

University offers bargain law degree

Tuition rates for nonresidents are higher at Oregon's private colleges, while resident costs are less in neighboring states

By Jan Montry
Oregon Daily Emerald

Incoming University law students will pay the lowest tuition in Oregon this year, making the School of Law a better financial choice than two other Oregon law schools.

The 2003 tuition for resident law students is \$13,924 and \$17,872 for nonresidents. These rates don't factor in added expenses, such as a required laptop for first-year students, which can add thousands of dollars.

In comparison, tuition at Lewis & Clark Law School and Willamette University College of Law — the two private law schools in Oregon — are much higher.

At Lewis & Clark, tuition is \$23,196 for full-time students and \$17,400 for part-time evening classes, and tuition at Willamette University College of Law is \$21,800.

However, University tuition for residents is a bit more costly than at other West Coast schools.

For instance, tuition at the University of Washington School of Law is \$10,221 for residents, while UCLA School of Law tuition is only \$11,713 for residents.

University tuition and fees may seem low compared to other Oregon schools, but after three years of education, students can incur incredible debt, which is a good incentive to explore the many financial aid options available.

Three common forms of federal financial aid are the Federal

Perkins Loan Program, the Federal Work-Study Program and the William D. Ford Federal Direct/Stafford Loan Program.

The Perkins loan — a limited fund — is a long-term loan with a set 5 percent interest on unpaid balance. Loan amounts vary every year, but the combined maximum a student may receive for undergraduate and graduate work is \$40,000.

Work-study positions allow students to earn an hourly wage at a campus, government or selected nonprofit agency to help pay for expenses. Full-time students may work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the academic year.

The Stafford loan provides both subsidized and unsubsidized long-term loans to students. Interest rates on both types of loans are variable, and students may delay payment six months after graduation.

For law students who want to avoid debt after college, many scholarships are available for first-year students.

The dean's scholarships and alumni scholarships give away a total of \$75,000 and \$25,000, respectively, to first-year students. These scholarships are renewable for three years and have no grade-point stipulations.

This year, \$124,000 is also being distributed as "awards of excellence" to first-year students with a 3.5 GPA or above.

"I believe (awards of excellence are) directly responsible for the increased quality of this year's incoming class," law school Admissions Director Katherine A. Jernberg said.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

Budget

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to decide whether to rally behind the governor, a Democrat, or to

fund schools using the Legislature's plan.

"This has not been an easy decision for House Democrats to make, because it was not a matter of whether to side with the gover-

nor, but rather it was a matter of deciding how to responsibly fund schools," Kafoury said.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

Today's crossword solution

S	L	A	B	H	A	R	E	G	R	E	T	A	
T	I	M	E	I	C	O	N	R	O	M	A	N	
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