

Cost Comparisons of Portland Metro Community Colleges

Research Brief

Thursday, November 07, 2013

Research Purpose / Methodology

At request of the President's Cabinet and in response to data presented in the 2012-13 Student Satisfaction Assessment, data were gathered from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) regarding cost of attendance at Portland Metropolitan Community Colleges. Data were gathered for four years to make comparisons regarding cost of attendance currently and over time.

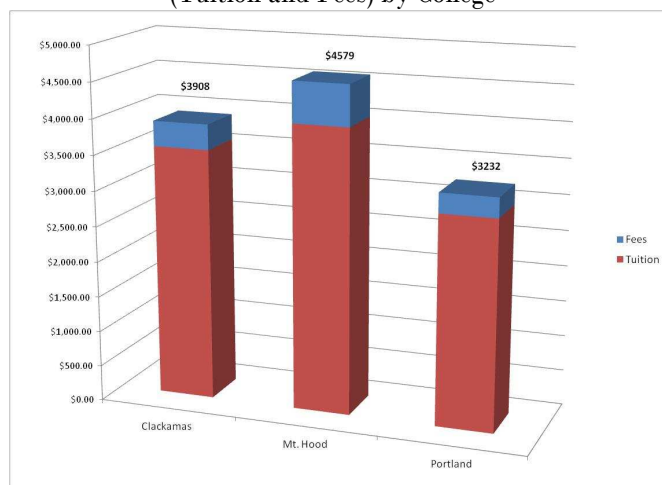
IPEDS reports are available to anyone via the internet. The data presented are based on standard reports from the College Navigator website (<http://nces.ed.gov/>

collegenavigator/). Data for the IPEDS reports are based on annual data submissions from all colleges/universities receiving Title IV Federal Funds.

This report only presents data for in-district/in-state costs. No effort was made to assess costs to out-of-state students.

The chart to the right provides a breakdown of the most current data available (2012-13 Academic Year). The chart provides the cost of attendance (tuition and fees) for a full-time student attending each college for the entire year. The data indicate that MHCC is more expensive than Clackamas by over \$600 annually. MHCC is more expensive than Portland by over \$1300 annually.

Annual Total Cost of Attendance (Tuition and Fees) by College



Indices:

Tables in this brief provide indices for comparison purposes. An Index is calculated by dividing the reported number by the average for the group and multiplying the result by 100. An Index of 100 indicates that the reported value is equal to the group average. An Index below 100 indicates the reported number is below the average. An Index above 100 indicates the reported number is above the average. The further away from 100 the greater the difference between the reported number and the group average.

Conclusions/Recommendations

Total Costs

The total cost data include tuition/fees, books/supplies, and room/board for attending each college for one year. The data show that—while all three college's costs have increased—Mt. Hood costs have increased at a much higher rate. Total costs for full-time students have increased 13% at Mt. Hood over the four years reported.

Tuition and Fees

The tuition and fees data report the total cost of a student attending each college full-time for a year. Annual tuition and fees at Mt. Hood are higher than either Clackamas or Portland. Tuition and fees have increased at a greater rate at Mt. Hood than the other two colleges. Fees in particular have grown substantially and are much higher at Mt. Hood.

Financial Aid

The financial aid data reported was calculated by subtracting the net annual price for students receiving the identified award from the total annual cost data. Both Mt. Hood and Portland appear to be very close in the amounts awarded. Clackamas awards substantially more financial aid than either of the other two colleges.

With regard to costs for MHCC students, MHCC should:

- ✓ Consider cuts in tuition and fees to bring costs more in-line with the other metro community colleges.
- ✓ Barring cuts, there should be no increases in tuition/fees until the other institutions are more in line with Mt. Hood.
- ✓ Work to identify additional financial aid for students.

