

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

\$34.1M

TOTAL SAVED

by Arizona students through WICHE's Student Access Programs.

\$27.1M

SAVED
through WUE

\$3.0M

SAVED
through WRGP

\$3.9M

SAVED
through PSEP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



WUE

Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Arizona WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ Northern Arizona University (2,836)
- ▶ Mohave College (353)
- ▶ Arizona State University / West Valley Campus (210)

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Arizona undergraduate students:

- ▶ University of Nevada, Reno (223)
- ▶ Utah Valley University (172)
- ▶ Colorado State University (151)

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



WRGP

Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Arizona WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ University of Arizona (183)
- ▶ Northern Arizona University (54)
- ▶ Arizona State University (12)

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Arizona graduate students:

- ▶ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (26)
- ▶ Eastern New Mexico University (20)
- ▶ University of Idaho (20)

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



PSEP

Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

134 Arizona students paid reduced tuition for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

80% of Arizona's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-16 for physicians, 2012-21 for all other fields). Students are contractually required to return.

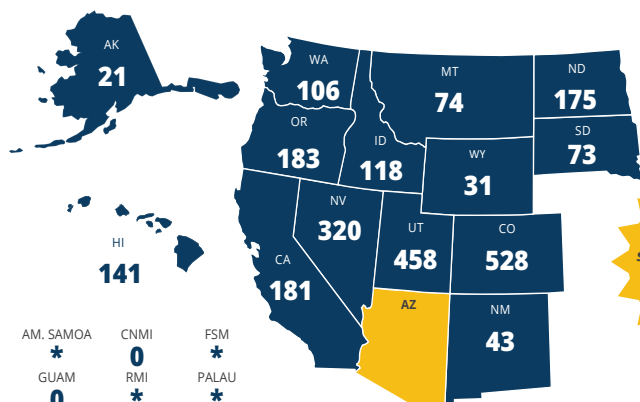
Arizona institutions and their local economies benefit, too. This year, 162 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Arizona. Institutions received \$4.2M in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

831% ROI Gained on Arizona's WICHE annual dues (\$174,500/FY 2026)

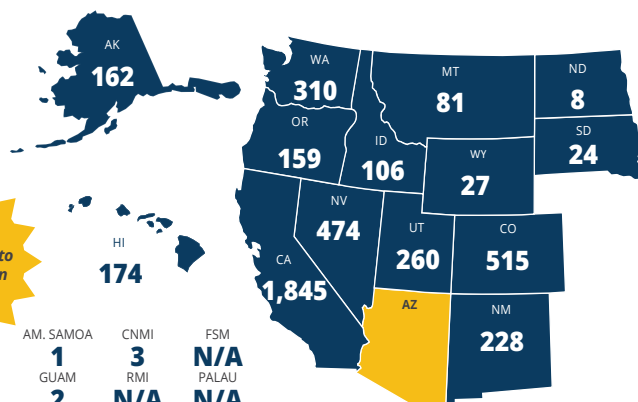
WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM ARIZONA: **2,452**

WUE STUDENTS TO ARIZONA: **4,379**



4,379 WUE students chose to attend school in Arizona



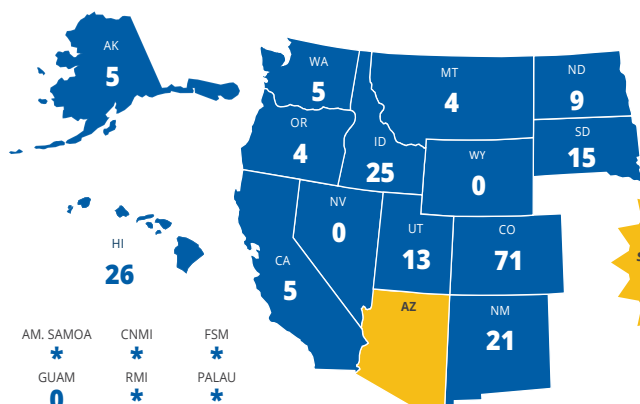
* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

Note: Students from Arizona are eligible for the Regional In-State Equivalent Tuition Program at Colorado State University, Pueblo and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

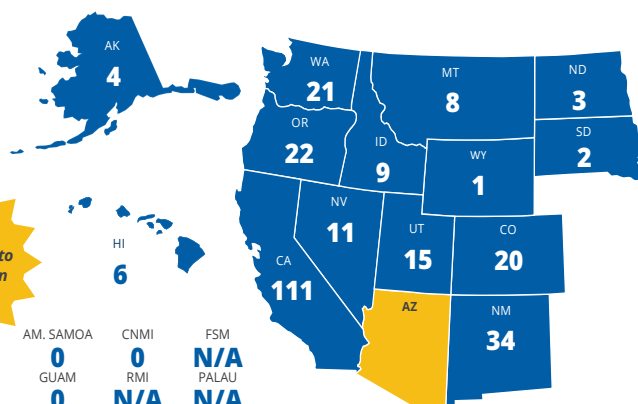
WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM ARIZONA: **203**

