



Wyoming Community College Commission 2013 Tuition Review

Tuition Policy

In October 2006, the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) adopted a long-term tuition policy. This policy still guides the WCCC in establishing annual community college tuition rates. The guiding principles of this policy encompass five key areas relevant to cost: *accessibility, affordability, predictability, competitiveness, and cost-sharing.*

It is the intent of the Commission that tuition rates are commensurate with economic conditions in Wyoming and surrounding states. Given this intent, the WCCC authorizes a tuition increase of 5% or less¹ among Wyoming's seven community colleges, provided the following criteria are met:

1. Current average resident tuition for Wyoming colleges is 98% or less than the current average resident tuition in the WICHE² states (excluding California and including Nebraska),
2. The ratio of current average resident tuition to Wyoming's median household income is 98% or less than the average ratio for the WICHE states (excluding California and including Nebraska)

After the two above criteria are met, and in-state tuition rates are established, the tuition policy further stipulates that:

1. Full-time tuition is capped at 12 credit hours,
2. Tuition for distance education courses will be the same as for on-site courses,
3. Tuition for non-WUE³, out-of-state students will be 300% of in-state tuition, excepting Nebraska students will be 150% of in-state tuition,
4. Tuition for international students will be 300% of in-state tuition,
5. Tuition for students in WUE states will be 150% of in-state tuition

¹ In the event that a tuition increase greater than five percent is recommended, the WCCC must formally vote to approve the increase.

² Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

³ Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Current Findings

Wyoming Community College Commission staff conducted an analysis of 2012-2013 tuition data from WICHE and 2010-2011 two-year average Median Household Income (MHI)⁴ to determine if the aforementioned tuition policy criteria were, indeed, met. The following analysis concludes that Wyoming community college average tuition, and, tuition-to-income ratios are far below the 98% threshold. Table 1, below, lists income and tuition data, Table 2 summarizes the WY/WICHE tuition ratio, Table 3 reflects the percentage of average MHI needed to fund full-time student tuition for 2 semesters and Table 4 compares the WY tuition/income ratio to WICHE tuition/income ratio. These data will serve as a foundation for further analysis in accordance with the 2006-2011 Tuition Policy.

WICHE State	2007-08 2-Yr MHI	2008-09 2-Yr MHI	2009-10 2-Yr MHI	2010-11 2-Yr MHI	Average 2009-10 Tuition	Average 2010-11 Tuition	Average 2011-12 Tuition	Average 2012-13 Tuition
Alaska	\$66,397	\$67,707	\$60,410	\$58,552	\$3,660	\$3,810	\$3,990	\$4,260
Arizona	\$50,424	\$49,852	\$46,887	\$48,498	\$1,888	\$1,938	\$2,104	\$2,149
Colorado	\$56,103	\$56,212	\$58,648	\$60,381	\$2,506	\$2,732	\$2,991	\$3,179
Hawaii	\$65,480	\$65,656	\$57,538	\$60,232	\$1,896	\$2,640	\$2,910	\$3,030
Idaho	\$46,915	\$46,251	\$47,282	\$47,997	\$1,871	\$2,055	\$2,283	\$2,339
Montana	\$43,593	\$42,988	\$41,286	\$41,430	\$2,299	\$2,306	\$2,346	\$2,358
Nebraska	\$44,389	\$48,525	\$51,571	\$54,888	\$2,218	\$1,890	\$1,640	\$1,762
Nevada	\$55,735	\$54,851	\$51,904	\$49,929	\$1,800	\$1,890	\$2,078	\$2,265
New Mexico	\$42,480	\$43,268	\$44,680	\$44,270	\$1,028	\$1,100	\$1,221	\$1,243
N. Dakota	\$44,719	\$46,756	\$51,141	\$54,488	\$3,101	\$3,107	\$3,147	\$3,187
Oregon	\$49,450	\$49,313	\$50,218	\$51,862	\$3,134	\$3,339	\$3,663	\$3,867
S. Dakota	\$44,728	\$45,538	\$46,126	\$47,003	\$2,299	\$2,835	\$3,029	\$3,177
Utah	\$55,886	\$55,875	\$58,122	\$56,991	\$2,199	\$2,382	\$2,541	\$2,692
Washington	\$56,835	\$57,313	\$58,821	\$57,392	\$2,926	\$3,130	\$3,540	\$3,944
AVERAGES	\$51,652	\$52,150	\$51,759	\$52,422	\$2,345	\$2,463	\$2,675	\$2,818
Wyoming	\$52,469	\$52,936	\$52,848	\$54,178	\$1,632	\$1,632	\$1,704	\$1,800