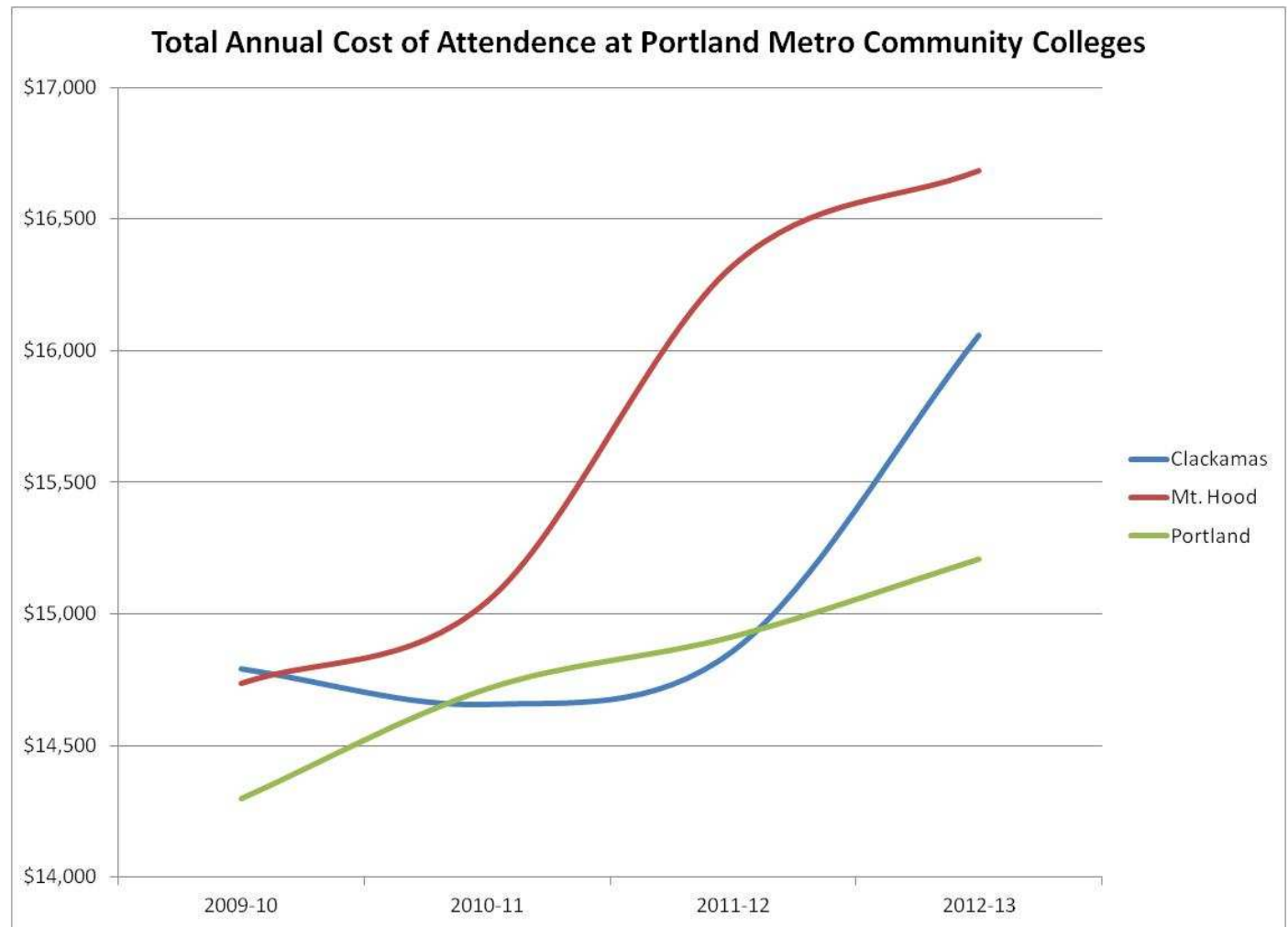
Total Costs

The total cost data provides actual annual costs associated with attending the college full time for one academic year. Total costs includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, and room and board. The total costs associated with attending the three Portland Metropolitan Colleges are not dramatically different. However, the data indicate that Mt. Hood has been consistently higher than the either Clackamas or Portland. The most recent year reported shows the Mt. Hood is over \$600 more expensive than attending Clackamas for a year; Mt. Hood is over \$1400 dollars more expensive than attending Portland.

Indices in the table to the right show that, although MHCC costs do not range far from the average (mean) costs by year, they are higher for each year reported.

