



Student Access Programs: By the Numbers

AY 2020-21

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Introduction to Student Access Programs

The **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)** operates three Student Access Programs that together saved over 45,000 students more than \$460 million in AY 2020-21. Each program supports one of three educational levels: undergraduate, graduate, and professional healthcare studies. Details that govern each program vary, but all operate to lower the cost of tuition.

- ▶ Students gain from increased educational choices and tuition savings.
- ▶ Schools gain by optimizing enrollments.
- ▶ States gain by growing the skills of those they serve – strengthening their workforce.
- ▶ It's a true “triple-win.”

The **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)** – the nation's largest regional tuition-savings program – is celebrating its 33rd year. The program allows students from a WICHE state or territory to enroll in participating two- or four-year public colleges or universities located in another WICHE state or territory and pay reduced tuition. Students can choose from hundreds of majors at more than 160 institutions. Students also pay no more than 150 percent of that school's *resident* tuition (often much less than the nonresident tuition they'd normally pay).

The **Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)** allows graduate certificate, master's, and Ph.D. students who are residents of WICHE states and territories to affordably enroll in more than 1,350 graduate programs at 60 public institutions in the West. Participating students can enroll as nonresidents, but only pay up to 150 percent of resident tuition, though the majority of WRGP institutions charge students resident tuition. A WRGP student typically pays about half of what they would have had to pay as a nonresident.

Through the **Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)**, students from Western states and territories can pursue careers in 10 health fields, ranging from optometry to dentistry to veterinary medicine. They may enroll in participating programs across state lines, receiving substantial tuition support from their home state or territory. These high-demand professionals are vitally important, especially in underserved rural areas of the West. Educating more of them is crucial. Since it doesn't make good fiscal sense for less populated states and territories to create their own programs in every healthcare field, WICHE reduces the financial strain for students pursuing their professional healthcare degrees.

Learn more about helping students save on tuition at wiche.edu/tuition-savings



WUE and WRGP Savings Finders

WICHE makes it easy for students to find information about institutions participating in two tuition-savings programs: the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). Using the online Savings Finder search portals, prospective students can refine their college searches by major, degree type, eligibility requirements, online course availability, and other filter criteria. And admissions, recruitment, and enrollment managers at WICHE partner institutions use the Savings Finders to connect with prospective students and inform them about the many affordable options they offer to nonresident students from other WICHE member states.

Undergraduate Students: wuesavingsfinder.wiche.edu Graduate Students: wrgpsavingsfinder.wiche.edu

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) – the nation’s largest regional tuition-savings program – allows students from a WICHE state or territory to enroll in participating two- or four-year public colleges or universities located in another WICHE state or territory at a discounted tuition rate. Students can choose from over 160 participating WUE institutions that offer hundreds of majors and pay no more than 150 percent of that school’s *resident* tuition.

In academic year (AY) 2020-21, over 42,000 WUE students and their families saved nearly \$412 million in tuition.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought upon higher education, WUE enrollment dropped only slightly in AY 2020-21 – just 0.1 percent. However, in the five years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, WUE enrollments grew an average of 4.4 percent per year (from AY 2015-2019).

The significant savings WUE offers Western students is just one benefit of WUE. Some students can gain affordable access to majors not offered in their home state. For most students and their families, when varying tuitions and cost-of-living are factored in, WUE makes out-of-state study more affordable than in-state study.

Most WUE institutions make all or most majors available at the WUE rate, but some may exclude select high-demand majors. Transfer students can also qualify for the WUE rate at nearly all participating institutions. And though institutions may choose to set more stringent admissions standards for WUE students, many award the WUE rate to all nonresident WICHE-region applicants who would qualify under normal admissions criteria.

Western states also benefit greatly from their public colleges and universities’ participation in WUE. WUE helps these schools meet their recruitment and enrollment goals. WUE schools determine their WUE admissions requirements and which majors are WUE-eligible. Students apply directly to their preferred WUE institution(s). Some graduates end up staying in the

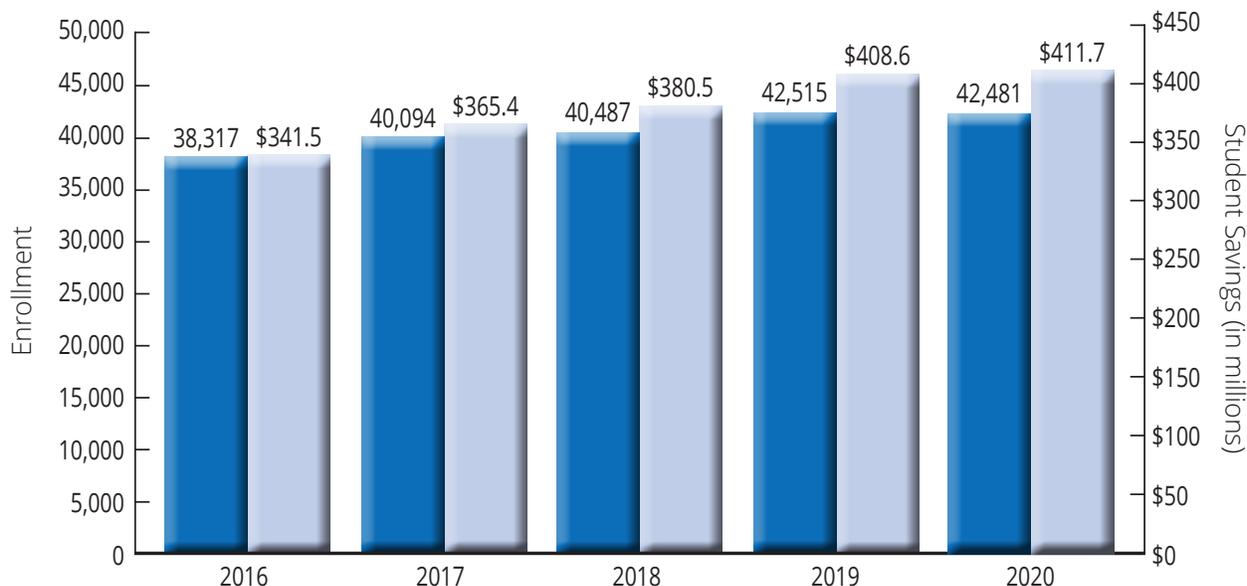
state where they studied – a bonus for states seeking to bolster and diversify their college-educated workforce. For states with more demand for public higher education than capacity, WUE serves as an effective relief valve, allowing their residents access to a postsecondary education without having to entirely bear the financial burden of increasing capacity at home.

Average WUE savings in AY 2020-21	\$9,050
WUE community college student average savings	\$5,300
WUE university student average savings	\$9,450

Since 1988, Western students have saved \$4.9 billion

Learn more about America’s largest regional interstate tuition savings program at wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue

WUE Enrollment and Student Savings, AY 2016-2020



Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

WUE Enrollment Summary, AY 2020-21

State/Territory (# Institutions)	State of Residence																	Totals
	AK	AZ	CA	CO	CNMI	GU	HI	ID	MT	NV	NM	ND	OR	SD	UT	WA	WY	
Alaska (3)	—	18	106	32	3	0	13	11	11	10	8	4	34	6	6	104	9	375
Arizona (24)	236	—	4,062	657	1	6	322	96	58	453	371	19	228	29	225	389	29	7,181
California (15)	33	92	—	77	1	0	131	23	14	69	23	1	102	0	15	206	4	791
Colorado (25)	185	439	1,842	—	5	3	259	80	75	182	272	55	195	74	169	355	177	4,367
CNMI* (1)	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guam (1)	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawai'i (4)	51	99	1,785	220	1	50	—	45	19	73	25	5	126	14	33	348	11	2,905
Idaho (6)	136	62	1,610	89	30	0	31	—	108	133	16	4	368	9	48	1,460	24	4,128
Montana (12)	131	48	390	411	0	0	32	328	—	92	34	55	238	63	83	686	148	2,739
Nevada (7)	49	122	2,838	104	13	15	531	27	18	—	24	9	63	6	36	136	15	4,006
New Mexico (12)	17	63	343	34	0	0	11	14	4	21	—	3	18	9	9	39	4	589
North Dakota (11)	71	168	445	221	0	3	48	34	241	74	26	—	49	180	62	156	198	1,976
Oregon (6)	116	70	1,334	122	41	6	349	76	37	129	14	7	—	8	27	643	12	2,991
South Dakota (6)	32	124	296	573	0	0	18	16	95	52	11	360	31	—	28	103	360	2,099
Utah (9)	43	235	1,356	255	0	0	109	264	25	389	34	2	104	1	—	161	63	3,041
Washington (10)	194	84	1,235	188	9	1	301	713	139	97	30	11	487	10	54	—	12	3,565
Wyoming (9)	20	28	119	714	0	0	8	98	271	26	16	22	27	138	181	60	—	1,728
Total (161)	1,314	1,652	17,761	3,697	104	84	2,163	1,825	1,115	1,800	904	557	2,070	547	976	4,846	1,066	42,481

*CNMI is the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; GU is Guam.

Note: Data include both new and continuing students. For detailed WUE enrollment, visit: wiche.edu/resources/student-access-programs-by-the-numbers-2020-21.



"In a world where student debt can literally follow you to your grave, I'm thankful to pay reduced tuition with WUE. I can focus on my electrical engineering studies and have fewer worries about financial security buzzing in the back of my head. Thank you so much for taking that weight off of my shoulders."

– Zack, California resident, Electrical Engineering,
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Class of 2025

"WUE gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion in the veterinary field at one of the nationally top-ranked and accredited vet tech schools. I will graduate with the knowledge and skillset necessary to be successful in my future career."

– Elizabeth, Washington resident,
Veterinary Technology, College of Southern Idaho, Class of 2021



Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) allows students who are residents of WICHE states and territories to affordably enroll in more than 1,350 graduate programs (graduate certificate, master's, and Ph.D. levels) at 60 public universities in the West.

Through WRGP, students enroll in participating schools as nonresidents, yet pay no more than 150 percent of resident tuition. Nonresident applicants apply directly to a participating institution's school of graduate studies to apply for the WRGP discount – often receiving tuition savings that generally exceed 50 percent.