Avg. WY Tuition / Avg. WICHE Tuition	
2009-10	69.59%
2010-11	66.22%
2011-12	63.70%
2012-13	63.88%

% of Average MHI Needed to Fund Resident Tuition for 2 Semesters	
WY	WICHE
2009-10 - 3.10%	2009-10 - 4.31%
2010-11 - 3.04%	2010-11 - 4.66%
2011-12 - 3.22%	2011-12 - 5.17%
2012-13 - 3.32%	2012-13 - 5.38%

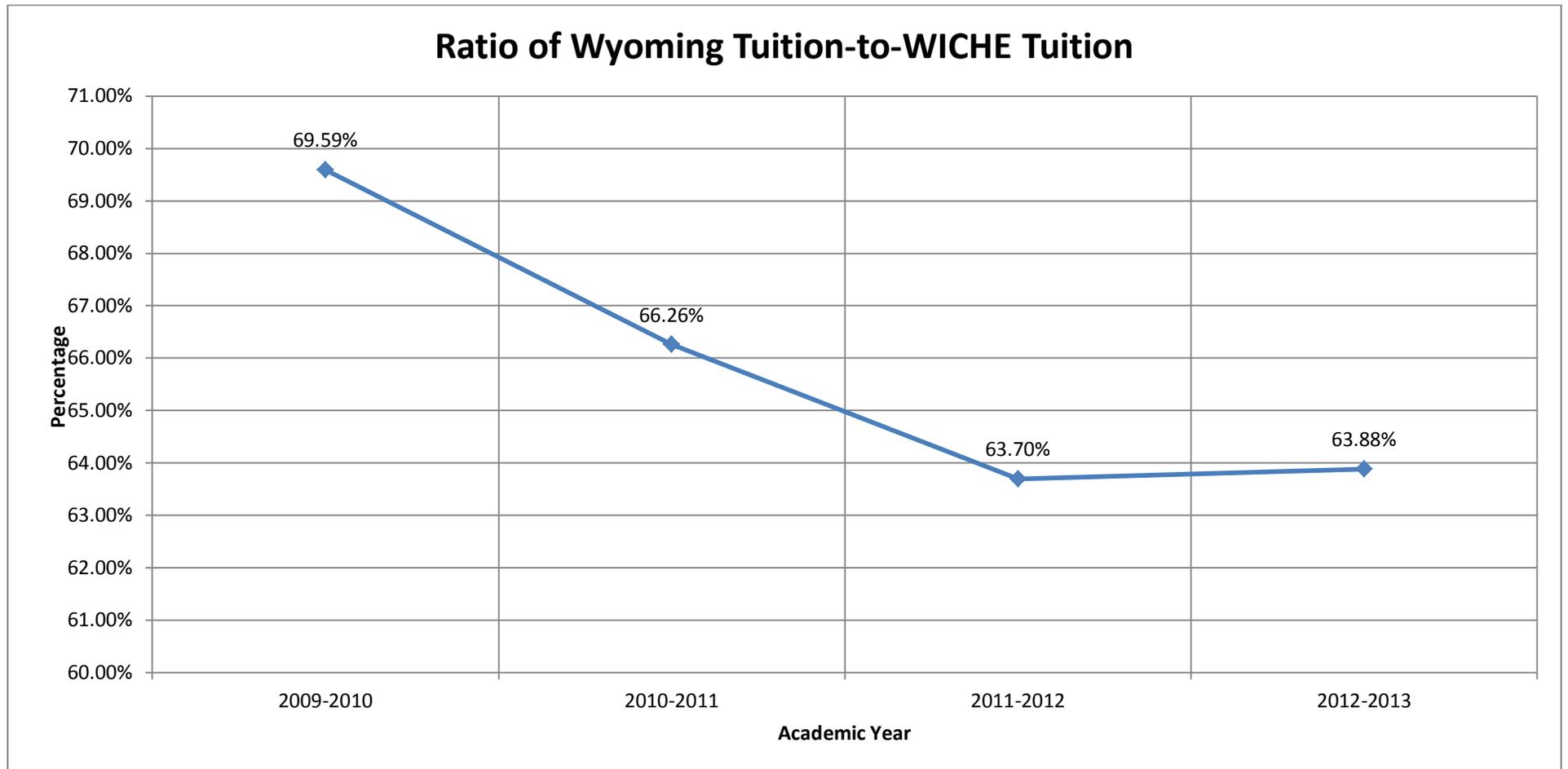
WY Tuition /Income Ratio : WICHE Tuition /Income Ratio	
2009-08	71.86%
2010-11	65.22%
2011-12	62.39%
2012-13	61.71%

