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OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXAMPLES OF FIXED COST DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Texas: In 2011 Texas Governor Rick Perry issued a \$10K BA challenge to higher education institutions across Texas. Since then, there are at least 15 and counting, low cost degree programs being offered in the state. Each program was designed by the institutions and there has been no coordination at the state level to assist in the \$10K challenge.

1) UT Permian Basin – “Texas Science Scholars Program”

<http://www.utpb.edu/texas-sciencescholar/>

--Course study occurs entirely at UTPB. While students can take dual credit courses prior to entry, it is not required. UTPB offers these specific degrees because of the high need in the region for STEM trained employees.

- Total cost: \$10,000 covers tuition and fees (housing/meal plans not included)
- Degrees offered: Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Information Systems, and Mathematics
- Requirements: Students who need developmental coursework are not eligible. Students must complete 30 course hours per academic year (Fall/Spring/Summer) with 3.0 GPA or better.
- Cost comparison: Regular in-state tuition per year = \$6,331 vs. \$2,500
 - Online, dual credit courses are offered to high school students for \$100/3 credit hour course. Students who earn a 70 or better can receive a \$500 Spur Scholarship. Students can earn a scholarship each semester they are eligible. The Spur Scholarship can be used at UTPB as credit towards tuition, fees, and books.

2) SW Texas Junior College & Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College – “10K Scholar’s Program”

<http://www.sulross.edu/page/1565/10k-scholars-program>

--Course study is split between High School, Community College, and University. All credits in HS are part of a core curriculum and all credits at the SWTJC achieve an Associate degree.

- Total cost: \$10,00 excluding textbooks and some fees. This cost is split between SWTJC and SR-RGC. The cost of 30 dual credit hours, completed prior to beginning at SWTJC is not included in \$10,000 price.
- Degrees offered: Biology, Biology Secondary Education, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and Mathematics Secondary Education
- Requirements: 30 dual credit hours applied to the Core Curriculum must be completed prior to the program. After 30 hours at STJC, students receive Associates. After a final 60 hours at SR-RGC, students receive their bachelors. Maintain a 3.0 GPA. Rebate eligibility ends if students drops or withdraws any courses.
- Cost comparison: Total student cost without rebates = \$12,122 vs. \$10,000.

3) Texas A&M University-San Antonio

--This is one of 5 Texas A&M University campuses that offer a low cost degree. The degree offered translates directly to the workforce needs in the region, as there is high demand for IT employees. This program utilized the college courses already being offered at a local high school to develop a clear pathway from HS to bachelor's degree.

- Total cost: \$9,700
- Degree offered: Applied Arts and Sciences in Information Technology with an emphasis in Computer Security
- Requirements: 60 credit hours while in high school. Travis Early College High School is one of 50 in the state that offers colleges courses on top of high school curriculum. In 2012, of the 86 students graduating, 51 will have earned an associate's degree in addition to a high school diploma. Following high school, students must enroll in the Alamo community college system for two semesters and then finish the remaining 36 hours of the degree and A&M-San Antonio.

Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin network is made up of multiple satellite campuses. Students can attend multiple campuses to fulfill their general education requirements. The Flex program builds off this resource sharing and provides advising on the variety of pathways that are available to achieve a degree. While not specifically a low cost program, the example of resource sharing and competency-based credits can be applied to a fixed cost program.

1) University of Wisconsin system – UW flexible option

<http://flex.wisconsin.edu/>

http://www.wisconsin.edu/news/2012/11-2012/FAQ_FlexOption.pdf

- Partnering UW System institutions offer a self-paced, competency-based UW Flexible Option format. Currently, the UW colleges participating in the

- Requirements: 3.0 GPA, continuous enrollment (excluding summers), Florida resident.

2) Seminole State College of Florida

<http://www.seminolestate.edu/newsroom/articles/781/Learn-more-about-10K-bachelors-degree-plan>

- Total cost: \$10,000
- Degree offered: Bachelor of Science in Construction
- Requirements: Florida resident, begin as 'first-time-in college student', GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Courses are based on the American Council for Construction Education model. When student's tuition and fees reach \$10,000 the remaining tuition and fees will be paid through scholarships.
- **This program is financed by industry and private partners with scholarships.** While the overall cost of the degree will not change, students can take advantage of the incentivized structure as long as they continue to meet the requirements.

program are: Associate of Arts & Science, BS in Nursing, RN to BSN, BS in Biomedical Sciences Diagnostic Imaging, BS in Information Science and Technology, Business and Technical Communications Certificate

- Total cost fluctuates depending on length on time spent at the university, amount of credit received from prior learning.
- Students can use knowledge acquired through prior coursework, military and on-the-job training, and other learning experience to pass assessments whenever they are ready.
- The flex option degree helps to bridge the gap between what students already know and what they need to learn in order to complete a degree. The degree programs include input from employers to address the competencies that will bring the value to US degrees.

California: California Assembly Bill 51 was introduced in late 2012. The bill remains in the Assembly and has undergone multiple changes in order to account for the complex higher education system in California.

1) California State University system & California Community College system

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/cgi-bin/port-postquery?bill_number=ab_51&sess=CUR&house=A&author=logue_%3Clogue%3E

- The intent of the bill is to create a \$10,000 bachelors degree by transitioning students from high school to a community college and finishing at a university. The bill outlines a pilot program that would take place at coordinating institutions across the state. The degrees offered would be limited to 1 or 2 in the beginning of the program.
- A key element of this bill is the authorization to develop summer internships with private partners to earn credit.
- There has ben resistance from Community Colleges because they can potentially be viewed only as a transitional school along the pathway. The scale of involvement at each level is yet to be determined.

Florida: Governor Rick Scott challenged the higher education institutions in Florida to develop bachelor's degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000. The goal is to offer low cost degrees that target high demand programs in order to make a significant impact.

1) Broward College

[http://www.broward.edu/news/Pages/Broward-College-to-Begin-Accepting-Applications-for-Four-\\$10K-Bachelor-Degree-Programs.aspx](http://www.broward.edu/news/Pages/Broward-College-to-Begin-Accepting-Applications-for-Four-$10K-Bachelor-Degree-Programs.aspx)

- Total cost: \$10,000
- Degrees offered: Teacher Education Mathematics, Teacher Education Science, Information Technology, Global Trade and Logistics