In AY 2020-21, 2,441 students saved nearly \$35 million in tuition through WRGP. This marks a WRGP enrollment increase of 28 percent from the prior academic year.

Participating public universities in WICHE member states and territories also benefit from WRGP. The program helps attract and incentivize a broader and more diverse pool of students to pursue varied disciplines at their public institutions. WRGP allows residents of WICHE member states and territories

to take advantage of niche programs regionwide without having to pay nonresident tuition premiums. During a time of significant budget cuts triggered by the pandemic (when some universities are considering eliminating under-enrolled graduate programs), WRGP and regional sharing of limited higher education resources is more important than ever.

The pandemic has underscored the need for professionals in high-demand fields, including instructional design, supply chain management, cybersecurity, health care, and more. WRGP remains a noteworthy option for students pursuing advanced degrees in high-need fields, particularly for healthcare related degrees not offered through WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). As an added plus, a growing number of WRGP programs are offered online, enabling place-bound students to grow their educational credentials.

Learn more about the region's affordable pathway to graduate education at wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wrgp

WRGP Enrollment and Student Savings, AY 2016-2020



WRGP Enrollment Summary, AY 2020-21

	State																	
	AK	AZ	CA	CO	CNMI	GU	HI	ID	MT	NV	NM	ND	OR	SD	UT	WA	WY	Total
# Institutions in state	2	5	3	10	0	1	2	3	4	2	5	3	5	5	4	5	1	60
Students Rec'd.	58	352	26	595	-	0	190	169	179	11	25	115	168	218	224	99	12	2,441
Students Sent	49	121	789	206	2	18	38	148	104	86	90	53	122	44	145	292	134	2,441

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

The global COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for health professionals across a range of fields. Underserved urban and rural communities alike are facing shortages of practitioners. The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) has been a critically important mechanism for Western states to increase the supply of physicians, dentists, optometrists, veterinarians, and other healthcare professionals since the early 1950s.

Through PSEP, students from Western states and territories can pursue careers in 10 health fields and may enroll in participating programs across state lines, receiving substantial tuition support from their home state or territory. This enables aspiring health professionals to lower their tuition costs and have a better chance of reducing their overall student debt loads.

For nearly 70 years, WICHE member states have supported the education of 15,450 Western residents with affordable access to professional healthcare degrees through PSEP. In AY 2020-21, 10 WICHE states and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands invested nearly \$14 million to

grow their healthcare workforce by reducing the educational costs of almost 600 students. More than 130 accredited programs are offered through PSEP at 60 institutions. Participating healthcare programs benefit from the geographic, economic, and demographic diversity that PSEP students bring to their classrooms.

Thanks to PSEP, a student can save between \$33,000 and \$130,000+ on tuition over the lifespan of a professional health degree program, depending on the field of study. This reduced fiscal strain enables students to afford to work in rural areas that typically have lower salaries compared to urban areas, or to pursue professional options that are less lucrative but sorely needed. Most states and territories that support PSEP students require graduates to return home and practice for up to four years, ensuring that the state's investment supports the healthcare professions its residents need most.

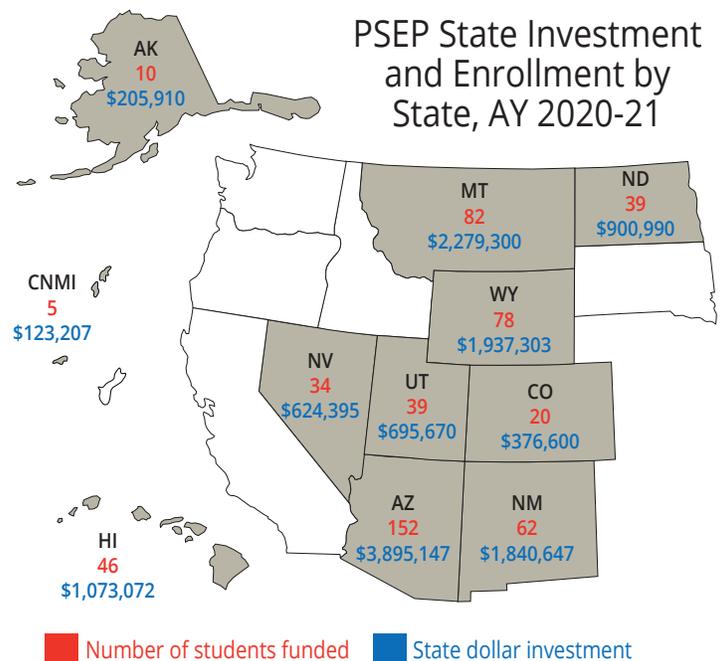
Learn more about the affordable pathway to healthcare education at

wiche.edu/tuition-savings/psep

PSEP Enrollment and Support Fees by Profession, AY 2020-21

Professional Field	Enrollment	Support Fee per Student	State Investment Paid on Behalf of Students
Dentistry	108	\$27,350	\$2,953,801
Medicine	41	32,650	1,330,488
Occupational Therapy	19	14,300	190,675
Optometry	111	18,830	2,090,130
Osteopathic Medicine	60	23,400	1,385,280
Pharmacy	14	8,330	147,167
Physical Therapy	32	15,750	504,000
Physician Assistant	8	18,650	149,200
Podiatry	26	16,250	422,500
Veterinary Medicine	148	32,400	4,779,000
Total	567		\$13,952,241

PSEP State Investment and Enrollment by State, AY 2020-21



PSEP Support Fee Revenue by State and Institution, AY 2020-21

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
Arizona		
PUBLIC		
Northern Arizona University		
Occupational Therapy	2	\$28,600
Institution Total	2	\$28,600
University of Arizona, Phoenix		
Medicine	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of Arizona, Tucson		
Medicine	1	\$32,650
Pharmacy	0	0
Institution Total	1	\$32,650
Public Institution Total	3	\$61,250
PRIVATE		
A.T. Still University Mesa Campus		
Dentistry	12	\$328,200
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Osteopathic Medicine	5	117,000
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	17	\$445,200
Midwestern University		
Dentistry	14	\$382,900
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Optometry	47	885,010
Osteopathic Medicine	32	748,800
Pharmacy	2	22,214
Physical Therapy	2	31,500
Physician Assistant	0	0
Podiatry	18	292,500
Veterinary Medicine	3	97,200
Institution Total	118	\$2,460,124
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine		
Medicine	3	\$97,950
Institution Total	3	\$97,950
Private Institution Total	138	\$3,003,274
ARIZONA TOTAL	141	\$3,064,524

California		
PUBLIC		
California State University, Fresno		
Physical Therapy	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of California, Davis		
Medicine	0	\$0
Veterinary Medicine	9	291,600
Institution Total	9	\$291,600
University of California, Irvine		
Medicine	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of California, Los Angeles		
Dentistry	2	\$54,700
Medicine	0	0
Institution Total	2	\$54,700
University of California, San Diego		
Medicine	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of California, San Francisco		
Dentistry	2	\$54,700
Medicine	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
University of California, San Francisco (cont.)		
Physical Therapy (UCSF/SFSU)	0	0
Institution Total	2	\$54,700
Public Institution Total	13	\$401,000
PRIVATE		
Chapman University		
Physical Therapy	1	\$15,750
Institution Total	1	\$15,750
Loma Linda University		
Dentistry	1	\$27,350
Medicine	1	32,650
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	2	\$60,000
Marshall B. Ketchum University		
Optometry	15	\$282,450
Physician Assistant	1	18,650
Institution Total	16	\$301,100
Mount St. Mary's University		
Physical Therapy	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
Samuel Merritt University		
Occupational Therapy	0	\$0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	0	0
Podiatry	4	65,000
Institution Total	4	\$65,000
Touro University, California		
Osteopathic Medicine	0	\$0
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of the Pacific		
Dentistry	3	\$109,401
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Institution Total	3	\$109,401
University of Southern California		
Dentistry	1	\$27,350
Medicine	0	0
Occupational Therapy	2	0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	2	31,500
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	5	\$58,850
University of St. Augustine		
Physical Therapy	1	\$15,750
Institution Total	1	\$15,750
Western University of Health Sciences		
Dentistry	1	\$27,350
Optometry	2	37,660
Osteopathic Medicine	8	168,480
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	1	15,750
Physician Assistant	0	0
Podiatry	4	65,000
Institution Total	16	\$314,240
Private Institution Total	48	\$940,091
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	61	\$1,341,091

PSEP Support Fee Revenue by State and Institution, AY 2020-21 (cont.)

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
Colorado		
PUBLIC		
Colorado State University		
Veterinary Medicine	57	\$1,846,800
Institution Total	57	\$1,846,800
Red Rocks Community College		
Physician Assistant	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of Colorado Denver		
Dentistry	14	\$382,900
Medicine	9	293,850
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	23	\$676,750
Public Institution Total	80	\$2,523,550
PRIVATE		
Regis University		
Physical Therapy	4	\$63,000
Pharmacy	0	0
Institution Total	4	\$63,000
Rocky Vista University		
Osteopathic Medicine	6	\$140,400
Institution Total	6	\$140,400
Private Institution Total	10	\$203,400
COLORADO TOTAL	90	\$2,726,950

Hawai'i		
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa		
Medicine	3	\$97,950
Institution Total	3	\$97,950
University of Hawai'i at Hilo		
Pharmacy	1	\$8,330
Institution Total	1	\$8,330
HAWAII TOTAL	4	\$106,280

Idaho		
Idaho State University		
Occupational Therapy	0	\$0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	2	37,300
Institution Total	2	\$37,300
IDAHO TOTAL	2	\$37,300

Montana		
University of Montana		
Pharmacy	1	\$8,330
Physical Therapy	1	15,750
Institution Total	2	\$24,080
MONTANA TOTAL	2	\$24,080

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
Nevada		
PUBLIC		
University of Nevada, Las Vegas		
Dentistry	0	\$0
Physical Therapy	2	31,500
Institution Total	2	\$31,500
University of Nevada, Reno		
Medicine	1	\$32,650
Institution Total	1	\$32,650
Public Institution Total	3	\$64,150
PRIVATE		
Roseman University of Health Sciences		
Dentistry (So. Jordan UT Campus)	7	\$191,450
Pharmacy	8	88,856
Institution Total	15	\$280,306
Touro University, Nevada		
Occupational Therapy	3	\$23,835
Osteopathic Medicine	1	23,400
Physical Therapy	3	47,250
Physician Assistant	4	74,600
Institution Total	11	\$169,085
Private Institution Total	26	\$449,391
NEVADA TOTAL	29	\$513,541

New Mexico		
University of New Mexico		
Medicine	0	\$0
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Institution Total	0	\$0
NEW MEXICO TOTAL	0	\$0

North Dakota		
North Dakota State University		
Pharmacy	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
University of North Dakota		
Medicine	7	\$228,550
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Physical Therapy	2	31,500
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	9	\$260,050
NORTH DAKOTA TOTAL	9	\$260,050

Oregon		
PUBLIC		
Oregon Health & Science University		
Dentistry	12	\$328,200
Medicine	9	285,688
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	21	\$613,888
Oregon State University		
Pharmacy	1	\$8,330
Veterinary Medicine	20	648,000
Institution Total	21	\$656,330
Public Institution Total	42	\$1,270,218

PSEP Support Fee Revenue, by State and Institution, AY 2020-21 (cont.)