⁴ US Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey 2-Year Estimates

Ratio of Wyoming Tuition-to-WICHE Average Tuition

A comparison of average Wyoming tuition to average WICHE tuition (excluding California and including Nebraska), for the 2012-2013 academic year, indicates that Wyoming community college students pay 63.88% of that of average WICHE state community colleges. This ratio has increased slightly for Wyoming from the 2011-2012 ratio of 63.70%.

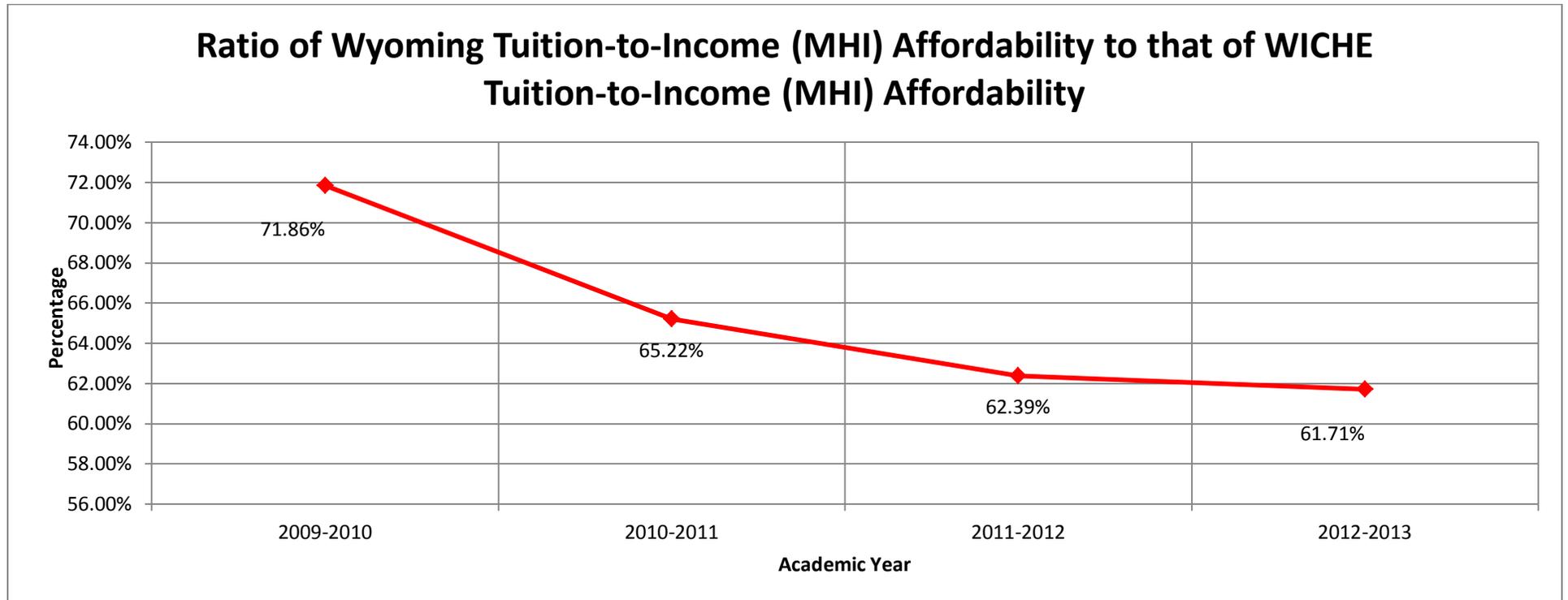
The average tuition for the two-year public WICHE institutions increased by 5.35% from 2011-12 to 2012-13. For the same period, the tuition for Wyoming's community colleges increased by 5.63%.