The chart below plots total costs by college and by academic year. In 2009-10 Mt. Hood was actually slightly cheaper than Clackamas. Over the next two years, costs at Mt. Hood rose substantially faster than they did at either Clackamas or Portland. Over the four years reported, Portland's total costs have risen about 6%. Clackamas' costs have risen about 8%. MHCC's costs over the same timeframe have risen 13%.

Year	Institution	Total Cost	Index
2012-13	Clackamas	\$16,058	100
	Mt. Hood	\$16,684	104
	Portland	\$15,208	95
	Average	\$15,983	100
2011-12	Clackamas	\$14,858	97
	Mt. Hood	\$16,324	106
	Portland	\$14,914	97
	Average	\$15,365	100
2010-11	Clackamas	\$14,655	99
	Mt. Hood	\$15,049	102
	Portland	\$14,716	99
	Average	\$14,807	100
2009-10	Clackamas	\$14,790	101
	Mt. Hood	\$14,738	101
	Portland	\$14,299	98
	Average	\$14,609	100

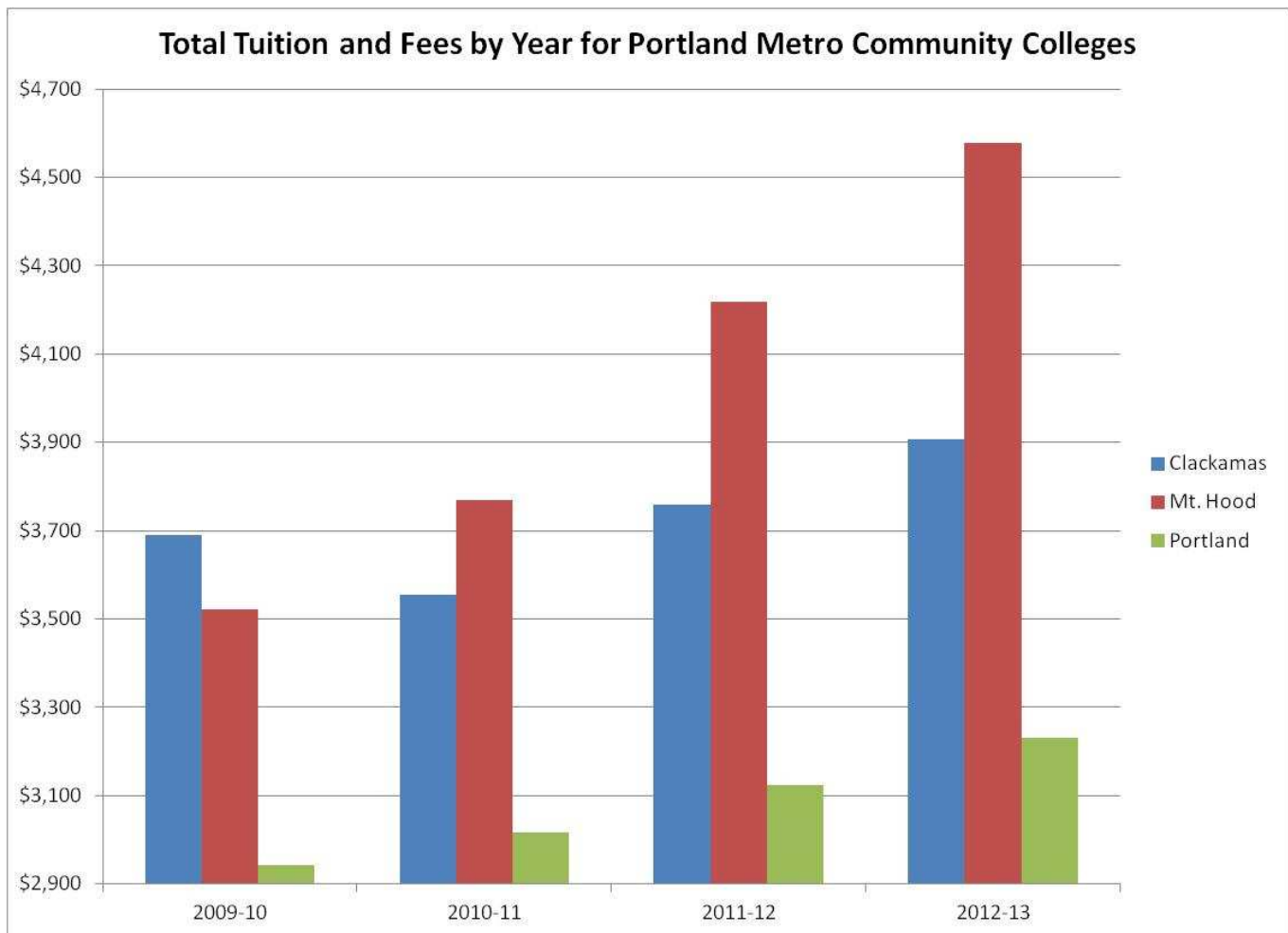


Tuition and Fees

Year	Institution	Tuition And Fees (In-District)					
		Tuition	Index	Fees	Index	Tuition and Fees Total	Index
2012-13	Clackamas	\$3,555	101	\$353	88	\$3,908	100
	Mt. Hood	\$4,005	114	\$574	143	\$4,579	117
	Portland	\$2,952	84	\$280	70	\$3,232	83
	Average	\$3,504	100	\$402	100	\$3,906	100
2011-12	Clackamas	\$3,465	103	\$293	87	\$3,758	102