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
Oregon (cont.)		
PRIVATE		
George Fox University		
Physical Therapy	2	\$31,500
Institution Total	2	\$31,500
Pacific University (PACU)		
Occupational Therapy	4	\$61,970
Optometry	41	772,030
Pharmacy	1	11,107
Physical Therapy	5	78,750
Physician Assistant	0	0
Institution Total	51	\$923,857
Private Institution Total	53	\$955,357
OREGON TOTAL	95	\$2,225,575

South Dakota		
University of South Dakota		
Occupational Therapy	0	\$0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Institution Total	0	\$0
SOUTH DAKOTA TOTAL	0	\$0

Utah		
PUBLIC		
University of Utah		
Dentistry	7	\$191,450
Medicine	7	228,550
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Physical Therapy	1	15,750
Physician Assistant	0	0
Public Institution Total	15	\$435,750

PRIVATE		
Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions		
Physical Therapy	5	\$78,750
Private Institution Total	5	\$78,750
UTAH TOTAL	20	\$514,500

Washington		
PUBLIC		
Eastern Washington University		
Occupational Therapy	2	\$38,135
Physical Therapy	0	0
Institution Total	2	\$38,135
University of Washington		
Dentistry	5	\$136,500
Occupational Therapy	1	0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	1	18,650
Institution Total	7	\$155,400
Washington State University		
Pharmacy	0	\$0
Veterinary Medicine	59	1,895,400
Institution Total	59	\$1,895,400
Public Institution Total	68	\$2,088,935

Institution/Program	# Students	Support Fees
PRIVATE		
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences		
Osteopathic Medicine	8	\$187,200
Institution Total	8	\$187,200
University of Puget Sound		
Occupational Therapy	5	\$38,135
Physical Therapy	0	0
Institution Total	5	\$38,135
Private Institution Total	13	\$225,335
WASHINGTON TOTAL	81	\$2,314,270

Wyoming		
University of Wyoming		
Pharmacy	0	\$0
Institution Total	0	\$0
WYOMING TOTAL	0	\$0

Out-of-Region*		
PUBLIC		
University of Missouri-Kansas City (Mo.)		
Dentistry	7	\$164,100
Institution total	7	\$164,100
University of Nebraska Medical Center (Neb.)		
Dentistry	2	\$54,700
Institution Total	2	\$54,700
Public Institution Total	9	\$218,800

PRIVATE		
Creighton University (Neb.)		
Dentistry	18	\$492,300
Institution Total	18	\$492,300
Illinois College of Optometry (Ill.)		
Optometry	3	\$56,490
Institution Total	3	\$56,490
Salus University (Penn.)		
Optometry	2	\$37,660
Institution Total	2	\$37,660
Southern College of Optometry (Tenn.)		
Optometry	1	\$18,830
Institution Total	1	\$18,830
Private Institution Total	24	\$605,280
OUT-OF-REGION TOTAL	33	\$824,080

TOTAL	567	\$13,952,241
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*WICHE partners with healthcare programs located within its Western U.S. region. In the past, when fewer dentistry and optometry programs were available, WICHE agreed to work with a limited number of out-of-region programs in those fields to increase opportunities for Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming residents. At the supporting states' request, WICHE continues to administer these legacy arrangements.



"I grew up in a copper mining town known to be "a mile high and a mile deep." In its heyday, Butte had swelled to 150,000, but by the time I was growing up, it had collapsed into a small, impoverished town defined by a Superfund waste site, urban decay, and a raging meth epidemic. I left Butte for college, but struggled during that first year, having come from an environment that did not require much in terms of academic rigor. That first summer, I returned home and set off for the mines myself. I am descended from a long line of blue-collar workers, and I, too, was now working in the same mine that my grandfather had worked to feed my mother and her nine siblings, the mine in which my grandfather had watched his brother die.

After experiencing but a fraction of what my forefathers had experienced in that mine, I returned to college reinvigorated to pursue a dream I had formerly regarded as unachievable: to become a physician. The motivation I found following my experience underground drove me to pursue academic excellence and, after completing my undergraduate studies and being accepted at several medical schools, I faced yet another challenge: the staggering financial cost of medical education.

By subsidizing my loans to an in-state tuition rate, PSEP made it possible for me to pursue my interest in allopathic medicine at the institution of my choosing. Programs like PSEP serve the ever-important role of ensuring that students who have earned admission to an allopathic or osteopathic medical school are allowed the opportunity to pursue their dreams with a reduced financial burden. This is especially important for members of impoverished communities or those without significant financial stability. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities afforded me through this program."

– Andrew, Montana resident,
Allopathic Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, Class of 2021

"I worked for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless for four years at the front desk of the Stout Street Health Center, and then as a patient navigator in the Stout Street Eye Clinic. My work there inspired me take night and weekend classes to attain the prerequisites necessary to apply to optometry school. Cost is a huge barrier, as the average optometrist graduates with over \$175,000 in debt. Knowing that Colorado provides financial support for optometry studies through WICHE's PSEP solidified my decision to go back to school in the first place.

When I graduate, I hope to return to the Stout Street Eye Clinic and become their first full-time eyecare provider. If that's not possible, I'd love to work in another community-health setting with other underserved communities, such as Indian Health Services. With Colorado having defrayed a significant portion of the cost of my professional education through WICHE's PSEP, I'll be in a much better financial position to practice in a community health setting."

– Weston, Colorado resident,
Optometry, Pacific University, Class of 2023



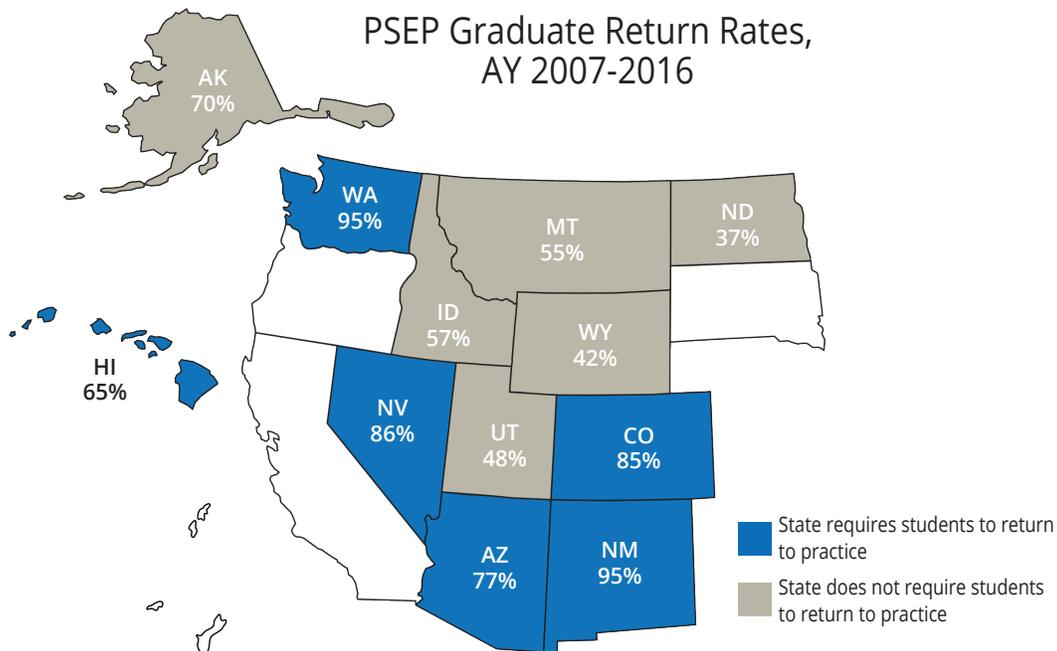
PSEP Graduate Return Rates, AY 2007-2016

Because states supporting students through PSEP want their investments to bolster their health care workforces, every five years they calculate the percentage of PSEP graduates who return home to serve their communities. Return rates for students who graduated between AY 2007 and AY 2016 held relatively steady compared to the prior reporting period. The average student-return rate for PSEP states is now 67 percent.

Seven states supporting PSEP students – Arizona, Colorado, Hawai'i, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming – now require graduates to return home to practice or reimburse funds plus interest paid by states on their behalf. Hawai'i, North Dakota, and Wyoming recently implemented this requirement, known as “service payback,” so they were not included among service-payback states in this cycle’s calculations.

WICHE’s service-payback states get higher returns on investment from PSEP participation, averaging an 83 percent return rate. Washington required its graduates to return when it was still using the program through 2014, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will require service payback for its future PSEP graduates. “Honor-system” states (Alaska, Montana, and Utah) do not contractually require service payback, and their average return rate is 51 percent. Hawai'i, North Dakota, and Wyoming were included in this group for the most recent year statistics, but WICHE anticipates their return rates will improve markedly in future reporting cycles due to their switch to a service-payback model. Idaho was an “honor state” when it was using the program through 2013.

