



Tuition Reciprocity

This I-CAN study reports on higher education tuition reciprocity agreements between states, counties, and schools. A summary of the three most expansive agreements is provided in Table 1.

Tuition Reciprocity

Tuition reciprocity is an agreement between states, counties, and schools that allows students to attend out-of-state higher education institutions for in-state tuition rates. Students may also receive preference regarding admission.¹

Authority to enact reciprocity

States have the authority to establish tuition reciprocity programs through their respective boards of education. These agreements can be formed in various ways explained below. In some states, individual public institutions of higher education are given the authority to accept or reject reciprocity agreements with state approval.²

Types of Agreements

- Multi-State Agreements

A multi-state agreement usually involves regions of the country. Two major examples are the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) and the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE). Under these agreements, students can attend public universities in any participating state and pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition. School participation in these programs is voluntary. Many large institutions do not participate because they do not need additional incentives to attract students.³

¹ Kentucky. Council on Postsecondary Education. Tuition Reciprocity Agreements. 21 May 2007. <http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6980D718-B5CA-467A-BDA6-9CE9CDEE8EC4/0/6_ReciprocityAgreements_REV.pdf>.

² Wisconsin. Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Tuition Reciprocity. July 2004. <<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/04wb13.pdf>>.

³ Watal, Divya. "Think Globally, Pay Locally." U.S. News & World Report 28 Aug. 2005. <<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/biztech/articles/050905/5reciprocate.htm>>.

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is another example. The ACM is comprised of 16 states. This is similar to the MSEP and WUE with one exception: the student's degree must not be available in their home state.⁴

- **Individual State Agreements**

Individual state agreements are between two states or a small group of states. Examples include separate agreements that Kentucky has with its neighboring states of Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia. Under each of these agreements there are specific institutions which students in one state can attend in the other and receive in-state tuition.⁵

New Mexico and Colorado also have an individual agreement. Under this agreement up to 300 full-time students can enroll in specific institutions in the other state and pay in-state tuition.⁶

Wisconsin also has individual agreements with its neighboring states. Except for a broad agreement with Minnesota, all of the neighboring agreements are for technical colleges only.⁷

- **County Agreements**

Reciprocity can also be at the county level. Generally, this means that institutions have agreements that allow residents of certain out-of-state counties to pay in-state tuition. An example is the University of Louisville which allows students of six Indiana counties, which border Kentucky, to pay in-state tuition.⁸

Iowa Reciprocity Agreements

Currently, the Iowa Lakes Community College has an agreement with two Minnesota technical colleges for tuition reciprocity.⁹ Northeast Iowa Community college also has an agreement with Southwest Technical College (WI) for resident tuition rates.¹⁰ With the exception of these two community colleges, Iowa does not have reciprocity agreements with other states.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Kentucky. Council on Postsecondary Education. Tuition Reciprocity Agreements. 21 May 2007. <http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6980D718-B5CA-467A-BDA6-9CE9CDEE8EC4/0/6_ReciprocityAgreements_REV.pdf>.

⁶ Colorado. New Mexico-Colorado Tuition Reciprocity Agreement. <<http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Programs/co-nmrecip.pdf>>.

⁷ Wisconsin. Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Tuition Reciprocity. July 2004. <<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/04wb13.pdf>>.

⁸ University of Louisville. Registrar's Office. Indiana Tuition Reciprocity. 8 Aug. 2001. <<http://louisville.edu/student/services/registrar/indrep.htm>>.

⁹ Iowa Lakes Community College. Residency Requirements. 2007. <<http://www.iowalakes.edu/registrar/residency.htm>>.

¹⁰ Wisconsin. Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Tuition Reciprocity. July 2004. <<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/04wb13.pdf>>.

Table 1: Summary of Major Reciprocity Agreements and Participating States

Reciprocity Agreement	Acronym	Participating States
Academic Common Market ¹¹	ACM	Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia
Midwest Student Exchange Program ¹²	MSEP	Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and North Dakota, Wisconsin
Western Undergraduate Exchange ¹³	WUE	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

This report was prepared in December 2007 by the Iowa Civic Analysis Network (I-CAN), a non-partisan public policy undergraduate research group at the University of Iowa. For additional research on this or other issues, please visit our website at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~ican> or contact us at studorg-i-can@uiowa.edu.

¹¹ "Academic Common Market." 2005. Southern Regional Education Board. <<http://www.sreb.org/programs/acm/acmindex.asp>>.

¹² "The Midwest Student Exchange Program Overview." 2007. Midwestern Higher Education Compact. <<http://www.mhec.org/index.asp?pageid=1>>.

¹³ Western Undergraduate Exchange. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. <http://wue.wiche.edu/search_results.jsp?searchType=all>.