

The Western Pennsylvania Advantage

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the YSU Western Pennsylvania Advantage?

The Western Pennsylvania Advantage is an initiative to make Youngstown State University, its quality programs and faculty more accessible and affordable to residents of Western Pennsylvania. YSU WPA drastically reduces the cost for western Pennsylvania residents to attend YSU.

What areas are covered by the YSU WPA?

The initiative applies to residents in eight counties in western Pennsylvania:

Allegheny	Erie
Beaver	Lawrence
Butler	Mercer
Crawford	Venango

How does the YSU WPA work?

Currently, residents of these eight counties attending YSU on a full-time basis pay a surcharge \$2,692.56 per academic year (two semesters), on top of the \$6,720.96 tuition charged to Ohio residents. That's a total cost of \$9,413.52 per academic year.

Under the Western Pennsylvania Advantage, which starts fall 2009, the surcharge for residents in the eight counties will be slashed to only \$200 per academic year. That means residents of the eight-county Western Pennsylvania region will pay only \$200 per academic year more than in-state Ohio residents. Based on current tuition rates, students would pay \$6,920.96 per academic year. That's a savings of nearly \$2,500 per academic year, or 26 percent.

Tuition costs per academic year, based on current 2008-09 tuition rates:

<u>Current</u>	<u>New WPA</u>	<u>Savings</u>
\$9,413.52	\$6,920.96	\$2,492.56

Under the YSU WPA, Western Pennsylvania residents can attend Youngstown State University at tuition rates comparable to or less than the in-state tuition at public universities in Western Pennsylvania.

When does the Western Pennsylvania Advantage initiative go into effect?

Current and new students from the above 8 counties in Western Pennsylvania will be able to take advantage of the tuition discount starting in the Fall Semester 2009, which begins August 24, 2009.

What if I live in Western Pennsylvania but outside of the 8 counties listed above?

Students residing in Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Washington and Westmoreland Counties will qualify for the Regional Services Area Tuition reduction, which is still significantly lower than the usual out-of-state tuition surcharge.

Tuition = \$9,413.52 per academic year (two semesters).

What about financial aid?

YSU offers among the most attractive financial aid packages in the region. The university provides millions of dollars annually in scholarships, both needs-based and academic-based. On average, after financial aid, YSU students pay less than half of the stated tuition out of pocket.

Does the PHEAA grant transfer to YSU?

Yes. Recognizing the legislative cap on Pennsylvania grants to Pennsylvania residents attending Ohio universities, Youngstown State University has increased the funding for the supplemental grant program that was initiated and funded by the YSU Foundation. This grant will automatically be awarded to YSU students who are awarded a PHEAA grant. The supplemental grant will be awarded in amounts up to \$1,200 per year to all students who receive the PHEAA grant, subject to availability of funds.

What housing options are available, and what are the costs?

The university's four residence halls house about 1,000 students in comfortable, spacious rooms with in-room high-speed Internet connections, cable and telephone terminals. The current cost for room and board is \$7,090 per academic year.

Also available is University Courtyard Apartments, offering singles, doubles and quads for more than 400 students, and Buechner Hall, a privately-run residence for women only. Both are within a block of campus

Where is Youngstown State University?

Youngstown State University is located just across the state line on a beautiful, 145-acre campus in Youngstown, Ohio.

Approximate miles to YSU:

- Sharon 13
- New Castle 19
- Greenville 33
- Slippery Rock 36
- Butler 46
- Meadville 65
- Downtown Pittsburgh 67
- Erie 88

What majors and programs does Youngstown State University offer?

Over 120 academic majors and programs housed in six colleges:

Business Administration

Education

Fine and Performing Arts

Health and Human Services

Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

And undergraduate Honors Program is offered in all colleges

The university also offers 35 master's degree programs and doctorates in educational leadership and physical therapy.

How many students from Western Pennsylvania attend Youngstown State University?

Currently, more than 650 students from the eight-county YSU Western Pennsylvania Advantage region attend Youngstown State University.

Tell us more about Youngstown State University.

YSU, founded in 1908, is an urban research university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association. Nearly 14,000 students from Ohio, Pennsylvania, the other 48 states, and 45 foreign countries attend YSU, reaping the benefits of a 19:1 student/faculty ratio and a strong commitment to the success of each student. To that end, the university offers a wealth of student services, including peer mentoring and tutoring; specialized centers for writing, math, and study skills; and a wide range of student activities and recreation facilities, including a new 72,000-square-foot recreation and wellness center located adjacent to the student center.

The YSU 140-acre campus itself is beautifully landscaped, with mature shade trees, sweeping walkways, and ample seating for study and relaxation. Well lighted and well patrolled by YSU police officers, the campus is among the safest in the state. Parking lots are equipped with emergency phones, and a campus escort service and shuttle bus are readily available to all students.

Youngstown State students reap the many benefits of attending an urban institution – access to internship and employment opportunities; a vibrant and diverse campus atmosphere; and proximity to entertainment, restaurants, shopping and recreation. The campus is fully wired for high-speed Internet access, and there are currently over 100 free wireless hotspots available in campus buildings.

In sum, Youngstown State offers students a comprehensive range of majors, outstanding instruction by highly qualified and committed faculty, and a vital living and learning environment.

What is there to do in Youngtown?

Youngstown State University is historically and geographically linked to downtown Youngstown, where students will find a growing culture of restaurants and cafés, in the midst of a lively music, art, and live-theater scene. The new Chevrolet Centre books a wide variety of mainstage entertainment such as Blue Man Group, Korn, and Carrie Underwood, and in warmer weather, the downtown streets are often filled with the sounds of the Party on the Plaza and Vexfest, a three day rock-band extravaganza.

A half-mile from downtown is a truly amazing nature preserve, Mill Creek Park, offering miles of running and hiking trails, golf, waterfalls, picnic pavilions, an arboretum, and kayak rentals – 4,400 acres of exceptional green space to enjoy.

Twenty minutes' drive north or south will take students to two major mall and shopping districts, complete with national retail chains, bookstores, coffee shops, movie theaters, and restaurants, as well as Scrappers minor-league baseball at Eastwood Field.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh are only an hour from Youngstown in either direction for big-city sports and entertainment.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact Todd Pilipovich in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 330-941-2000. Also, visit the YSU WPA website at www.wpa.ysu.edu.