

# What is WUE and what are the benefits?

WUE stands for the Western Undergraduate Exchange, a program through which students can attend participating institutions in other states for reduced tuition. Instead of paying full out-of-state tuition, a WUE participant pays the regular in-state tuition plus 50 percent of that amount. This applies to participating four-year as well as two-year schools. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need. The participating states are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Now, before you leap to the conclusion that you have found the golden egg when it comes to financing college here are some facts about how it works:

1. This program is for public out-of-state institutions only. (You must leave California to be eligible).
2. Each state determines which institutions and programs it will make available to WUE applicants. For instance, The University of Washington, University of Oregon, Oregon State, and the University of Colorado at Boulder are not participants. Check the list of participating institutions at the link below.
3. Some WUE programs are automatically awarded if you are admitted and some WUE programs require competitive GPAs and test scores. Check with each school to see if you qualify. Put WUE in the college website search bar to find the WUE page.
4. Each institution determines its own admission requirements. The required test scores and GPA will vary from institution to institution. For example, any student accepted to Northern Arizona University will receive WUE, however the University of Nevada, Reno requires students to have a minimum 3.25 GPA in core classes and a 26 ACT or 1240 SAT to receive WUE.
5. Not all programs are offered on all campuses. For example WUE is offered at the Arizona State Polytechnic, Downtown or West campuses, but not the main Tempe campus. Sometimes the WUE discounted tuition rate is only available to those in a particular major. For example, the only WUE major at the University of Arizona is Mining Engineering. Often nursing majors at different campuses are excluded.
6. Eligibility to be considered a WUE student must be requested at the time of application. As part of the application the student must mark prominently on the application that he/she seeks admission as a WUE student and the program in which he/she wants to enroll. Some colleges require a separate application.
7. Some schools have a limited number of WUE slots and they are administered on a first come first serve basis. Other schools have an application deadline to be considered for WUE.
8. Most schools may also offer additional academic merit scholarships, which may be combined with WUE or may not. Again check with each school for their policy.
9. A student may continue as a WUE student as long as the student remains in the chosen program or changes to another program open to WUE students. There may be other GPA and course load requirements at each campus.

<http://www.wiche.edu/info/publications/wueHandout.pdf>