



Photo by Vince Ramirez

Despite having to pay higher tuition, summer students experience smaller classes, a less crowded environment and better parking.

Summer term differs from school year

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Contributor

Changes in tuition and an increased number of out-of-state and international students on campus are two of the most significant differences between summer term and the rest of the academic year at the University.

Because the University receives no state funding for summer session, tuition tends to be higher for resident students than it is for the rest of the academic year.

"Summer term is financially self-supporting," said Ron Trebon, summer session director. "We get no state support, so tuition must pay all the expenses."

Trebon said the University tries to keep summer term tuition comparable to tuition during the rest of the year, but it usually ends up a little higher. The main tuition distinction during summer term is that students pay on a per-credit basis rather than paying a set amount for full-time attendance.

During the regular academic year, students taking 12 to 21 credits pay the same amount. During summer term tuition rises with each credit.

"The more you take, the

more expensive it is," Trebon said.

Although summer term is generally more costly than the rest of the year, it also has its positive aspects, Trebon said.

"We want to make it as attractive as possible," he said. "We have separate four-week sessions, the classes are spread out — we try to be student sensitive and we try to give students the same quality of academic experience that they receive September through June."

He added that part of the attraction of summer term can be found in smaller classes, fewer people on campus and more available parking.

Registrar Herb Chereck estimated that about 6,000 people will be taking classes at the University this summer, as opposed to 18,000 during the rest of the year.

Another unique tuition difference is that all students, whether resident or non-resident, pay the same amount.

"That's been a tradition in the Oregon system for years," Trebon said. During summer term "everybody pays in-state tuition. If we charged people out-of-state tuition, we would probably have a sizable drop in enrollment."

The attractive tuition for non-residents results in a higher than usual percentage of international students at the University during the summer, Trebon said.

Most of those students, about 200, are from Canada.

"We have a long tradition of attracting Canadian students, but we also have quite a few from Germany and from the Orient," Trebon said.

Making tuition accessible for non-resident students helps keep enrollment up during the summer, Trebon said. Once those students are on campus, the University hopes they continue on for the rest of the year, he added.

He estimated that 60 to 65 percent of all the students who take courses during the summer attend during the rest of the year as well.

Besides attracting non-residents, summer term is also a time when many teachers become students again, Trebon said.

"We get lots of people who are in education, either teachers or administrators," Trebon said. "Many of them come back to renew their teaching certificates."

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