



THE 2023 COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS
**IN-STATE TUITION FOR FSM STUDENTS AT
 PUBLIC U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**



FACT SHEETS ON THE 2023 COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS • FSM EMBASSY, WASHINGTON • AUGUST 20, 2024

The FSM Embassy is pleased that citizens from the Freely Associated States living in the United States, including those from the FSM, are now eligible to receive in-state tuition at U.S. public institutions of higher education that participate in student financial assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Title IV of the Higher Education Act authorizes federal financial assistance programs for postsecondary students, which is administered by the Department of Education.

This new in-state tuition provision was included in the COFA Amendments Act of 2023 and was made effective on July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 award year. This requirement will apply to tuition charged to students on or after July 1, 2024.

**Average In-State vs. Out-of-State Tuition Rates at
 4-Year Public Institutions, by Selected State**
 (2022-2023 academic year)

State	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition
California	\$8,637	\$32,967
Hawaii	\$10,484	\$32,769
Oregon	\$12,424	\$35,960
Washington	\$8,006	\$30,444
United States	\$9,750	\$28,297

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Table 330.20. The full table is available online [here](#). Figures listed are average for undergraduate tuition and required fees during 2022-2023 academic year and do not include room and board.

Under the COFA Amendments Act of 2023, this new in-state tuition policy for students from the Freely Associated States will help address college affordability challenges students may face and will improve access to higher education opportunities for current and future FSM citizens attending institutions of higher education in the U.S. and its territories.

This policy is now in effect for those public institutions that receive federal funds in U.S. states and territories under Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

This includes most public (not private) colleges and universities in the United States and its territories.

Tuition rates vary widely by institution, with a number of other factors influencing the final rate students pay. However, the in-state tuition savings can be significant at some institutions, as the illustrative table to the left shows.

While the policy change became effective on July 1, 2024, it may take some time for some institutions to implement initially, particularly for those with fewer FAS citizen students enrolled.

In addition to in-state tuition, the 2023 Compact Act clarifies that qualified FSM students are eligible for three sources of federal financial student aid: Pell Grants, Federal Work Study (FWS), and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).

These programs, coupled with the extension of in-state tuition, should help dedicated FSM students access affordable higher education at the many public institutions of higher learning throughout the United States and its territories.

The FSM Embassy recommends speaking with your current or prospective academic institution’s financial aid office at the earliest opportunity to see how this exciting new benefit applies to you and the steps needed to take full advantage. 🌐

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following link from the U.S. Department of Education provides additional detail on the policy change and may be helpful to provide to your institution should questions arise:

[In-State Tuition and Title IV Eligibility for Citizens of the Freely Associated States - Knowledge Center](#)

Specific questions can also be addressed using the [online form at the U.S. Federal Student Aid portal](#).