Ratio of Tuition-to-Income Affordability

In comparing the ratios of average tuition rates to median household income (MHI) for Wyoming to that of WICHE states (excluding California and including Nebraska) in 2012-13, the final ratio was 61.71%, a decrease from the 2011-12 ratio of 62.39%.

The average median household income of the WICHE states combined increased by 1.28% from 2009-10 to 2010-2011. During the same period, median household income in Wyoming increased by 2.52%.



Possible Tuition Change

The above analysis indicates that the Wyoming community college tuition rate in 2012-2013 remains below that in surrounding states. For the 4 one-year periods examined in the analysis, Wyoming's tuition and income ratios were less than those of the WICHE states. However, this span of data indicates that Wyoming tuition rates were not holding steady, until the most recent year. Given this analysis, no recommendation is being made by the WCCC staff.

Residency Classification	2011-12 Part-time tuition rate (up to 12 hours)	2011-12 Annual full-time tuition rate (12 hours or more per semester)	2012-13 Part-time tuition rate ⁵ (up to 12 hours)	2012-13 Annual full-time tuition rate ⁶ (12 hours or more per semester)	2013-14 Part-time tuition rate (up to 12 hours)	2013-14 Annual full-time tuition rate (12 hours or more per semester)
Wyoming residents	\$71/credit hour	\$1,704	\$75/credit hour	\$1,800		
WUE and Nebraska students	\$107/credit hour	\$2,568	\$112/credit hour	\$2,688		
Non-residents	\$213/credit hour	\$5,112	\$225/credit hour	\$5,400		

Possible Credit Hour Cap Increase

Below is an example of the effect of increasing the tuition cap from 12 to 15 semester hours on resident students. If the cap were increased for the 2012-2013 academic year, the rates in the columns on the right side of the table below would have applied for resident students taking 15 or more semester hours.

Residency Classification	2011-12 Part-time tuition rate (up to 12 hours)	2011-12 Annual full-time tuition rate (12 hours or more per semester)	2012-13* Part-time tuition rate (up to 15 hours)	2012-13* Annual full-time tuition rate (15 hours or more per semester)
Wyoming residents	\$71/credit hour	\$1,704	\$75/credit hour	\$2,250
WUE and Nebraska students	\$107/credit hour	\$2,568	\$112/credit hour	\$3,360
Non-residents	\$213/credit hour	\$5,112	\$225/credit hour	\$6,750

*Using the 2012-2013 tuition rate

Analysis conducted by Joe McCann & George Pitt, WCCC – November 2012

⁵ When increased, credit hour tuition rates are rounded to the nearest dollar.

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