Find detailed return-rate information for each state’s PSEP graduates, in each eligible professional healthcare field, in the table on page 11.



“WICHE’s PSEP allows me to focus on my greatest passion (veterinary medicine), pay less for my studies, and worry less about tackling a mountain of debt when I’m finished. I am excited for the opportunity to return and practice in my home state of Wyoming.”

– Sierra, Wyoming resident,
Veterinary Medicine, Oregon State University, Class of 2024

PSEP Graduate Return Rates, AY 2007-2016**

State/Field	Total # Graduates	# Returned to State	Percentage Returned
Alaska			
Dentistry	14	10	71 %
Occupational Therapy	5	4	80
Optometry	5	2	40
Pharmacy	17	14	82
Physical Therapy	14	8	57
Physician Assistant	4	3	75
Podiatry	1	1	100
Alaska Total	60	42	70 %
Arizona*			
Dentistry	135	94	70 %
Occupational Therapy	68	58	85
Optometry	57	47	82
Osteopathic Medicine**	38	20	53
Physician Assistant	82	71	87
Veterinary Medicine	135	108	80
Arizona Total	515	398	77 %
Colorado*			
Optometry	62	53	85 %
Colorado Total	62	53	85 %
Hawai'i			
Dentistry	22	13	59 %
Occupational Therapy	24	17	71
Optometry	23	20	87
Pharmacy	41	28	68
Physical Therapy	52	31	60
Veterinary Medicine	24	12	50
Hawai'i Total	186	121	65 %
Idaho			
Optometry	14	8	57 %
Idaho Total	14	8	57 %
Montana			
Dentistry	19	11	58 %
Allopathic Medicine**	34	10	29
Occupational Therapy	9	7	78
Optometry	9	5	56
Osteopathic Medicine**	8	3	38
Podiatry	0	0	0
Veterinary Medicine	89	56	63
Montana Total	168	92	55 %
Nevada*			
Dentistry	5	5	100 %
Optometry	17	13	76
Pharmacy	37	31	84
Physician Assistant	30	25	83
Veterinary Medicine	40	37	93
Nevada Total	129	111	86 %
New Mexico*			
Dentistry	91	87	96 %
Optometry	7	7	100
Veterinary Medicine	93	87	94
New Mexico Total	191	181	95 %

State/Field	Total # Graduates	# Returned to State	Percentage Returned
North Dakota			
Dentistry	28	14	50 %
Optometry	52	16	31
Veterinary Medicine	15	5	33
North Dakota Total	95	35	37 %
Utah			
Optometry	29	14	48 %
Podiatry	13	5	38
Veterinary Medicine	43	22	51
Utah Total	85	41	48 %
Washington*			
Optometry	11	11	100 %
Osteopathic Medicine**	10	9	90
Washington Total	21	20	95 %
Wyoming			
Dentistry	33	19	58 %
Allopathic Medicine**	19	1	5
Occupational Therapy	21	11	52
Optometry	54	16	30
Osteopathic Medicine**	12	1	8
Physical Therapy	67	34	51
Physician Assistant	34	20	59
Podiatry	4	0	0
Veterinary Medicine	73	31	42
Wyoming Total	317	133	42 %

WICHE Return Rates by Field			
Dentistry	347	253	73 %
Allopathic Medicine**	53	11	21
Occupational Therapy	127	97	76
Optometry	340	212	62
Osteopathic Medicine**	68	33	49
Pharmacy	95	73	77
Physical Therapy	133	73	55
Physician Assistant	150	119	79
Podiatry	18	6	33
Veterinary Medicine	512	358	70

Total for All Reporting WICHE PSEP States	1,843	1,235	67 %
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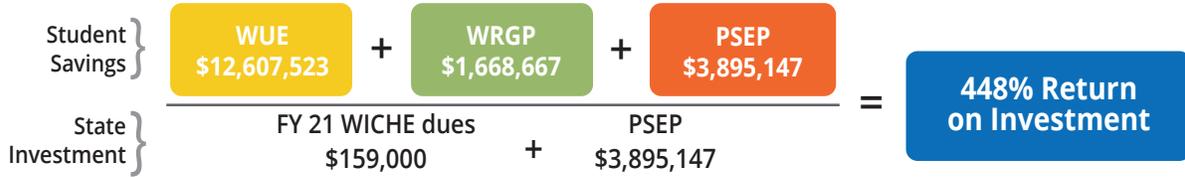
Total for Contractual Payback States	918	763	83 %
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Total for Honor System States	925	472	51 %
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* Contractual payback state for entire reporting period. Hawai'i and Wyoming instituted service payback during the latter part of the reporting period. Therefore, they were counted as "honor states."

** WICHE uses 2007 to 2011 return data for allopathic and osteopathic medical graduates, to allow time for them to return home and serve upon completion of their residency programs.

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953,
Arizona students saved \$18.2 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



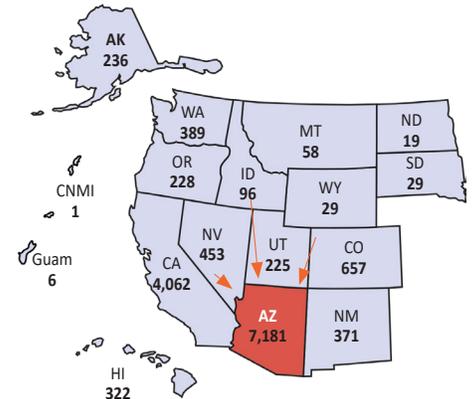
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 1,652 Arizona undergraduates saved \$12.6 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Utah Valley U. (120 Ariz. residents) and Colorado State U. (97 Ariz. residents).
- Arizona residents have saved \$161.9 million since 1998.

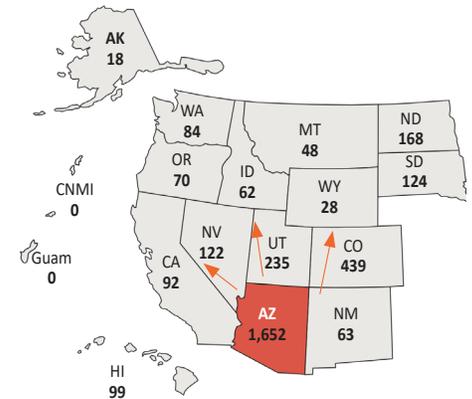
Arizona institutions enrolled 7,181 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year (cont.)
Arizona State U., Downtown.....160	Estrella Mountain College.....8
Arizona State U., Poly.....332	Gateway C.C.....13
Arizona State U., West.....295	Glendale C.C.....12
Northern Arizona U.....5,235	Mesa C.C.....143
U. of Arizona.....10	Mohave C.C.....262
U. of Arizona, Sierra Vista.....0	Northland Pioneer College.....3
	Paradise Valley C.C.....15
	Phoenix College.....15
2-Year	Pima C.C.....96
Arizona Western College.....30	Rio Salado C.C.....21
Central Arizona College.....72	Scottsdale C.C.....40
Chandler-Gilbert C.C.....27	South Mountain C.C.....25
Cochise College.....31	Yavapai College.....63
Coconino C.C.....218	
Eastern Arizona College.....53	

WUE Student Distribution to Arizona



WUE Student Distribution from Arizona



Western Regional Graduate Program

- Arizona universities enrolled 352 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 121 Arizona graduate students saved \$1.67 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- 152 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in Arizona and saved \$3,895,147.
- Arizona institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 141 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Arizona. Institutions received \$3.1 million in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 77% of Arizona's PSEP graduates (2007-11 for physicians, 2007-16 for all other fields) returned home to practice; students are required to return home to serve.

Field	# of Arizona students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	40	\$1,103,117
Optometry	20	376,600
Osteopathic Medicine	41	940,680
Podiatry	11	178,750
Veterinary Medicine	40	1,296,000
TOTAL	152	\$3,895,147

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1955, California residents saved \$202.4 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY2020-21



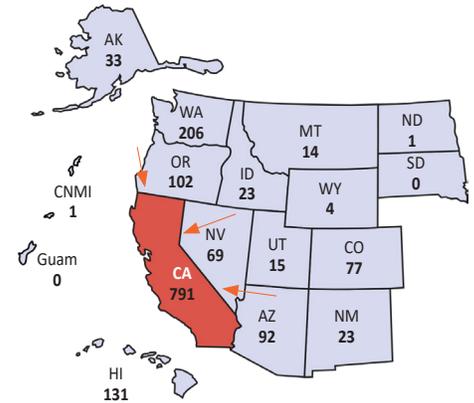
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 17,761 California undergraduates saved \$191.1 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Northern Arizona U. (3,196 Calif. residents) and U. of Nevada, Reno (1,869 Calif. residents).
- California residents have saved \$1.73 billion since 1997.