	Mt. Hood	\$3,780	112	\$439	130	\$4,219	114
	Portland	\$2,844	85	\$280	83	\$3,124	84
	Average	\$3,363	100	\$337	100	\$3,700	100
2010-11	Clackamas	\$3,330	105	\$225	79	\$3,555	103
	Mt. Hood	\$3,420	108	\$349	123	\$3,769	109
	Portland	\$2,736	87	\$280	98	\$3,016	88
	Average	\$3,162	100	\$285	100	\$3,447	100
2009-10	Clackamas	3465	111	\$225	81	\$3,690	109
	Mt. Hood	3195	103	\$326	118	\$3,521	104
	Portland	2664	86	\$280	101	\$2,944	87
	Average	\$3,108	100	\$277	100	\$3,385	100

The table above provides a breakdown of Tuition and Fees for a student attending each of the Portland Metropolitan Community Colleges full-time for a year. MHCC indices are all above 100 indicating it is more expensive than the average cost of the three colleges. In particular, the fees for the college are substantially higher and have been increasing at a rate faster than the other colleges.

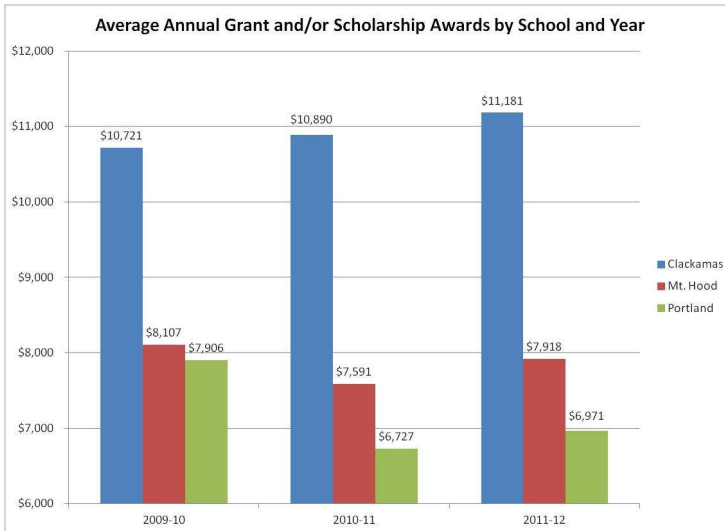
The bar chart below plots the total cost (tuition and fees) for each of the four years reported. The chart demonstrates that MHCC has been consistently more expensive than the other two colleges reported. Additionally, the costs at MHCC have risen at a greater rate than either Clackamas or Portland Community Colleges; the gap has grown larger over time.



