



Ecampus has become a core part of OSU’s academic programs and revenues. This year, Ecampus tuition will be the largest part of OSU’s tuition revenues, at about \$147M annually.

How does Ecampus tuition work?

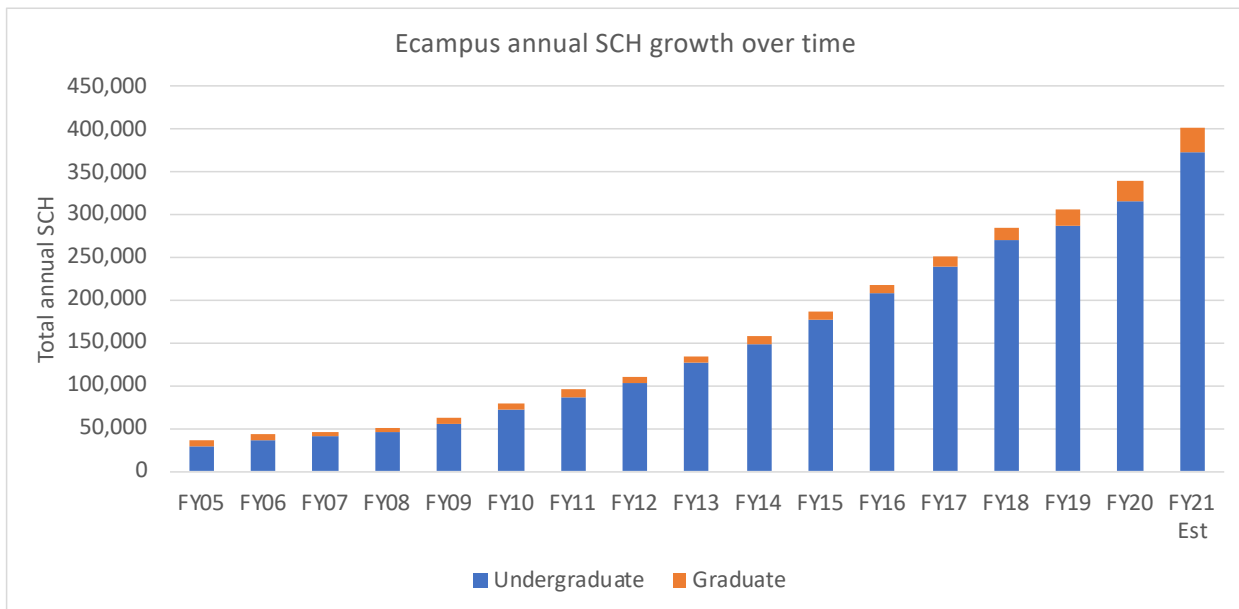
Ecampus:	FY21	
	Undergrad	Grad
Instruction	\$ 232	\$ 474
Operations	\$ 87	\$ 85
Total	\$ 318	\$ 560
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Operations	\$ 87.00	\$ 85.00
Department	\$ 167.04	\$ 341.28
Financial aid	\$ 23.20	\$ 47.40
Central	\$ 41.76	\$ 85.32
Total	\$ 319.00	\$ 559.00

Ecampus has per credit hour tuition rates by type of program and level, not by residency. When Ecampus started, there was a charge for tuition and a charge for a distance education fee. The fee went to Ecampus to support operations and program development. As Ecampus grew sufficiently large, the unit became a budgeted operation and the fee has gone in part to support campus operations as well as Ecampus. A couple of years ago, the student charge was collapsed just to tuition (for clarity to the students). The Budget Office tracks an operational charge (what was the “fee” portion) and an instructional charge (the tuition portion). Ecampus has had a revenue sharing model since its inception—the current distributions are shown at the left.

Many units have differential or professional tuition charges above base tuition. A portion of the differential is distributed back to the delivering unit (90%) and a portion is held centrally to support the institutional financial aid pool (10%). Units receive revenues based on total credit hours even for credits for which the student is paying a discounted rate (e.g., staff fee privilege rates).

How has Ecampus grown?

Oregon State’s first complete distance degree program was offered in liberal studies via correspondence and video in 1982, and OSU Ecampus – as the unit exists today – began delivering degree programs and courses online in 2002¹. Ecampus was designed with the development and delivery of academic programs rooted in colleges, departments, and schools (as opposed to an independent distance education unit). Development focused on building degrees and credentials, not just courses, and that approach has contributed to remarkable growth over the last 20 years.

