



INFORMATION FOR FSM CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES

IN-STATE TUITION FOR FSM STUDENTS



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The FSM Embassy reminds that **citizens from the Freely Associated States living in the United States, including those from the FSM, are eligible to receive in-state tuition rates 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.

The provision was included in the COFA Amendments Act of 2024 and was made effective on July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 award year. The requirement applies to tuition charged to students on or after July 1, 2024.

Under the COFA Amendments Act of 2024, this 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 opportunities for current and future FSM citizens attending institutions of higher education in the United States., including U.S. 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 many institutions.**

While the policy change became effective on July 1, 2024, it may still take additional time for some institutions to implement, particularly for those schools with fewer FAS citizen students enrolled. The Embassy is working to raise awareness of the changes with individual institutions.

In addition to in-state tuition, the 2024 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, 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 benefit applies to you and the steps needed to take full advantage. 🗣️

In-state tuition can be substantially less expensive than out-of-state tuition at U.S. public institutions. As one example, in the 2022-2023 academic year, in-state tuition in the University of California system was \$8,637, while out-of-state tuition was \$32,967. The numbers vary by academic institution and year, but this shows how substantial the difference can be.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional detail on the policy change from the U.S. Department of Education (this 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](#).