

EOU joins state's other public universities in tuition hikes

Increase is just below what would require approval from state

By MEERAH POWELL
Oregon Public Broadcasting

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's Board of Trustees on Thursday, May 19, approved a 4.9% tuition increase for undergraduate students for the upcoming academic year.

EOU is the last public university in Oregon to decide on tuition this year. It follows in the footsteps of the six other universities that have all recommended increases.

However, even with the tuition increase, and an estimated boost in enrollment, Eastern officials are still anticipating a budget deficit of at least \$2 million.

EOU's Vice President of Finance, Lara Moore, said the university made certain decisions it knew would contribute to that operating deficit — including freezing its tuition rates for most undergraduate students last year.

"Our tuition proposal recognizes that," Moore said. "It recognizes that we are in an operating deficit. It recognizes the inflationary pressures that we are under as an institution, because we do want to maintain our financial stability."

Moore stressed that even with the tuition increase, affordability is an important principle to the university. According to EOU board documents, Eastern is still Oregon's cheapest public university by credit



Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, is the last public university in Oregon to decide on tuition this year. The university's board of trustees Thursday, May 19, 2022, approved a 4.9% tuition increase. EOU follows in the footsteps of the six other universities that have all recommended increases.

hour for in-state students even with this increase.

Undergraduate in-state students are paying a little over \$7,800 in tuition this school year if they're taking 15 credits per term in a regular three-term year. They'll pay roughly \$380 more starting next school year — or about \$8,200 in annual tuition. Students from Washington and Idaho can also get in-state tuition at Eastern.

Undergraduate out-of-state

students are currently paying about \$20,500 annually, based on that same 15-credit load. They will see an annual increase of about \$1,000 — up to \$21,500 in annual tuition.

Tuition prices also vary for students in the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program, or WUE — students who come from a number of states near Oregon, like California and Nevada. Rates also vary for students solely taking classes online. Eastern is Oregon's smallest

public university and like nearly every other public university in the state, it got a little smaller during the pandemic. Only Oregon State University has avoided a decrease in enrollment this past fall compared with numbers before the pandemic, according to Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Officials at the small university in La Grande are reporting an 8% decrease in enrolled students from 2019 to fall 2021 — a

trend they say is critical to address.

"The real key to everything really is enrollment. That's what we're going to live and die on is enrollment," EOU Trustee Brad Stephens said at the board's meeting.

All of the public universities are instituting tuition increases for the upcoming academic year of anywhere from around 3% to 5% for in-state undergraduate students.

Rate at which tuition is climbing

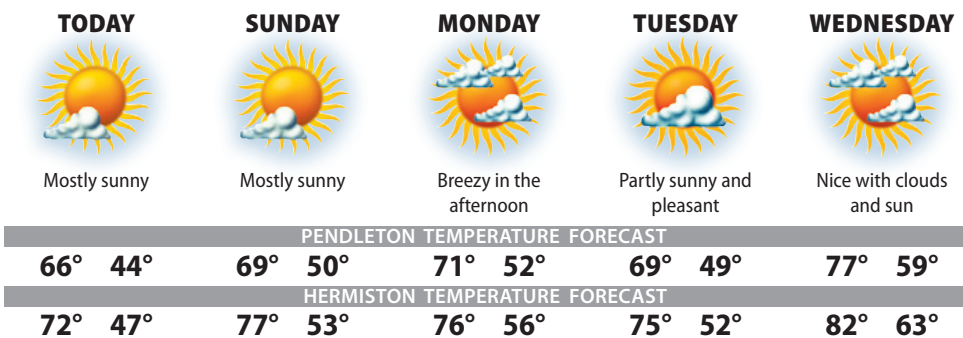
Some universities like the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, have cohort-style tuition rates which differ depending on whether a student is new to the university or continuing. Both UO and OSU are charging new in-state undergraduate students 4.5% more than current tuition rates.

University officials who aren't facing the direct threat of lowered student enrollment have cited rising inflation costs as a reason for the increases.