Financial Aid

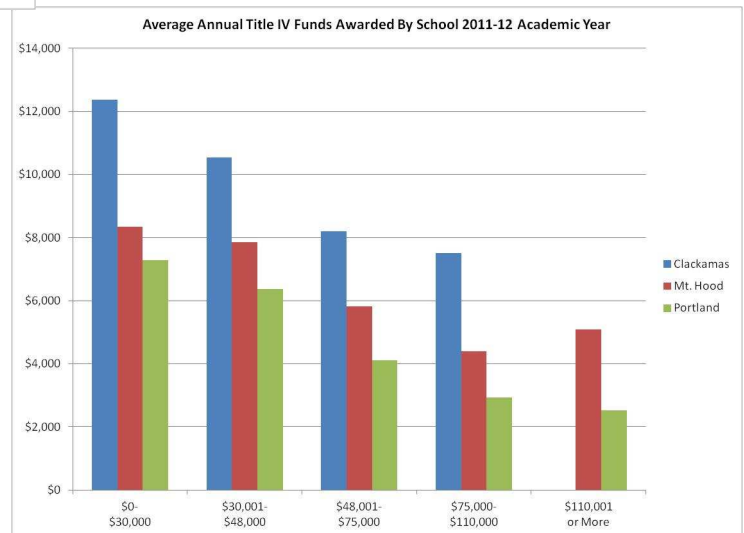
Year	Institution	Average Award for Students Receiving Grants and/or Scholarships		Average Award for Students Receiving Title IV Funds By Income Level									
		Grants and/or Scholarships	Index	\$0-\$30,000	Index	\$30,001-\$48,000	Index	\$48,001-\$75,000	Index	\$75,000-\$110,000	Index	\$110,001 or More	Index
2011-12	Clackamas	\$11,181	129	\$12,369	133	\$10,536	128	\$8,200	136	\$7,500	152		0
	Mt. Hood	\$7,918	91	\$8,349	89	\$7,854	95	\$5,832	96	\$4,398	89	\$5,099	134
	Portland	\$6,971	80	\$7,279	78	\$6,381	77	\$4,115	68	\$2,927	59	\$2,524	66
	Average	\$8,690	100	\$9,332	100	\$8,257	100	\$6,049	100	\$4,942	100	\$3,812	100
2010-11	Clackamas	\$10,890	130	\$11,648	130	\$8,455	113	\$11,012	162	\$7,500	155		0
	Mt. Hood	\$7,591	90	\$8,067	90	\$7,581	101	\$5,532	81	\$4,348	90	\$4,247	125
	Portland	\$6,727	80	\$7,141	80	\$6,446	86	\$3,845	57	\$2,712	56	\$2,544	75
	Average	\$8,403	100	\$8,952	100	\$7,494	100	\$6,796	100	\$4,853	100	\$3,396	100
2009-10	Clackamas	\$10,721	120	\$12,098	130	\$10,857	137	\$10,580	162	\$9,936	171	\$8,301	154
	Mt. Hood	\$8,107	91	\$7,588	81	\$6,868	87	\$5,534	85	\$4,900	85		0
	Portland	\$7,906	89	\$8,253	89	\$6,087	77	\$3,528	54	\$2,553	44	\$2,501	46
	Average	\$8,911	100	\$9,313	100	\$7,937	100	\$6,547	100	\$5,796	100	\$5,401	100

The table above provides average annual awards for first-time full-time students (Note: data were not available for 2012-13). Average awards were calculated by taking the net total price for students receiving financial aid and subtracting that figure from the total cost figures (presented earlier in this report). The data indicate that Clackamas awards a substantially higher amount of financial aid (both scholarships/grant monies and Title IV funds) than either Mt. Hood or Portland. Mt. Hood does award more scholarship/grant money than Portland. Interestingly, Clackamas awards much higher amounts of Title IV funds than the other two colleges.



The chart to the left plots average grant and/or scholarship awards by college and year. The chart clearly demonstrates the disparity between Clackamas and the other two colleges with regard to the amount of grant/scholarships awarded. Additionally, the amount of money by year has grown slightly at Clackamas; at Mt. Hood, the awards have been fairly stable and appear to have declined at Portland.

The chart to the right presents the average Title IV fund awards by college and income level for the 2011-12 academic year. Again, Clackamas appears to award higher levels of Title IV funds than either Mt. Hood or Portland. Not surprisingly, as income levels rise, the amount of awards decreases. Mt. Hood does show an anomaly in the data; the amount of Title IV awards for students earning \$110,001 or more is actually higher than for students in the \$75,000-\$110,000 income bracket.



We recommend referencing the AIR Team as a data source whether you use the complete set or individual pieces of information supplied in this report.

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