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10 Least Expensive Public Medical Schools for In-State Students

Medical students at these schools pay less than $20,000 annually in tuition and required fees.

By Ryan Lytle

The U.S. News Short List, separate from our overall rankings, is a regular series that magnifies individual data points in hopes of providing students and parents a way to find which undergraduate or graduate programs excel or have room to grow in specific areas. Be sure to explore The Short List: College and The Short List: Grad School to find data that matters to you in your college or grad school search.

Investing in a medical school education is not an easy or affordable process. For many students interested in attending the highest ranked—and often most expensive—medical schools, annual costs may be more than $50,000.

There are cheaper alternatives, though, for students who are willing to stay in their home state. The average cost of in-state tuition and required fees at the 10 least expensive public medical programs is $14,888, compared to $26,418—the national average of in-state costs for public medical schools. Seventy schools reported this data directly to U.S. News in a 2010 survey that reflected tuition and fees costs for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Opting for a more affordable education does not necessarily mean getting a poor one. Among the 10 least expensive public medical schools for in-state students, nine are ranked among the top 100 programs in either research or primary care, according to U.S. News's rankings of Best Medical Schools.

The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University is the least expensive public medical school for in-state students, with an annual cost of $11,554—about $15,000 less than the national average. East Carolina and six other schools from Texas on this list are also among the list of the 10 least expensive medical schools for out-of-state students.
The F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a federal service postgraduate academy that charges $0 in tuition and fees in return for military service, was excluded from this list. Schools that were designated by U.S. News as Unranked were also excluded from the data. U.S. News did not calculate a numerical ranking for Unranked programs because the program did not meet certain criteria that U.S. News requires to be numerically ranked.

Below is a table of the 10 least expensive public medical schools for first year, in-state students, based on tuition and required fees. The cost does not include room and board, books, and other miscellaneous costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public medical school</th>
<th>In-state tuition &amp; fees (2010-2011)</th>
<th>U.S. News primary care rank</th>
<th>U.S. News research rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Carolina University (Brody)</td>
<td>$11,554</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>RNP*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Health Science Center</td>
<td>$13,582</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center—Houston</td>
<td>$13,609</td>
<td>RNP</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill</td>
<td>$14,400</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center</td>
<td>$14,561</td>
<td>RNP</td>
<td>RNP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas Health Science Center</td>
<td>$15,630</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>RNP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center—Dallas</td>
<td>$15,640</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts—Worcester</td>
<td>$15,738</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center—San Antonio</td>
<td>$15,883</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nevada—Reno</td>
<td>$18,287</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>RNP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*RNP denotes an institution that is ranked in the bottom one fourth of all medical and osteopathic schools. U.S. News calculates a rank for the school but has decided not to publish it.)

U.S. News surveyed more than 140 medical schools for our 2010 survey of research and primary care programs. Schools self-reported a myriad of data regarding their academic programs and the makeup of their student body, among other areas, making U.S. News's data the most accurate and detailed collection of college facts and figures of its kind. While the data comes from the schools themselves, these lists have no influence over U.S. News's rankings of Best Colleges or Best Graduate Schools.
Lately, former University of North Carolina system president Erskine Bowles has been going around the country trying to sell the public and public officialdom on the idea that the nation’s current fiscal course is unsustainable.

“I think we face the most predictable economic crisis in history,” Bowles recently told The Wall Street Journal. “The economics is very clear. The politics, very difficult.”

Bowles went on to tell the newspaper how every single dollar spent last year by the U.S. government on discretionary programs could be seen as being borrowed.

“That’s a formula for failure in anybody’s book,” he said.

Funny thing is, he could have used similar words, speaking in his previous role as UNC system president, about the current unsustainable path of our public universities.
The universities themselves may not be borrowing the money. But they are living on borrowed money. It’s just that the borrowing is by students and their families.

Consider that the average college student in North Carolina graduated with $25,250 of debt in 2010. Among the 16 public UNC system schools, tuition and fees for resident undergraduates will average $5,275 this year.