Still, all of the universities have committed to staying under 5% increases. If they go over that amount, they have to seek outside approval from the state's Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Getting approved for a higher tuition increase is not guaranteed, as UO and Portland State University learned in 2017.

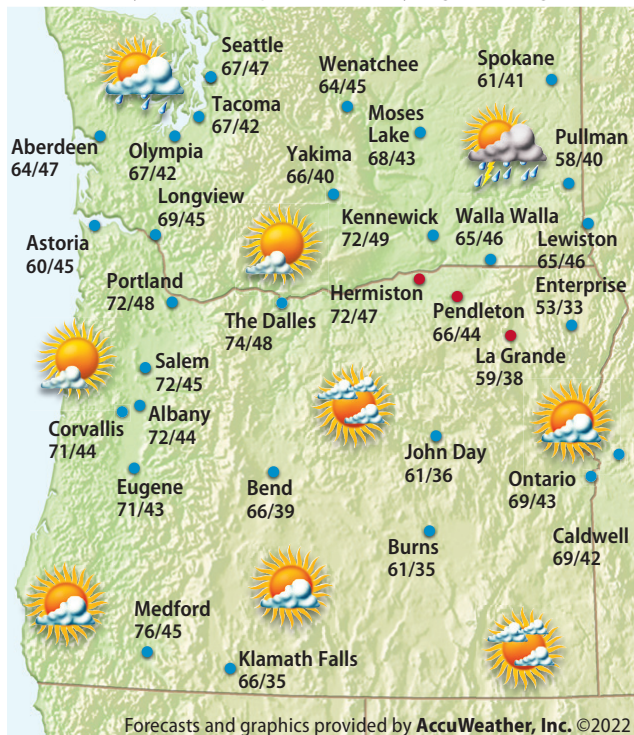
The Oregon Institute of Technology was initially recommending a 7% increase in tuition and fees, but it lowered that increase to 5% last week, after a funding adjustment in their favor.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



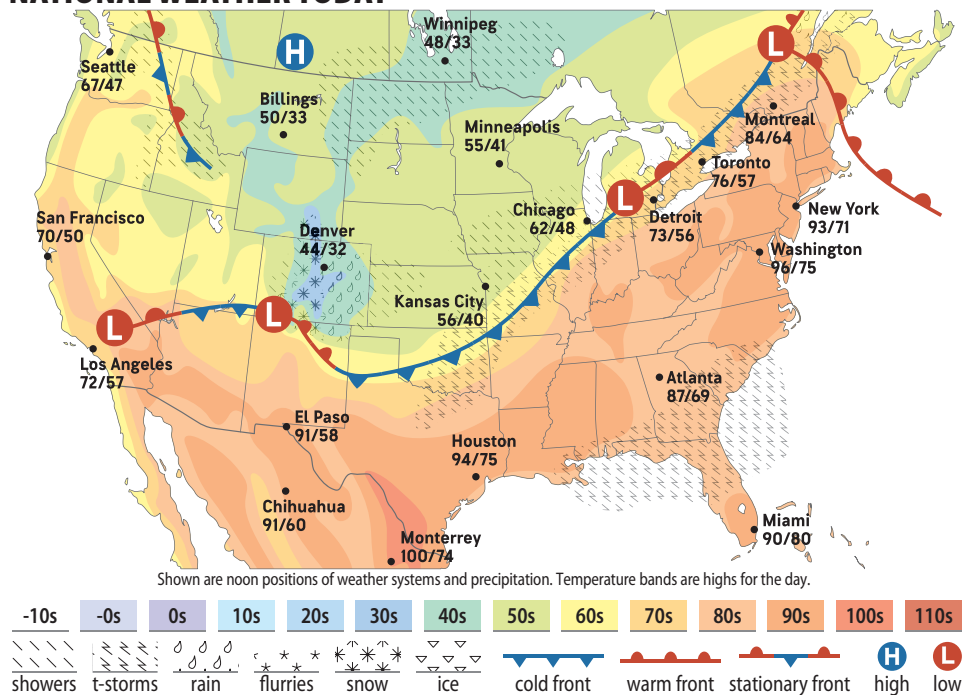
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	64°	37°	
Normals	73°	48°	
Records	93° (1928)	33° (1910)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.		
Month to date	1.51"		
Normal month to date	0.90"		
Year to date	7.13"		
Last year to date	3.82"		
Normal year to date	6.24"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	68°	41°	
Normals	77°	48°	
Records	94° (1928)	35° (2003)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.		
Month to date	0.02"		
Normal month to date	0.88"		
Year to date	0.51"		
Last year to date	4.77"		
Normal year to date	4.06"		
WINDS (in mph)	Today	Sun.	
Boardman	NNE 4-8	W 4-8	
Pendleton	NNW 6-12	NW 6-12	
SUN AND MOON	5:18 a.m.		
Sunrise today	8:26 p.m.		
Sunset tonight	1:43 a.m.		
Moonrise today	10:53 a.m.		
Moonset today			
Last	New	First	Full
May 22	May 30	June 7	June 14