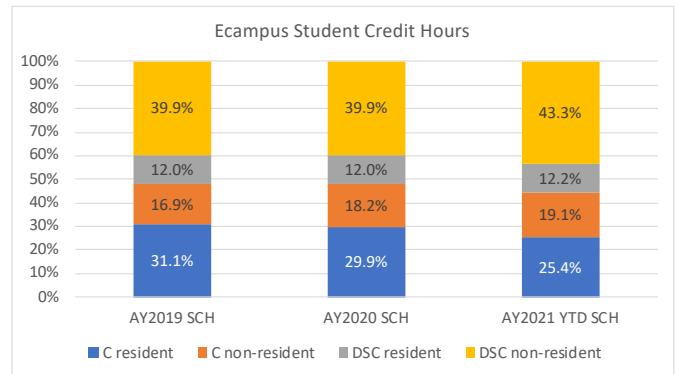


Ecampus has students from all 50 states and over 50 countries. Credit hours remain largely undergraduate. Graduate SCH hovered around 5% of totals from FY14 through FY18 but have started to grow more rapidly recently.

¹ <https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/news/about/media/> Also, much of the data here is from work by the Ecampus analytics team.

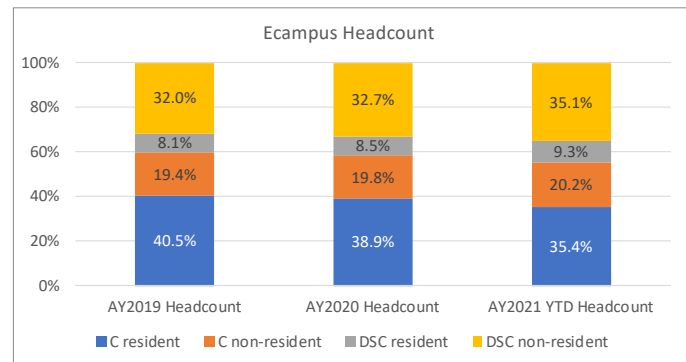
What is the distribution of Ecampus Enrollments?

Ecampus was developed to reach students who could not access academic programs at one of OSU’s physical locations. However, from the beginning, students at Corvallis and Bend have made significant use of classes offered online. By headcount, 59.9% of students were Corvallis students (coded C in the graph) in FY19, decreasing to 55.6% in FY21 (so far). In contrast, 48% of credit hours were taken by Corvallis students in FY19 declining to 44.5% in FY21. Distance students (coded DSC in the graph) take more courses per term than Corvallis students, but lower overall loads.



Does Ecampus have an impact on Corvallis enrollments?

Campus students have clearly chosen to use Ecampus courses because they fit schedules better or allow students more flexibility. There is a cost component in the choice, however. Ecampus undergraduate tuition is \$318 per SCH, while resident undergraduate tuition is \$219/SCH and non-resident is \$652/SCH (rates for new students in FY21). The non-resident rate is higher in recognition of the state’s contribution to annual operating costs and the long-term costs of building and maintaining the physical campus. When a campus student



takes an Ecampus course, it is more expensive for a resident but much less expensive for a non-resident. This is likely one reason for the modest increase in the percentages of non-residents taking Ecampus courses (bar graph above—for scale in FY20 over 26,500 individual students took one or more Ecampus courses).

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Corvallis Undergraduate-- Ecampus use as % Undergrad SCH	5.1%	6.0%	6.8%	7.9%	9.3%	10.7%
Corvallis Graduate-- Ecampus use as % Graduate SCH	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%

The flexibility and cost factors have contributed to a consistent increase in the proportion of credit hours that a Corvallis undergraduate or graduate student takes through Ecampus (the undergraduate usage rate increasing about one percentage point per year).

The pandemic has accelerated a shift in the proportion of E&G revenues that come from Ecampus, which is projected to be 28.7% of the total in FY22. Though this has provided thousands of students access to an OSU education, and has been essential to sustaining and building E&G operations, it does introduce a complicating factor to budgeting. First, the revenue sharing sends a set percentage straight to academic units. Second, the net tuition per student has declined

some as Ecampus has grown. When international student growth was rapid in FY09 through FY17, tuition per student grew rapidly (because of non-resident tuition). Ecampus students take fewer courses per year and there is no non-resident rate, so the net tuition is less per student. As enrollment has shifted more to online students and declined in international students, headcount is growing but net tuition per student is declining. This is not bad, just an expected consequence of a different enrollment mix.