So, for an average resident student who takes five years to graduate, almost all of their tuition payments could be seen as coming from student loans.

That’s not the unsustainable trend though. Like the country’s rising entitlement costs weighed against borrowing and revenue, it’s the rate of tuition increases weighed against debt and the ability of students to pay off that debt that can’t be sustained down the road.

During the last decade, tuition at UNC system schools more than doubled, rising 119 percent. That’s an average annual increase of 11.9 percent. At UNC-Chapel Hill, tuition and fees jumped from $3,219 in the 2001-02 school year to $7,008 this year. Meanwhile, the average student is graduating with about 50 percent more debt than they did a decade ago.

While college administrators engage in some hand-wringing about rising tuition and declining state support, they don’t seem to acknowledge the obvious: Another doubling of tuition over the next decade — combined with rising debt, rising student loan defaults and a questionable job market — is untenable.

Something will have to give. At some point, a university financing crisis becomes predictable. University administrators can pretend that’s not the case. They can keep on with their plans for more double-digit tuition increases.

Or they begin to recognize that their huge, complex institutions require significant reform to cut costs.

University officials may believe they have a problem with legislators and taxpayers right now. Down the road, their bigger problem is going to be with their customers — the students. It would be nice to hear one of those former
UNC officials come home to do a little preaching about that unsustainable road.

Scott Mooneyham writes about North Carolina government and politics for the Capitol Press Association
A countywide gang task force formed last week made its first arrests on Friday, the Greenville Police Department said.

One man was arrested on outstanding warrants and another on a probation violation after task force officers began checking up on men suspected in gang activity, according to a news release issued Monday.

Marcus Devon Barrett, 27, 3901 EE6 Sterling Pointe, Winterville, was arrested for an outstanding warrant for possession with intent to sell/distribute marijuana, the release said.

Barrett was a victim in a shooting last week at 1401 E. Second St., the release said. Officers seized more than $2,500 in cash from his sofa.

He was jailed at the Pitt County Detention Center under a $25,000 bond.

Josiah Haughton, 24, of 106-A Cedar Lane was found in possession of several grams of powder cocaine, scales and currency during a probation check, the release said.

Haughton is a confirmed Crip gang member from New York and is on probation for possession of a firearm by a felon, the release said.

He also has a 2006 conviction for manslaughter in Nash County, according to the news release.

The task force began operations in response to several recent homicides and violent crimes in Greenville.

The arrests came quickly after Greenville Chief William Anderson requested assistance from law enforcement agencies countywide, police spokesman Sgt. Carlton Williams said.
“He held a meeting on Dec. 7, formed the task force on Dec. 8, and all this happened on Dec. 9,” Williams said. The effort included officers from police departments in Bethel, Farmville and Greenville; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; East Carolina University police; N.C. Probation and Parole; Pitt County Sheriff’s Office and the U.S. Marshals Service.

“Although the operation was conducted in the Greenville area, all of these agencies were involved,” Williams said. “They will be working other areas in the future.”

Officers were divided into two groups.

A team tasked with serving outstanding warrants and conducting warrantless searches and curfew checks on validated gang members made Friday’s arrests.

A second group assigned with patrolling areas known for gang activity made contact with several known gang members but made no arrests, the news release said.

“This is just the beginning,” Williams said. “And they will be working throughout different areas of the county.”

Residents are encouraged to call the Greenville Police Department Tip Line at 329-4949 to report any criminal gang-related activity.
Rex's records

The N&O's ongoing series "Hearts and Minds" provides what might be called, using clinical lingo, an intensive work up of the conflict between WakeMed and UNC Health Care as they compete for doctors and revenue. Patients, prospective patients and their families can only hope that however the dust finally settles, their interests will not become collateral damage.

Mandy Locke's reporting shows how the decision by a large cardiology practice to cut ties with WakeMed and affiliate instead with UNC Health has boosted the state-owned system's prospects. It also put a scare into private, nonprofit WakeMed, which has counted heavily on its heart business to remain financially strong. That scare is a key reason for WakeMed's effort to buy Rex Hospital, UNC Health's signature presence in Wake County and a reliable revenue engine.

