks. I've found many different kinds of rocks; I found one that is shaped like a heart also! Last but not least, collecting seashells! They come in various kinds, I adore the pink ones!

E.N.

Well, I really like doing a lot of things. Right now I'm learning about body language and micro expressions, which can pretty much let people "read your mind" through little movements and twitches and stuff. It's so cool!

K.F.

Cooking is my favorite hobby, especially now that the weather is cooler.

B.M.



Without the help of an adult, it may be confusing for students to find their way to college. If you know a student with dreams of a higher education, do your part and help lead the way. Learn how at...

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L.A.

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