WRGP STUDENTS TO ARIZONA: **267**



267 WRGP students chose to attend school in Arizona



* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

PSEP

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Dentistry	50	\$1,601,600
Optometry	17	\$332,862
Osteopathic Medicine	44	\$1,175,900
Podiatry	2	\$37,050
Veterinary Medicine	21	\$775,950
TOTAL	134	\$3,923,362

PSEP students from Arizona saved \$3,923,362 in tuition



“WUE made it possible for me to study history at NAU without paying full out-of-state tuition. I’ve conducted research, presented findings, and studied abroad with NAU scholarships. Working with incredible professors in a collaborative community has helped me grow academically and personally while gaining independence.”

HENRY, Oregon resident, History, Northern Arizona University

STRENGTHENING ARIZONA AND THE WEST

WICHE brings together senior leaders and partners to foster dialogue about issues facing institutions and states through its leadership and professional development networks.

WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Chandler-Gilbert Community College
- ▶ Eastern Arizona College
- ▶ Estrella Mountain Community College
- ▶ Gateway Community College
- ▶ Glendale Community College
- ▶ Maricopa Community Colleges
- ▶ Mesa Community College
- ▶ Paradise Valley Community College
- ▶ Phoenix College
- ▶ Rio Salado College
- ▶ Scottsdale Community College
- ▶ South Mountain Community College

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Northern Arizona University
- ▶ University of Arizona

John Georgas, Northern Arizona University, serves on the Forum executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Two cohort members from Arizona institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

WICHE convenes the **OERWEST NETWORK** as part of a national effort to expand free course materials and other open educational resources (OER) that reduce textbook costs and support student success. WICHE is also conducting a regional landscape analysis examining how textbook price transparency and affordability policies are being implemented across the West.

WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP) partners with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System to support fidelity reviews of four evidence-based practices (EPBs) in the **MARICOPA COUNTY PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM**. These four evidence-based practices are also being reviewed by WICHE's BHP across the balance of the state. WICHE's BHP employs and supports the project lead and six fidelity reviewers.

WICHE's BHP also collaborates with **MERCY CARE ARIZONA** to support the expansion of competence

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are state legislators appointed by the WICHE Commissioners in the region to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

and evidence-based practices in trauma informed treatment.

RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)

is a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. In Arizona, RCORP supports one grantee.

WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members include:

- ▶ Arizona State University
- ▶ Bryan University
- ▶ Coconino Community College
- ▶ Eastern Arizona College
- ▶ Grand Canyon University
- ▶ Mesa Community College
- ▶ Midwestern University
- ▶ Northern Arizona University
- ▶ Pima Community College
- ▶ Prescott College
- ▶ Rio Salado College
- ▶ University of Arizona
- ▶ University of Phoenix

Melody Buckner, University of Arizona, serves on the WCET Steering Committee.

STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) guides institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. Arizona has 8 members.

Arizona Commissioners



Kathleen Goepfinger
President Emeritus,
Midwestern
University



Todd Haynie
President, Eastern
Arizona College



Chad Sampson
Executive Director,
Arizona Board of
Regents

Distance Education Reciprocity

Arizona institutions save money on out-of-state authorization fees by participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions.

\$10.9M ARIZONA ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

Cost-savings Partnerships

WICHE offers pre-negotiated student health and technology contracts to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, state and local governments, and education-related nonprofits through a cost-savings program with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Last year, participating entities saved an average of 9% compared with other purchasing options.

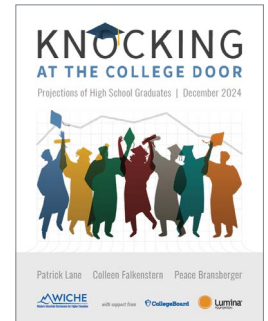
\$243k ARIZONA ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

Data and Policy Resources for Arizona

Policymakers and campus leaders in Arizona can explore WICHE's data and policy resources to better understand what's happening at home and across the West. These resources provide reliable state-level and regional insights to help make informed, strategic decisions that strengthen postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

- ▶ **Knocking at the College Door** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Visit wiche.edu/knocking to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.
- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.
- ▶ With support from the ECMC Foundation, WICHE equips state leaders with analysis and resources on **Completion Strategies in the West** to increase credential completion and improve student success across states.

Our data experts provide research, analysis, and peer collaboration opportunities on key higher education issues, including workforce development, state finance, transfer, student success strategies, and more, to help decision-makers develop evidence-based, effective policy solutions.



About WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional interstate higher education compact of 15 Western states and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. Since 1953, WICHE has focused on its mission of expanding educational access and excellence for all residents of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. Visit wiche.edu.