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Zapata, Texas Low 12° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



EOU Colloquium concludes with a look at biosensor technology

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's faculty academic presentation venue, Colloquium, finishes out the year with a look at research in microfluidic devices and aquaculture biosensor development.

Professor of chemistry Anna Cavinato will present Thursday, May 26, from 4-5 p.m. in Ackerman 210 the findings from her 2021 research sabbatical in microfluidics and the development of an electrochemical



Cavinato

sensor for aquaculture applications. The event is free and open to the public. "The presentation will highlight the research that I previously did on aptamers and then how I utilized the aptamers for the development of an electrochemical, microfluidic sensor for the detection of bacteria in water," Cavinato said.

Cavinato's recent research experience in microfluidics is

a continuation of her previous work in studying small artificial DNA strands, called aptamers, and how they can be utilized to recognize a specific biomarker that signals the presence of the bacterium responsible for bacterial kidney disease in salmon. She is currently developing a microfluidic based biosensor to detect the presence of Renibacterium salmoninarum..

"Aptamers are used as an alternative to antibodies in assays, and so for many years I've worked on identifying aptamers that bind to an extracellular protein on the surface of Renibacterium salmoninarum which causes bacterial kidney disease in salmon," Cavinato said.

During her sabbatical, Cavinato took part in research at Colorado State University under Professor Chuck Henry studying microfluidic platforms that use colorimetric or electrochemical detection meth-

ods. She also worked with university graduate students learning how to fabricate disposable devices that could be utilized in the development of the bacterial sensors.

"There was a lot of learning involved and it was wonderful to immerse myself in research and be a student all over again. It was very exciting to be able to learn something completely new," she said. "In the lab where I was, they were applying microfluidics to COVID detection, so they were very busy working on microfluidic devices, both electrochemical and colorimetric."

Cavinato also started a new project developing paper microfluidic devices obtained by printing specific shapes with conventional laser printers rather than traditional wax printers which are becoming obsolete. She introduced these simple devices in her Analytical Chemistry course during fall term and had students experiment with different shapes and different analytical applications.

IN BRIEF

Island City man dies in motorcycle crash

BAKER CITY — An Island City man died when he lost control of the motorcycle he was riding while exiting Interstate 84 in Baker City on Tuesday afternoon, May 17.

John Dale Atwood, 73, died at the scene, according to an Oregon State Police.

The accident happened around 4:24 p.m.

Atwood was riding westbound on the freeway when he took the offramp at Exit 304, the Campbell Street interchange, OSP reported.

"For unknown reasons," Atwood lost control of the 2011 Harley-Davidson and crashed into a guardrail, according to state police. He was thrown from the motorcycle, which continued down the offramp.

—EO Media Group

CORRECTIONS: The article "Heading to runoffs" on A1 in the Thursday, May 19, edition of the East Oregonian misspelled the name of Hannah Mabbott in the photo caption. The article also made an inaccurate statement about the Umatilla County commissioner election in November. According to the county charter, when three or more candidates are running in the May election, the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes each get their names on the ballot in November.

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