Would the acquisition bid somehow be helped if Rex, as a subsidiary of UNC Health, were deemed to be a public entity that was subject to North Carolina's public records law? Would WakeMed gain access to information that would boost its cause as it tries to persuade legislators to approve or even force a sale? Well, more information is generally better than less.

But here's the twist, as reported by Locke on Sunday: UNC Health already makes the argument that Rex is public. At the same time, it holds to the view that the hospital is not obliged to honor public records requests. That looks unmistakably like trying to have it both ways.

The background is that Rex was private before UNC bought it in 2000 for $100 million in state funds. The state attorney general then pronounced that despite Rex's new ownership - a public health care organization tied in with the University of North Carolina system - it would still be classified as private. That put many of the hospital's records dealing with finances and operations outside the reach of the public records statute.

This is the kind of information the state law was meant to cover, as it helps the public hold public officials accountable for their management effectiveness. Confidential patient records are not at issue.

But UNC Health wasn't satisfied for Rex to be simply a private nonprofit. To avoid having to disclose certain financial data to the IRS, a requirement that
applies to nonprofits that are private, the parent system contended that Rex should be exempt because of UNC's public status. The tax agency granted the exemption.

Then consider as well that UNC actually went back to the attorney general's office and obtained an advisory opinion to the effect that Rex should be considered public, switching signals from before. This came about as UNC sought higher Medicaid reimbursement rates for Rex doctors, giving doctors an added incentive to link up with Rex. But even as UNC twisted and turned to define Rex's status in ways it saw as beneficial, it gave no ground on the public records question.

Common sense suggests that as a subsidiary of UNC Health Care, Rex should in fact be categorized as public. UNC argues that it needs to retain ownership of Rex in furtherance of its public mission, which includes providing millions of dollars in care to people who can't afford to pay.

A public mission, plus public ownership, should translate into public status and coverage under the public records law - meaning better public oversight. Any advantage gained by WakeMed in its attempt to buy its rival should be beside the point.
UNCW announces $1M Osher gift

By Pressley Baird
Pressley.Baird@StarNewsOnline.com

University of North Carolina Wilmington Chancellor Gary Miller announced at a press conference Tuesday a $1 million gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation in San Francisco to support the university's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The endowment supports the institute's programs, which include non-credit university courses taught by UNCW faculty, special interest groups, outdoor classes and speaker series for adults 50 and older in Southeastern North Carolina.

The program has more than 1,000 members, as well as non-members who can also participate in individual programs.

UNCW established a lifelong learning program in 1999, said Tom Barth, interim dean of public service and continuing studies, which oversees the institute.

The Osher Foundation endowed UNCW's lifelong learning program in 2007 with a $1 million gift, making it one of 117 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the nation.

UNCW opened a new building to house the institute's staff and programs in June 2010. During the most recent budget year, nearly 300 class meetings were held in the building.

In September 2011, UNCW reported an increase of almost 250 members at the institute compared to the same time in the previous year.

"We've rode the crest of growth in the region," Barth said.

A lifelong learning program like the institute, he said, is an "attraction to get people to move here."

UNCW's public service department also provides state-funded support to the institute, said UNCW spokeswoman Dana Fischetti.

"A lot of the university support that OLLI is given is through the public service department, in the form of staff, the building, the infrastructure," Fischetti said.
Fischetti said the public service department lost a marketing position in budget cuts this year, which had a strong impact on the institute's advertising, she said.

"When state funds are limited, you have to rely on gift funding" for programs like the institute, Fischetti said.

Pressley Baird: 343-2328

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$3 million gift to energize UNCC

By April Bethea

UNC Charlotte has received another major gift to support its efforts to train future engineers for the energy sector.

Westinghouse Electric Co. announced Monday it was committing more than $3 million to the university's Energy Production and Infrastructure Center.

