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**MSU Costs**

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Average annual cost of fees and board and room for Montana residents attending Montana State University is just at the halfway mark of resident costs at 11 western tax-supported schools, according to a survey published in the Feb. 27 issue of U. S. News and World Report.

MSU is the only Montana institution included in the schools which the magazine lists as good colleges that have room for more students. The article, "If You're Choosing a College - Facts a Survey Turns Up," notes that big-name colleges, especially in the East, are flooded with applicants and are tightening standards. In the West, however, the average student is likely to find a suitable college that will accept him. "Many of these are good, recognized schools, with first-rate faculties and facilities," the article says.

The magazine survey found college costs up everywhere. The article points out that on expenses, just as on standards for admission, the variation is great. At the top, costs reach $3,000 a year and even higher. At other schools, a student can get along on $1,000 or less.

The magazine's information was based on replies from a wide selection of major four-year colleges and universities in all 50 states. The 19 western schools listed include 13 state universities or colleges. Two of the 13 used reporting methods that make strict comparison with the others impossible, leaving 11 using comparable figures.

Several of the 11 comparable schools reported lower fees than MSU but higher board and room. MSU included the cost of books and supplies with its figure for fees, which, added to board and room, brought the total reported to the magazine to $1,079. However, when figures for just fees and board and room are used, as

(more)
was the case for the other 10 schools, MSU's total is $933. When this total is compared with those for the other schools, five schools cost more than MSU and five cost less.

The 11 western tax-supported schools whose methods of reporting allow of comparison show the following average costs for fees and/or tuition and for board and room: Universities of Idaho, $769, with fee increase anticipated; Oklahoma, $792; Wyoming, $887; Washington, $913; California, $925; MSU, $933; Oregon, $935; New Mexico, $946, with increase in living cost anticipated; Arizona, $956, with fee increase anticipated, and Nevada, $960, and Oregon State College, $1,160, with board and room increase anticipated.

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