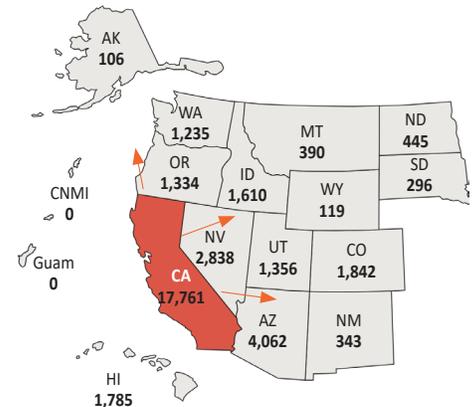
California institutions enrolled 791 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

California State Polytechnic U., Pomona.....33	CSU, Monterey Bay.....23
California State U. (CSU), Bakersfield.....41	CSU, Northridge.....15
CSU, Channel Islands.....0	CSU, Sacramento.....141
CSU, Chico.....65	CSU, San Bernardino.....18
CSU, Dominguez Hills.....11	CSU, San Marcos.....32
CSU, East Bay.....37	CSU, Stanislaus.....12
CSU, Maritime Academy.....108	Humboldt State U.....219
	Sonoma State U.....29
	U. of California, Merced.....7

WUE Student Distribution to California



WUE Student Distribution from California



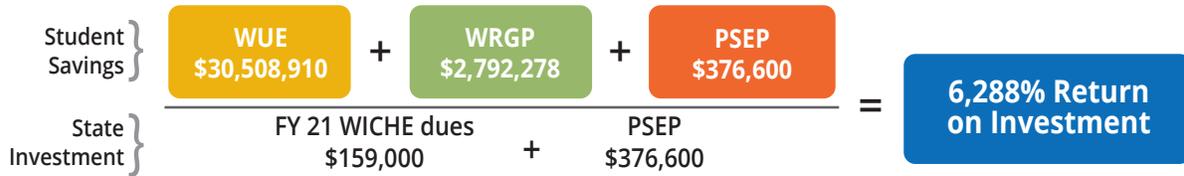
Western Regional Graduate Program

- California universities enrolled 26 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 789 California graduate students saved \$11.4 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- California doesn't use PSEP for its residents because it operates public programs in most PSEP fields, with the exception of osteopathic medicine and podiatry.
- However, California institutions and their local economies still benefit from PSEP. This year, 61 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in California. Institutions received \$1.3 million in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

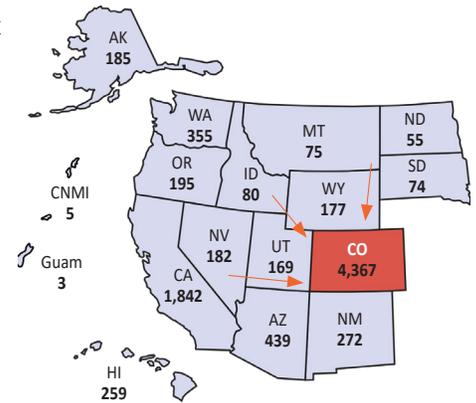
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953, Colorado residents saved \$33.7 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



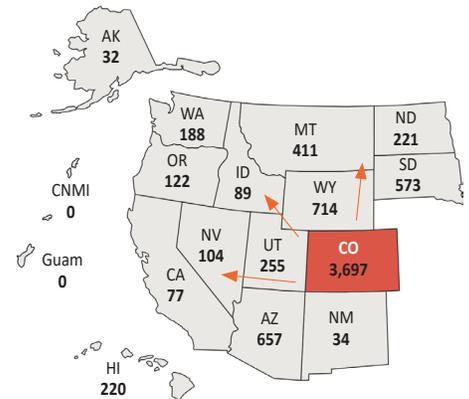
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 3,697 Colorado undergraduates saved \$30.5 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Northern Arizona U. (518 Colo. residents) and U. of Wyoming (293 Colo. residents).
- Colorado residents have saved \$358.6 million since 1988.

WUE Student Distribution to Colorado



WUE Student Distribution from Colorado



Colorado institutions enrolled 4,367 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year (cont.)
Adams State U.....193	Colorado Mountain College.....37
Colorado Mesa U.....660	Colorado Northwestern C.C.....37
Colorado State U. - Fort Collins.....1,390	C.C. of Aurora.....32
Colorado State U. - Pueblo.....236	C.C. of Denver.....7
Fort Lewis College.....96	Front Range C.C.....30
Metropolitan State U. of Denver.....132	Lamar C.C.....14
U. of Colorado, Colorado Springs.....397	Morgan C.C.....0
U. of Colorado Denver.....367	Northeastern Jr. College.....44
U. of Northern Colorado.....569	Otero Jr. College.....9
Western State Colorado U.....63	Pikes Peak C.C.....6
	Pueblo C.C.....4
	Red Rocks C.C.....6
	Trinidad State Jr. College.....9
2-Year	
Aims C.C.....22	
Arapahoe C.C.....7	

Western Regional Graduate Program

- Colorado universities enrolled 595 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 206 Colorado graduate students saved \$2.8 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- 20 students paid reduced tuition and saved \$376,600 to study optometry in another state because it's not offered by a Colorado public institution.
- Colorado institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 90 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Colorado. Institutions received \$2.7 million in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 85% of Colorado's PSEP graduates (2007-16) returned home to practice; students are required to return home to serve.

Field	# of Colorado students	Support fees paid
Optometry	20	\$376,600
TOTAL	20	\$376,600

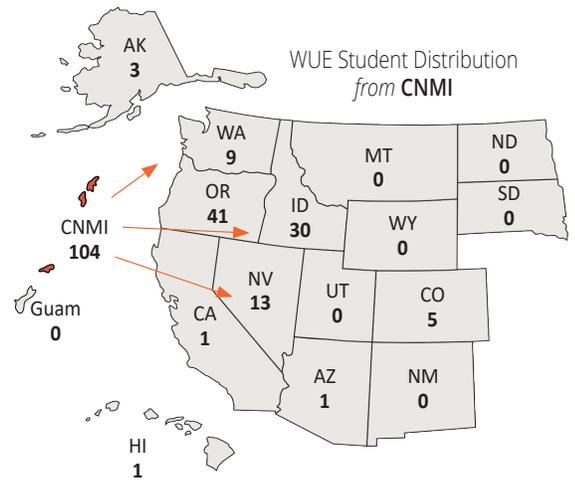
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 2012, CNMI residents saved \$1.35 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) joined WICHE in 2012 and became the first member from the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States membership. Guam joined in 2016. American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau are also eligible to join WICHE and participate in its Student Access Programs under the same membership.

Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 104 CNMI undergraduates saved \$1.2 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Boise State U. (30 CNMI residents), Western Oregon U. (16 CNMI residents), and Eastern Oregon U. (13 CNMI residents).
- CNMI residents have saved \$4.7 million since 2013.
- Northern Marianas College participates in the WUE network and is eligible to enroll WUE students from other WICHE states at the reduced WUE rate.



Western Regional Graduate Program

- 3 CNMI graduate students saved \$39,618 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- The CNMI now has five students enrolled through PSEP this academic year. They're saving \$123,207 on tuition for their allopathic and osteopathic medical studies.
- The CNMI passed legislation in 2017 that enables its residents to gain access to affordable healthcare education at some 135 participating programs in the Western United States. The CNMI is seeking qualified students to enroll in WICHE's partner programs in the fields of: allopathic medicine, dentistry, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine.

Field	# of CNMI students	Support fees paid
Medicine (Allopathic)	2	\$65,300
Osteopathic Medicine	2	46,800
Pharmacy	1	11,107
TOTAL	5	\$123,207

CNMI residents may also study dentistry, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine.

Guam | Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

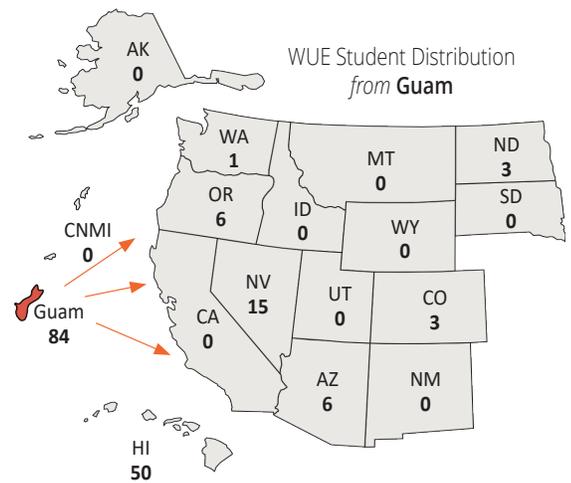
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 2016, Guam residents saved \$1.3 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



Since 2016, Guam has also participated in WICHE programs through the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States membership. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) joined in 2012. American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau are also eligible to join WICHE and participate in its Student Access Programs under the same membership.

Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 84 Guam undergraduates saved \$1.1 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: U. of Hawai'i at Mānoa (46 Guam residents) and U. of Nevada, Las Vegas (13 Guam residents).
- Guam residents have saved \$4.6 million since 2016.
- The University of Guam participates in the WUE network and is eligible to enroll WUE students from other WICHE states at a reduced WUE rate.



Western Regional Graduate Program

- 18 Guam graduate students saved \$176,004 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.
- The University of Guam has joined the WRGP network and is eligible to enroll WRGP students from other WICHE states at the reduced WRGP tuition rate. It currently offers three master's programs in the following disciplines: Micronesia studies, public administration, and business administration.

Professional Student Exchange Program

Guam is not currently participating in PSEP, but if its legislature elects to do so, WICHE looks forward to facilitating its participation, with the goal of building Guam's healthcare workforce.

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1959, Hawai'i residents saved \$24.1 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



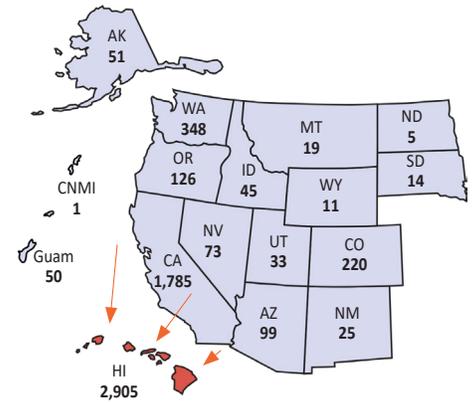
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 2,163 Hawai'i undergraduates saved \$22.6 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: U. of Nevada, Las Vegas (459 Hawai'i residents) and Northern Arizona U. (243 Hawai'i residents).
- Hawai'i residents have saved \$318.3 million since 1988.