The gift includes equipment, future courses in topics such as crane and nuclear fuel-handling design, and scholarships.

Chancellor Phil Dubois said the need for talent in the energy industry has never been greater, noting that many engineers and other workers are nearing retirement. He quoted a report from the U.S. Department of Labor that the energy sector will need at least 26,000 new workers to build and operate new power plants.

The Westinghouse gift, he said, will help the university reinforce its position as a key partner in securing the energy sector's future.

"This kind of support is critical to the success of this program, which we foresee as a model for business and education cooperation in the energy sphere," Dubois said.

The university is finishing construction on a $76 million facility on its Charlotte Research Institute campus to house the energy center, also known as EPIC. The school's civil, environmental, electrical and computer engineering departments will move to the building.

As part of its donation, Westinghouse has given the university two 30-ton cranes to use in a high-bay research and testing laboratory in the EPIC building. The cranes are identical to those found in power and industrial plants, said Jimmy Morgan, a vice president with Westinghouse.

In addition, the school will receive equipment to help simulate fuel handling inside nuclear reactors as well as tools to help students learn how to use Westinghouse's AP1000 nuclear reactor.

Students will get access to Westinghouse's welding test shop in Rock Hill.
Morgan and other officials said having access to the equipment and software from Westinghouse will give students graduating from UNCC's programs an edge over their peers.

The donation from Westinghouse is the latest gift to support the EPIC project. Among other gifts: Duke Energy and Siemens Energy announced $8.8 million toward the center earlier this year.

Bethea: 704-358-6013
Police: FAMU band member beaten for trying to get out of meeting; 3 fellow members charged

By Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida A&M band member Bria Shante Hunter had tried to get out of going to a meeting. For that, authorities say, fellow band members subjected her to hazing rituals so severe she was left with a broken thigh.

Tallahassee police said that on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, Hunter was beaten with fists and a metal ruler to initiate her into the “Red Dawg Order” — a band clique for students from Georgia.

Three Florida A&M band members were charged Monday in the beatings, which came about three weeks before drum major Robert Champion died during a band trip to Orlando, police said. Police say hazing also was involved in that death.

Champion’s death and now the arrests have exposed a hazing tradition that has long haunted the university. Former clarinet player Ivery Luckey was hospitalized after he said he was paddled around 300 times in 1998. Three years later, band member Marcus Parker suffered kidney damage because of a beating with a paddle.

After Champion died, the university indefinitely suspended performances by the famed Marching 100 and school President James Ammons has vowed to break what he calls a “code of silence” on the hazing rituals.

In the incidents that happened in October and November, Hunter told police that days later the pain became so unbearable she went to the hospital. Besides her broken thigh bone, she had had blood clots in her legs.

Sean Hobson, 23, and Aaron Golson, 19, were charged Monday with hazing and battery, and James Harris, 22, was charged with hazing. All three remained jailed early Tuesday. A university spokeswoman confirmed they were students. Attempts to reach listed numbers for them were unsuccessful.

Police say the hazing happened at Harris’ off-campus apartment in Tallahassee and that at one point he stopped Golson and Hobson from hitting Hunter further.
Hunter did not immediately return a call to her cell phone. But in an interview with Orlando station WFTV-TV, she was asked why band members take part in hazing.

“So we can be accepted,” she told the station. “If you don’t do anything, then, it’s like you’re lame.”

Officers said in the arresting documents that Hunter was targeted by the other members of the “Red Dawg Order” because she tried to get out of going to a group meeting. She was repeatedly punched on the tops of her thighs by Golson and Hobson, according to information the police got from others who witnessed the incident.

The second beating came when Hunter and other pledges could not recite information about the “Red Dawg Order” properly. It was during that one that a metal ruler was used on her legs.

Police say Hobson sent Hunter a text message on Nov. 5 that stated “I apologize for the hurt I put you through. I apologize for the mental and physical strain you have endured.” When interviewed later by police, Hobson acknowledged he was a member of the “Red Dawg Order” but denied harming Hunter or sending her a text message.

