

TUITION EQUITY FAQ



What is “tuition equity” at Oregon State University?

Tuition equity at Oregon State University means that undocumented/DACA-mented students who earn a high school diploma or GED in Oregon and meet certain other requirements will be allowed to pay resident tuition rates, and will not be required to pay nonresident tuition rates. Tuition equity was originally signed into law by the Oregon legislative bill, HB2787, in 2013.

What does it mean to pay “resident” tuition?

Resident tuition is another way of saying “in-state” tuition and nonresident refers to “out-of-state” tuition. To be exempt from nonresident tuition and fees means that a student is allowed to pay the lower resident tuition rates instead, although it does not change a student’s citizenship or immigration status.

When a student seeks information on this Oregon law, should they look up “tuition equity”?

While many people know this law as “tuition equity,” it may be referred to as HB2787 or as the “exemption from nonresident tuition and fees” for eligible undocumented students. Changes to the original bill have occurred through SB1563. References to this bill may be included on tuition equity documents.

How does a student request an exemption from non-resident tuition and fees through “tuition equity”?

A student request an exemption by completing and submitting an Affidavit- Request for Exemption from Nonresident Tuition and Fees which is available on the Oregon State University Office of Admissions tuition equity website admissions.oregonstate.edu/tuition-equity. The form must be completed and submitted before an admissions application is processed. Eligibility for tuition equity does not impact admissions consideration.

Who is eligible for the exemption from non-resident tuition and fees (otherwise known as tuition equity)?

A student needs to meet all of the following requirements in order to be eligible for the exemption:

- Student received a high school diploma or GED in Oregon
- Student attended an elementary school or secondary/high school in Oregon during each of the three years prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma
- Student attended an elementary school or secondary/high school in a state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in each of the five years prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma.
- Student shows intention to become a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

How does a student demonstrate the required “intention to become a citizen or permanent resident”?

The student checks the box for the intent to seek and obtain U.S. citizenship as permitted by federal law within the affidavit, OR student submits an official copy of application for registration with a federal immigration program or federal deportation deferral program.

How long will students be allowed to use the exemption?

As the bill currently stands, there is no expiration for using the exemption once a student has been approved.

If students transfer into Oregon State University after beginning at a community college after high school graduation, will they be eligible for the resident tuition rates?

Yes, undocumented/DACA-mented transfer students can still request an exemption from nonresident tuition and fees as long as they meet all of the criteria outlined by the tuition equity bill. See above for eligibility requirements.

Can a student qualify for tuition equity if they have lived in Oregon for three or more years but did not graduate from a high school or receive a GED in Oregon?

No, students had to graduate from an Oregon high school or received a GED in Oregon as part of the consideration for tuition equity.

Can a student attend OSU part-time and still use the tuition equity exemption?

Yes, students under tuition equity can be part-time students and still use the exemption. Students wishing to be part-time should work with their academic advisor to adjust their degree plan appropriately and determine their class schedule.

Can a student use the exemption for both undergraduate and graduate enrollment?

Yes, tuition equity can apply to either undergraduate or graduate students as long as all of the eligibility requirements are met. See above for eligibility requirements.

Is Oregon State University the only school in Oregon that provides an exemption from nonresident tuition and fees for undocumented/DACA-mented students?

No, tuition equity can be requested at any of the Oregon public universities. Although the eligibility requirements are the same, each admissions office may have a different process for submitting documentation. Check with the admissions office at each university to learn more.

How can I find out more information about the exemption and how to apply at Oregon State University?

For questions about the tuition equity process at Oregon State University, contact the Office of Admissions at osuadmit@oregonstate.edu or call 541-737-4411.

Do students automatically receive the exemption as soon as they are eligible?

No, students must request an exemption using the Affidavit- Request for Exemption form admissions.oregonstate.edu/tuition-equity. Once eligibility is determined, the exemption goes into effect beginning with the next academic term.

If a student is not approved for tuition equity (HB2787), is there an appeals process?

No, there is not an appeals process for students who were denied tuition equity.

Are there other ways for undocumented/DACA-mented students to be considered for resident tuition and fees other than through tuition equity (HB2787)?

No, eligibility for resident tuition in Oregon is determine by the State of Oregon and currently the only option for requesting resident tuition for undocumented/DACA-mented students is through the tuition equity program.

If a student does not meet the requirements outlined for tuition equity, how should they submit the admissions application to Oregon State University?

Any student who is undocumented/DACA-mented, whether they are eligible for tuition equity or not, should apply for admissions using the domestic application and list their citizenship as “non-US Citizen” on the application. Non-eligible tuition equity students can submit a tuition equity statement online to verify they are not an International* student. The tuition equity statement is available on the Office of Admissions tuition equity website admissions.oregonstate.edu/tuition-equity.

**Any student who is in the United States with a current visa, is required to apply through International Admissions.*

For more information about applying to Oregon State University as an undocumented/DACA-mented student, please visit oregonstate.edu/undocumented.

If I'm not sure whether or not I should submit a Tuition Equity Affidavit or Tuition Equity Statement, who should I contact?

The Office of Admissions can help you determine the correct documentation to submit. Contact us at osuadmit@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-4411.