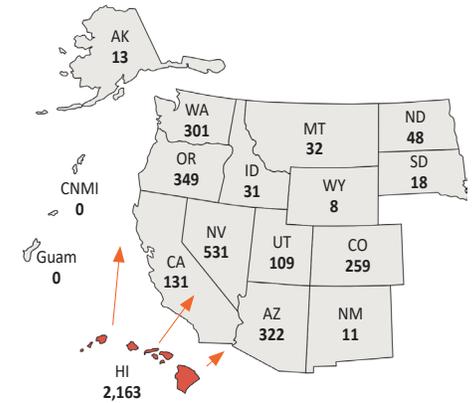
Hawai'i institutions enrolled 2,905 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
U. of Hawai'i, Hilo358	U. of Hawai'i, Maui College 11
U. of Hawai'i, Mānoa.....2,516	
U. of Hawai'i, West O'ahu..... 20	

WUE Student Distribution to Hawai'i



WUE Student Distribution from Hawai'i



Western Regional Graduate Program

- Hawai'i universities enrolled 190 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 38 Hawai'i graduate students saved \$466,501 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- 46 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in the home state and saved \$1,073,072.
- Hawai'i institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 4 PSEP students enrolled in public programs located in Hawai'i. Institutions received \$106,280 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 65% of Hawai'i's PSEP graduates (from 2007-16) returned home to practice; students are required to return home and serve.

Field	# of Hawai'i students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	9	\$255,267
Occupational Therapy	3	38,135
Optometry	9	169,470
Physical Therapy	12	189,000
Veterinary Medicine	13	421,200
TOTAL	46	\$1,073,072

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953, Idaho residents saved \$17.9 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



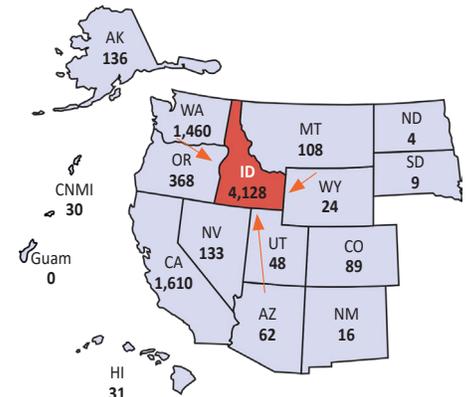
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 1,825 Idaho undergraduates saved \$15.4 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Spokane C.C. (330 Idaho residents) and Washington State U. (171 Idaho residents).
- Idaho residents have saved \$223.8 million since 1988.

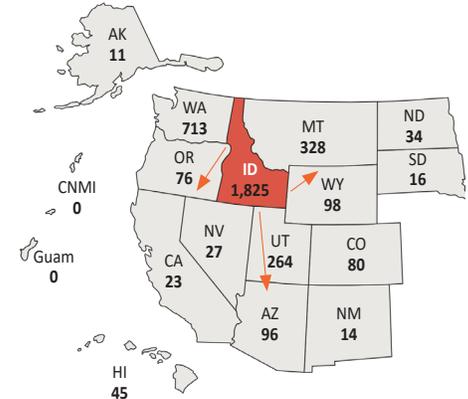
Idaho institutions enrolled 4,128 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Boise State U. 2,602	College of Southern Idaho 47
Idaho State U. 112	North Idaho College 105
Lewis-Clark State College 28	
U. of Idaho 1,234	

WUE Student Distribution to Idaho



WUE Student Distribution from Idaho



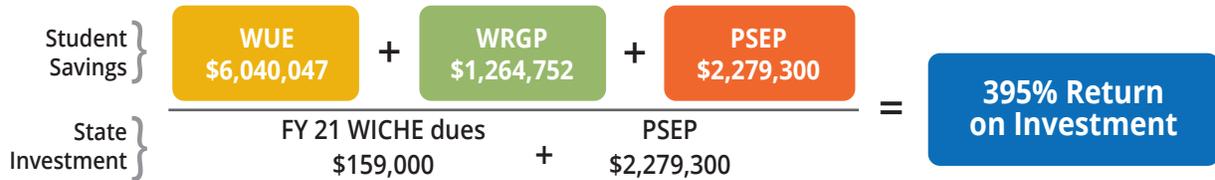
Western Regional Graduate Program

- Idaho universities enrolled 169 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 148 Idaho graduate students saved \$2.5 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- Idaho supported students studying optometry until 2013. Idaho has elected not to use PSEP for its residents because it partners directly with neighboring states or operates public programs in most PSEP fields, with the exception of optometry, osteopathic medicine, and podiatry.
- However, Idaho institutions and their local economies still benefit from PSEP. This year, 2 PSEP students enrolled at Idaho State University. The university received \$37,300 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

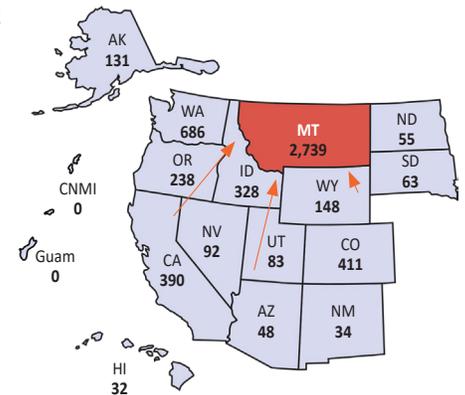
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1951, Montana residents saved \$9.6 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



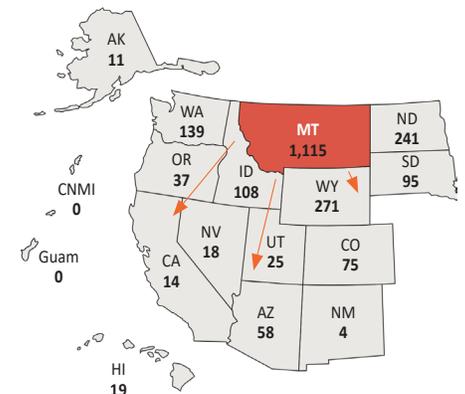
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 1,115 Montana undergraduates saved \$6 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Williston State College (113 Mont. residents) and Sheridan College (104 Mont. residents).
- Montana residents have saved \$136.7 million since 1988.

WUE Student Distribution to Montana



WUE Student Distribution from Montana



Montana institutions enrolled 2,739 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Montana State U. (MSU) Billings..... 259	Dawson C.C.....49
MSU Bozeman..... 1,111	Flathead Valley C.C.....17
MSU Northern..... 110	Great Falls College, MSU.....11
Montana Tech U..... 139	Helena College of Tech, U of Montana...16
U. of Montana, Missoula..... 740	Highlands College of Montana Tech..... 5
U. of Montana, Western..... 238	Miles C.C.....57

Western Regional Graduate Program

- Montana universities enrolled 179 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 104 Montana graduate students saved \$1.3 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

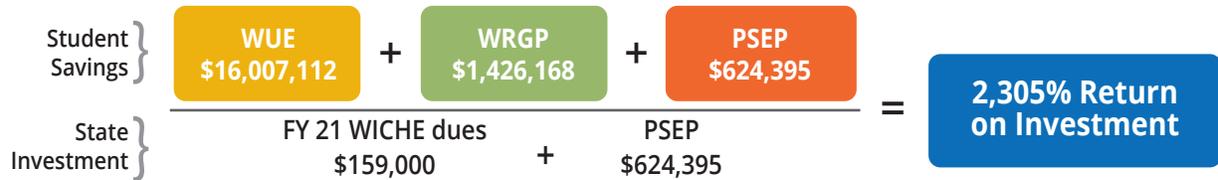
Professional Student Exchange Program

- 82 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in the home state and saved \$2.3 million.
- Montana institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 2 PSEP students enrolled in public programs located in Montana. Institutions received \$24,080 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 55% of Montana's PSEP graduates (2007-11 for physicians, 2007-16 for all other fields) returned home to practice. Montana does not contractually require them to do so.

Field	# of Montana students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	12	\$328,200
Medicine (Allopathic)	27	881,550
Occupational Therapy	5	61,970
Optometry	6	112,980
Osteopathic Medicine	14	327,600
Veterinary Medicine	18	567,000
TOTAL	82	\$2,279,300

Montana residents may also study podiatry through PSEP.

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1959, Nevada residents saved \$18.1 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



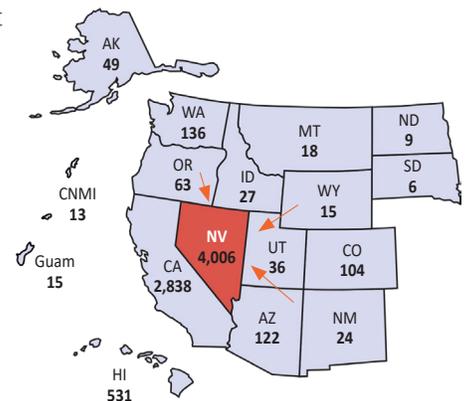
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 1,800 Nevada undergraduates saved \$16 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Northern Arizona U. (249 Nev. residents) and Southern Utah U. (194 Nev. residents).
- Nevada residents have saved \$190.4 million since 1988.

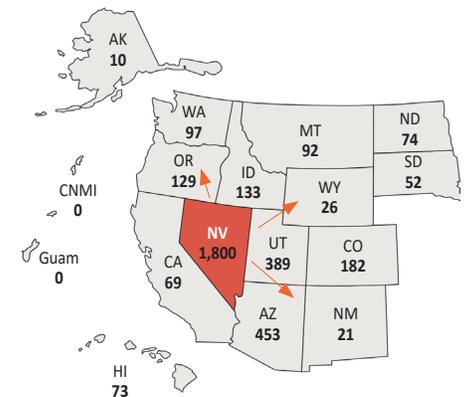
Nevada institutions enrolled 4,006 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Nevada State College.....78	College of Southern Nevada.....90
U. of Nevada, Las Vegas.....1,643	Great Basin College.....10
U. of Nevada, Reno.....2,015	Truckee Meadows C.C.....114
	Western Nevada C.C.....26

WUE Student Distribution to Nevada



WUE Student Distribution from Nevada



Western Regional Graduate Program

- Nevada universities enrolled 11 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 86 Nevada graduate students saved \$1,426,168 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

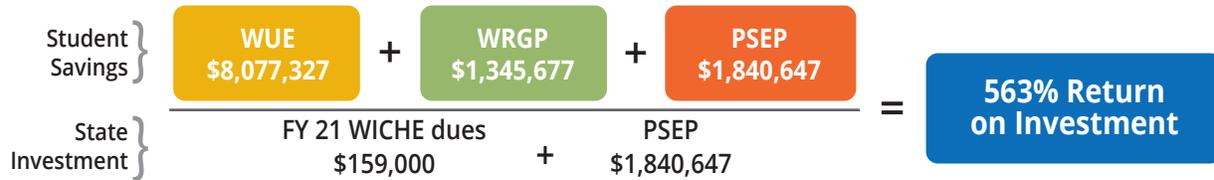
Professional Student Exchange Program

- 34 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in their home state and saved \$624,395.
- Nevada institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 29 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Nevada. Institutions received \$513,541 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 86% of Nevada's PSEP graduates (2007-16) returned home to practice; students are contractually required to return and serve.