Harris also denied to police that he allowed his apartment to be used to hold the meetings and he denied seeing Hunter getting hit.

After Champion’s death, the school fired band director Julian White, who contends he tried to report problems with hazing to his superiors. He has since been reinstated and placed on administrative leave at the request of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement which asked the university to halt all disciplinary actions until the criminal investigation is finished. Four students connected to Champion’s death were expelled, but then reinstated at the request of the law-enforcement agency.

Last week the Board of Trustees reprimanded Ammons over his job performance, including how the university has dealt with hazing. The panel that oversees the state university system has also called for a probe into whether school officials ignored past warnings about hazing.

“The Board of Trustees and President Ammons hope that through these arrests all involved in perpetuating this culture will really begin to view hazing as a serious matter,” said university spokeswoman Sharon Saunders.
Watch That Tweet! N.C.A.A., Colleges Wrestle With Social Media Recruiting Rules

By MARY PILON

If a college sports fan makes a plea for a player via Facebook or Twitter, does that constitute a violation of N.C.A.A. rules?

That’s one of the questions at the heart of an academic paper by Victor Broccoli, a 2010 graduate of Tulane University Law School and lawyer in Rutherfordton, N.C.

In a paper titled “Policing the Digital Wild West: N.C.A.A. Recruiting Regulations in the Age of Facebook and Twitter,” Broccoli argues that the N.C.A.A. faces difficulties when it comes to recruiting regulations and social networking.

He offers up the example of Taylor Moseley, a freshman at North Carolina State University who was a fan of the men’s basketball team and created a Facebook group called “John Wall PLEASE come to NC STATE!!!!” As a nearby star high school basketball player, Wall was considering offers from a variety of august college teams.

The N.C.A.A., according to Broccoli, did not appreciate the gesture, and informed N.C. State that the Facebook group violated rules regarding college recruitment.

“It’s absolutely absurd,” Broccoli says, “the idea that a Taylor Moseley or other regular fans that would post groups on Facebook, that they’re bearing the imprimatur of the university and that is going to be somehow determinative in where the athlete is going to commit to matters. It’s more an expression of fanhood.”

When it comes to social media, college athletics compliance professionals are in a similar position as their counterparts in fields like financial services. Are Facebook or Twitter messages archived? If so, how? Video chats via
Skype? College campuses, where Facebook was born and Twitter thrives, have meant major headaches for enforcers, Broccoli says. N.C.A.A. bylaws define recruiting as “any solicitation of prospective student-athletes or their parents by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution’s athletics interests for the purpose of securing a prospective student-athlete’s enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program.”

The N.C.A.A. has moved to limit communications like phone calls, faxes and e-mails between coaches and recruits. For example, text messaging is impermissible. But what about, say, recruits who send and receive direct messages on Twitter via mobile devices?

“If a coach becomes aware that a recruit has elected to receive direct messages as text messages on a mobile device,” according to the N.C.A.A., “the coach must cease communicating with the recruit through the social networking site. All other electronically transmitted correspondence including, but not limited to, text messaging, Instant Messenger, chat rooms or message boards [e.g., a user’s wall] within a social networking Web site or through other services or applications remain impermissible.” Using Twitter is allowed, according to the N.C.A.A., “as long as coaches are not using it to contact individual prospective student-athletes.”

N.C.A.A. member institutions are tasked with drawing up the rules for colleges and social media use. Those same institutions may also employ compliance officers who spend countless hours monitoring Twitter messages, Facebook accounts and the like. (The good news for enforcers is that sometimes people inadvertently display their folly.)

Next month, N.C.A.A. members will head to Indianapolis for their annual convention. They might do well to include some of their associates in technology as they ponder their social media rules, Broccoli says.

“I’m not an I.T. guy,” Broccoli says. “But it seems like the N.C.A.A. as it currently stands, they try and hit these moving targets, and I don’t think they’ve got enough feedback from the tech folks. … There’s a need for more consistency with how the N.C.A.A. wishes to regulate these technologies.”