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Carr-Block-Tuition
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Oklahoma State University's block tuition model has caused graduation rates to rise but lower enrollment could mean less funding from the Oklahoma Legislature, said an OSU visual analytics coordinator Friday.

In 2014, Oklahoma State adopted a block tuition model on the recommendation of the OSU Student Government Association. It was approved by the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges and the State Regents for Higher Education, then implemented in fall 2014.

Tuition was charged hourly before block tuition, which now charges all students taking between 12 to 18 hours a flat rate equal in cost to 15 hours.

For the spring 2019 semester, residential full-time students were charged \$4,509 for [tuition and university-wide fees](#). Non-residential full-time students were charged \$12,269.25.

Tuition has risen for years. Just last year, residential full-time tuition was \$4,368.75 per semester and non-residential full-time was \$11,887.50. That's a 3.2 percent increase on both sides.

Even though tuition is increasing, the block tuition model is making college more affordable for students who take advantage of its system. The tuition formula assumes students are taking 15 credit hours per semester, so any hours above that means students are gaining free college credits.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary Sandefur said OSU adopted block tuition because of a trend in land grants and flagship institutions doing the same.

"When we developed it here, we did it kind of in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma... so we realized that if one of us was going to do it then both of us could do it," Sandefur said.

Block tuition is making it easier for students to graduate in four years, but this is negatively affecting enrollment rates at the university.

Visual Analytics Coordinator Randy Kitchens said overall enrollment is down since students are graduating faster. Lower enrollment could mean less funding to the university from the State Legislature, he said.

"I think the hope is that the legislature will see that our retention has gone up a lot, which will hopefully offset the decrease in tuition because less students are here for six years," Kitchens said.

Freshman and Pre-Law adviser Keely James said she thinks block tuition is good for students.

"I believe it was a student idea to begin with... so I kind of think it's a non-issue because it's what you've lived with, even though you're not greatly aware of it. It's what the generation of students before you thought would be a good idea," James said.

According to the [March OSU Faculty Council meeting minutes](#), OSU President Burns Hargis said "the only way to keep enrollment steady is to get more freshmen or transfer students."

Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing Kyle Wray said OSU is struggling to bring enrollment up because of the [lack of growth in the state](#).

"Our state is not growing. We're at a plateau in terms of high school graduates in this state. So, there are a lot of variables, there's a lot of competition. It's changed over the last 20 or 30 years," Wray said.

"Change is inevitable," Keely James said, "and I think this change, by and large, has so few negatives to it. I think we should be talking about it quite a bit more and in a positive way."

Sources:

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Gary Sandefur - Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
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Public records:

[March OSU Faculty Council meeting minutes](#)

Outside links:

[March OSU Faculty Council meeting minutes](#)

[State of Oklahoma Census](#)

[OSU Tuition & Fees for 2018 - 2019](#)