Field	# of Nevada students	Support fees paid
Occupational Therapy	3	\$23,835
Pharmacy	13	136,060
Physical Therapy*	3	47,250
Physician Assistant	5	93,250
Veterinary Medicine	10	324,000
TOTAL	34	\$624,395

*Although the University of Nevada, Las Vegas offers a doctor of physical therapy program, Nevada educates additional professionals through PSEP because of the state's tremendous workforce need for physical therapists.

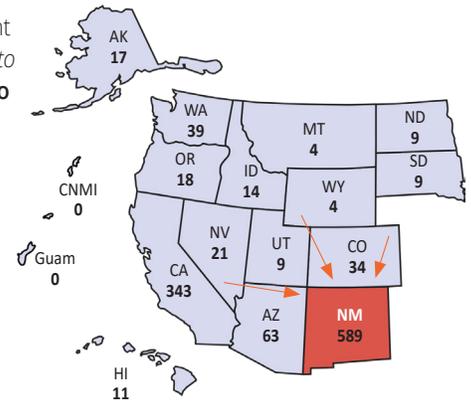
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953, New Mexico residents saved \$11.3 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



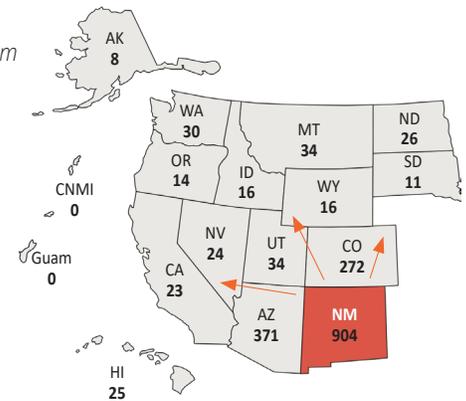
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 904 New Mexico undergraduates saved \$8.1 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Northern Arizona U. (256 N.M. residents) and Colorado State U. (83 N.M. residents).
- New Mexico residents have saved \$111.9 million since 1988.

WUE Student Distribution to New Mexico



WUE Student Distribution from New Mexico



New Mexico institutions enrolled 589 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Eastern New Mexico U. - Portales..... 152	Eastern New Mexico U. - Roswell 3
New Mexico Highlands U..... 2	New Mexico Junior College..... 0
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology..... 9	New Mexico Military Institute 3
New Mexico State U..... 170	New Mexico State U. - Alamogordo..... 2
Northern New Mexico College..... 1	Santa Fe C.C..... 0
U. of New Mexico..... 221	
Western New Mexico U..... 26	

Western Regional Graduate Program

- New Mexico universities enrolled 25 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 90 New Mexico graduate students saved \$1.3 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- New Mexico's \$1.84 million investment enabled 62 students to pay reduced tuition in dentistry, optometry, and veterinary medicine programs (for which no public New Mexico programs exist) outside the state.
- The University of New Mexico and the local economy can benefit from PSEP; its programs in allopathic medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy and physical therapy can enroll students from other WICHE states. The institution receives a support fee paid by the students' home states to reduce their tuition costs.
- 95% of New Mexico's PSEP graduates (2007-16) returned home to practice; New Mexico students are contractually required to do so.

Field	# of New Mexico students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	27	\$720,217
Optometry	1	18,830
Veterinary Medicine	34	1,101,600
TOTAL	62	\$1,840,647

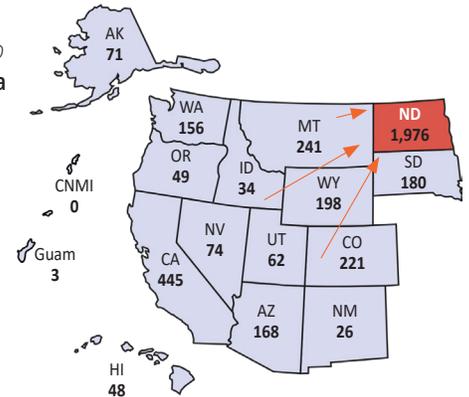
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1984, North Dakota residents saved \$3.5 million through WICHE’s Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 557 North Dakota undergraduates saved \$1.9 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Northern State U. (84 N.D. residents) and Black Hills State U. (76 N.D. residents).
- North Dakota residents have saved \$42.3 million since 1988.

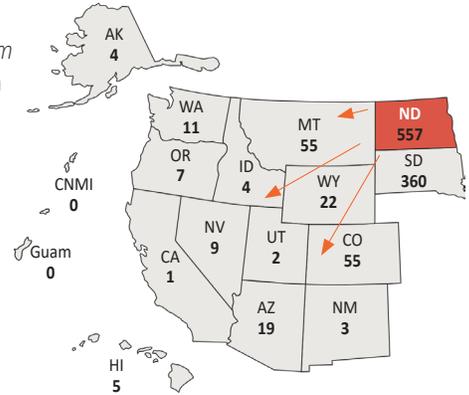
WUE Student Distribution to North Dakota



North Dakota institutions enrolled 1,976 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Dickinson State U. 122	Bismarck State College..... 159
Mayville State U. 91	Dakota College at Bottineau 31
Minot State U. 353	Lake Region State College 40
North Dakota State U. 290	North Dakota State College of Science 20
U. of North Dakota 571	Williston State College 141
Valley City State U. 158	

WUE Student Distribution from North Dakota



Western Regional Graduate Program

- North Dakota universities enrolled 115 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 53 North Dakota graduate students saved \$657,291 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- 39 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in their home state and saved \$900,900.
- North Dakota institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 9 PSEP students enrolled in public programs located in North Dakota. Institutions received \$260,050 in support fees to reduce the students’ tuition costs.
- 37% of North Dakota’s PSEP graduates (2007-16) returned home to practice. North Dakota does not contractually require them to do so.

Field	# of North Dakota students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	10	\$273,500
Optometry	23	433,090
Veterinary Medicine	6	194,400
TOTAL	39	\$900,900

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953, Oregon residents saved \$23.5 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



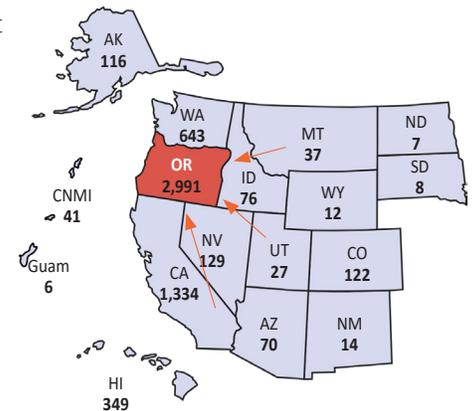
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 2,070 Oregon undergraduates saved \$21.7 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Washington State U. (269 Ore. residents) and Boise State U. (190 Ore. residents).
- Oregon residents have saved \$272.1 million since 1989.

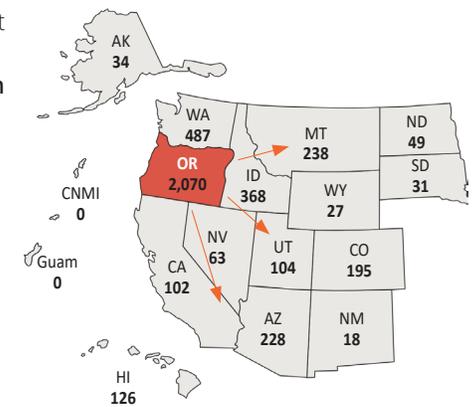
Oregon institutions enrolled 2,991 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

Eastern Oregon U.....	210
Oregon Institute of Tech.....	281
Portland State U.....	1,106
Southern Oregon U.....	725
Western Oregon U.....	669

WUE Student Distribution to Oregon



WUE Student Distribution from Oregon



Western Regional Graduate Program

- Oregon universities enrolled 168 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 122 Oregon graduate students saved \$1.8 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- Oregon doesn't use PSEP for its residents because it operates public programs in most PSEP fields, with the exception of occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathic medicine, and podiatry.
- However, Oregon institutions and their local economies still benefit from PSEP. This year, 95 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Oregon. Institutions received \$2.26 million in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1988, South Dakota residents saved \$3.7 million through WICHE’s Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



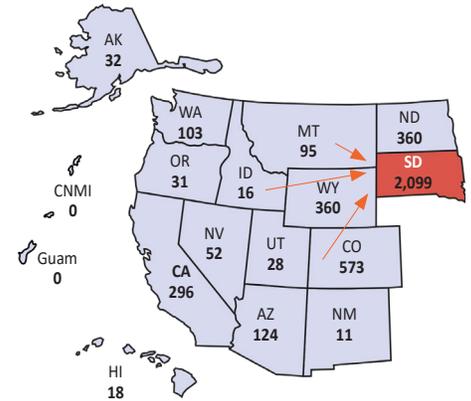
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 547 South Dakota undergraduates saved \$3.1 million paying 150% or less of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: North Dakota State U. (162 S.D. residents), Casper College (38 S.D. residents), and Sheridan College (38 S.D. residents).
- South Dakota residents have saved \$93.4 million since 1989.

