



Mt. Hood Community College offers less selection than Portland Community College. The quality of food, diner style ambiance and reasonable cost is what keeps the students coming back for more.

Decent prices, simple selection Mt. Hood campus 'diner' delivers

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We started off our second adventure by driving into the Mt. Hood Community College parking lot, and had to flag down a lady who was walking around campus to ask where the cafeteria was located. We discovered that it is known casually as 'the diner' by the students, formally called Vista Dining Room and is in the College Center Room 2002. Mt. Hood uses Chartwells Dining Services, which is a company that provides food to schools and tries to operate sustainably.

We found a free parking spot fairly close and started heading

toward Vista Dining. On our way down the path to the second floor cafeteria, we noticed some balcony chairs where students were eating lunch. It was such a beautiful day to eat outside. There were also tables set outside in the grass where people

were munching and reading books.

We walked into the small cafeteria where we were surrounded by several beverages coolers. They offered Naked juice, energy drinks, sodas and many other types of drinks. We walked around looking at what they offered. They had wraps, soups and barbeque type foods. Along some of the wall space were coolers with lunch a la carte which offered pre-made salads, sandwiches and different dessert like items. Cabinets in the center of the diner offered bagels, muffins, cookies and other pastry items.

We decided on choosing combo meals which included a 24-ounce fountain soda, fries and a selection of barbequed foods like burgers and chicken strips all for a decent price. The grilled food, wraps and burritos

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Breanna Craine
The Clackamas Print



Photos by Brittany Horne The Clackamas Print

are all cooked fresh in front of you at the time you order, with your choice of cheese.

Breanna Craine: I think I want a cheeseburger combo because I really want some fries. And I am so thirsty!

Brittany Horne: I am going to get the chicken strip combo. I wonder if they will let me get a Naked juice instead of the fountain soda.

BC: I was thinking about getting the chicken strips too but we should each get something different.

The cashier looked at his menu when you walk up to figure out the price for your meal. We had the choice of either paying in cash or using a card. After paying for our food, we decided to sit outside on the balcony chairs and tables. We picked a small red table and watched the students absorb the sun.

The view from the balcony was so beautiful and was filled with trees. We started eating our food and enjoyed the sunshine. Cosmetology students were sitting a few tables over eating their lunch during a break.

BC: It's really cool that they give you real plates. It feels like we are eating dinner in our own homes. I have never seen a school offer ceramic plates to students.

BH: Woah, are you serious?
BC: I wonder how much work it is to clean all the dishes. And what if you want it to go?

BH: There were to go boxes by the grill, the sign said 25 cents due to the price increase of biodegradable products.

BC: Well it's neat that they offer biodegradable. It makes you feel good about what you're throwing away.

BH: Yeah, and feel better about spending money on a box. Some places charge for unsustainable containers. Wow these chicken strips are actually really good.

BC: Your chicken looks really crispy. My burger patty looks so thin! But it still tastes pretty good.

BH: It does look really good. Look at that cheese. THAT'S how cheese is supposed to melt on a burger!

BC: Your ranch smells really good! I am really picky about ranch. How much was your meal? Mine was only \$5.59 which is cheap for a school. I can not even eat all of my fries because they gave me so many.

BH: Mine was the same price, and they only charged me \$1 extra to upgrade to a Naked juice and didn't charge anything for the two sides of ranch. I definitely got a good deal.

After finishing our meals, we walked back into the cafeteria to drop off the burger plate. We both decided that their food was pretty good. They did not have a lot of selection but it gave us a piece of mind. It made it easier for us to choose what we wanted, unlike the PCC Sylvania's campus which had so many choices it was overwhelming at first.

The selection was not the monstrosity of PCC, but offered a larger variety than at Clackamas. The grill menu items were also tastier and more interesting, such as a burrito with beans, rice, meat, chipotle, salsa, cilantro and guacamole. We haven't found gourmet food in a college cafeteria yet, but we won't stop looking!

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