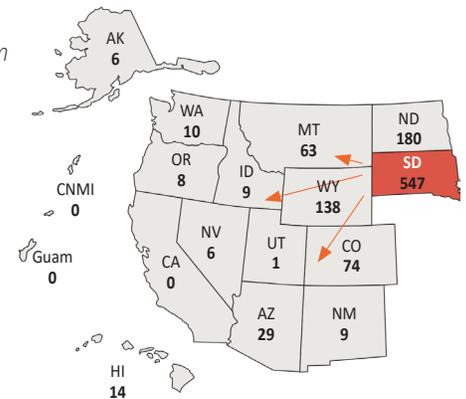
South Dakota institutions enrolled 2,099 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

Black Hills State U.....	601
Dakota State U.	258
Northern State U.	171
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	530
South Dakota State U.	314
U. of South Dakota	225

WUE Student Distribution to South Dakota



WUE Student Distribution from South Dakota



Western Regional Graduate Program

- South Dakota universities enrolled 218 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 44 South Dakota graduate students saved \$577,923 paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- South Dakota doesn't use PSEP for its residents because they typically enroll in the state's public programs for several PSEP fields, or have agreements with neighboring states for programs not offered by their public institutions.
- South Dakota institutions and their local economies can benefit from PSEP. For example, the U. of South Dakota's physical therapy and occupational therapy doctorate programs enroll students from other WICHE states. The institution receives a support fee paid by the student's home states to reduce their tuition costs.

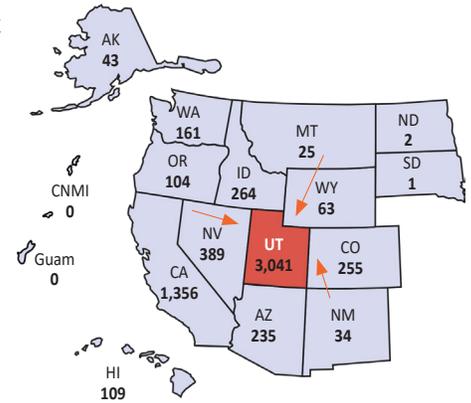
A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1953, Utah residents saved \$9.4 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



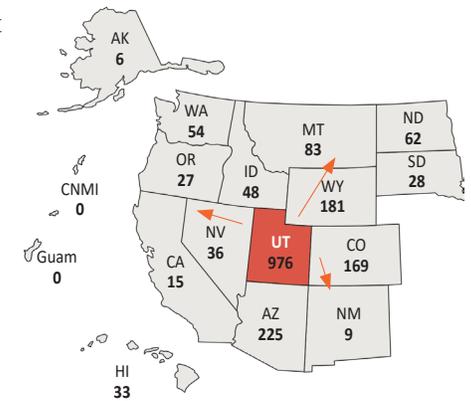
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 976 Utah undergraduates saved \$6.7 million paying 150% or less of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: Mohave C.C. (131 Utah residents) and Western Wyoming C.C. (61 Utah residents).
- Utah residents have saved \$99.7 million since 1988.

WUE Student Distribution to Utah



WUE Student Distribution from Utah



Utah institutions enrolled 3,041 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Dixie State U. 396	Salt Lake C.C. 33
Southern Utah U. 456	Snow College 286
U. of Utah 797	Utah State U. Eastern 1
Utah State U. 227	
Utah Valley U. 743	
Weber State U. 103	

Western Regional Graduate Program

- Utah universities enrolled 224 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 145 Utah graduate students saved \$2 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- 39 students paid reduced tuition for healthcare studies not offered by public institutions in the home state and saved \$695,670.
- Utah institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 20 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Utah. Institutions received \$514,500 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.
- 48% of Utah's PSEP graduates (2007-16) returned home to practice. Utah does not contractually require them to do so.

Field	# of Utah students	Support fees paid
Optometry	24	\$451,920
Podiatry	15	243,670
TOTAL	39	\$695,670

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1955,
Washington residents saved \$59.7 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in AY 2020-21



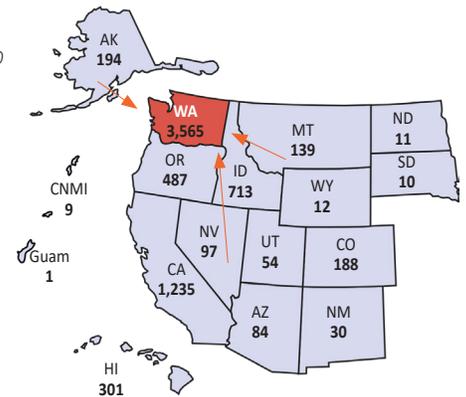
Western Undergraduate Exchange

- 4,846 Washington undergraduates saved \$55.6 million paying 150% or less of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: U. of Idaho (715 Wash. residents) and Boise State U. (705 Wash. residents).
- Washington residents have saved \$606.4 million since 1997.

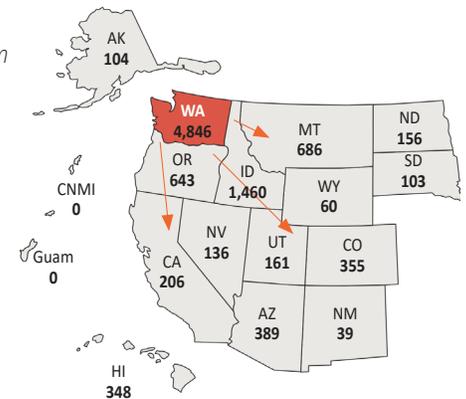
Washington institutions enrolled 3,565 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

4-Year	2-Year
Central Washington U.353	Spokane C.C.....476
Eastern Washington U.....48	Spokane Falls C.C.....250
Evergreen State College.....37	
Washington State U. (WSU).....2,191	
Western Washington U.....322	
WSU Everett.....0	
WSU Tri-Cities.....2	
WSU Vancouver.....41	

WUE Student Distribution to Washington



WUE Student Distribution from Washington



Western Regional Graduate Program

- Washington universities enrolled 99 WRGP students from other WICHE states.
- 292 Washington graduate students saved \$4.2 million paying reduced tuition in other Western states.

Professional Student Exchange Program

- Washington supported students studying optometry and osteopathic medicine until 2013. Washington has elected not to use PSEP for its residents because it operates public programs in most PSEP fields, with the exception of optometry, osteopathic medicine, and podiatry.
- However, Washington institutions and their local economies still benefit from PSEP. This year, 81 PSEP students enrolled in public and private programs located in Washington. Institutions received \$2.3 million in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

About WICHE

Since 1953, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been strengthening higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health throughout the region. As an interstate compact, WICHE partners with states, territories, and postsecondary institutions to share knowledge, create resources, and develop innovative solutions that address some of our society's most pressing needs. From promoting high-quality, affordable postsecondary education to helping states get the most from their technology investments and addressing behavioral health challenges, WICHE improves lives across the West through innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy.

Participate in WICHE's Student Access Programs

If you're a WICHE-region stakeholder, we welcome your participation in our programs. Learn how you can become part of WUE, WRGP, or PSEP at wiche.edu/tuition-savings. Contact us at:

Jere Mock, Vice President of Programs and Services, jmock@wiche.edu

Margo Colalancia, Director of Student Access Programs, mcolalancia@wiche.edu

Kate Springsteen, Coordinator of Student Access Programs & Member Services, kspringsteen@wiche.edu

Testimonials

"WICHE's PSEP is our best recruiting tool. Rather than limit our recruiting to specific institutions within a state, we can recruit from many applicants in the region who are eligible for financial assistance from their home state legislatures. We have received great applicants and students from WICHE's pool of candidates."

– Dr. Joel Tenbrink, Assistant Program Director,
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program,
Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions



"Our program's participation in WRGP attracts undergraduates with diverse backgrounds and experiences, as well as students from underrepresented groups. WRGP helps us fulfill our mission of affordability. One of our students remarked that the WRGP tuition waiver was a huge help during a financially difficult time and a deciding factor in their decision to attend Weber State."

– David Hartwig, Director of the Master of Arts in English Program,
Assistant Professor of English, Weber State University

"As a first-generation minority college student, I feel an immense sense of pressure to become a knowledgeable and skilled occupational therapist. PSEP significantly reduced the cost of my education; it's allowed me to focus more on school and worry less about money."

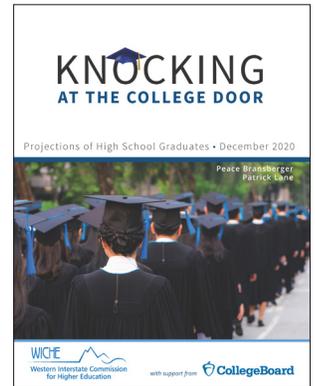
– Madelon, Wyoming resident,
Occupational Therapy, Pacific University, Class of 2023



WICHE'S Projections of High School Graduates

In the 10th edition of *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, released in December 2020, WICHE discusses how COVID-19 impacts may factor somewhat in the future number of graduates. But, a coming trend of fewer graduates is solidly predicted by underlying youth population changes – the nation and the West could produce 8 to 10 percent fewer graduates from 2025 to 2037, even if high graduation rates of recent years persist and classes continue to diversify.

Learn more at knocking.wiche.edu



Testimonials

"WRGP gave me the opportunity to study out of state and pay in-state tuition. It allowed me unrestricted access to explore interests in areas of study which were not available in my home state."

– V., Alaska resident,
Climate Science Solutions, Northern Arizona University, Class of 2021



"Since 2015, 14 of our students have received a total of \$1.4 million in support through the generosity of WICHE's PSEP and the students' home states. This program instills in our students a great sense of motivation to succeed while minimizing the financial burden of the high cost of dental education. WICHE provides us a platform to recruit and enroll not only the 'best and the brightest,' but also those who reflect our vision, goals and humanistic commitments."

– Marco Castellanos, Director of Financial Aid,
Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, University of the Pacific

"I'm privileged to be studying at one of the top-rated dental hygiene schools at the College of Southern Idaho. WUE made it feasible."

– Hannah, Montana resident,
Dental Hygiene, College of Southern Idaho, Class of 2022



"WICHE has allowed me to manage the many expenses of my professional education while raising two children. I can't imagine making it work without this support."

– Joshua, Utah resident,
Optometry, Marshall B. Ketchum University, Class of 2022