

COCC Nursing Course Fee Increase Proposal to College Affairs (12-18-2017)

While the Nursing program is one of COCC's beacon programs and has been wildly successful (94.4% Registered Nurse licensure exam pass rate average of the past 10 years, full cohort enrollment with waiting list every year, highly qualified faculty, excellent clinical opportunities at SCHS, a state-of-the-art lab facility on campus, nearly 100% job placement, and \$68,400 median salary), it also has the distinction of being the most expensive academic program at COCC. In academic year 2016-17, The Nursing department expenses were \$1,047,309 while its revenues were \$314,445 which basically means that the college subsidized \$732,864 in order to offer the Nursing program. Because of both Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) approval requirements and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) requirements, we must maintain a low student to instructor ratio (8:1) for both laboratory and clinical student experiences. ***[OAR 851-021-0045 \(10\)\(a\)](#) The number of faculty members appointed shall be not less than one faculty member to every eight students having experience in one or more practice sites at any given time. A lower ratio shall apply when nursing faculty determine that student/client safety and learning effectiveness warrant.***

Thus, as you can see, Nursing has special staffing needs. In addition, we have a limited number of local acute care clinical settings meaning that we cannot expand our program beyond the 96 students we currently have each year (48 students for each 1st & 2nd year cohorts) because there are no additional sites to send students to for their required clinical experiences. Because of these ratios and limited clinical settings along with expensive but necessary medical equipment, the cost will always be great for such a program. Thus, there is a need to supplement the high costs of this program with student program fees. Currently, admitted COCC Nursing program students pay a \$300 / term course fee for 6 terms for a total of \$900 / academic year or \$1,800 / the 2-year Nursing program plus a nursing kit fee of \$135 for a grand Nursing fee total of \$1,935. We investigated 11 other Oregon community college Nursing programs to see what sort of student fees they required. See fee chart on next page. The average Nursing program fee (beyond tuition, regular college fees, and other expenses students pay on their own) for a two-year Nursing program was approximately \$3700. So as you can see, COCC currently collects about half as much as the other schools on average for Nursing program fees. Courses with the increased fee include NUR 106, 107, 108, 206, 207, & 208).

Therefore to help offset the costs associated with offering our Nursing program, **we propose to increase the per term Nursing course fee from \$300 / term to \$450 / term** which will bring our 2-year total to \$2,835 (includes nursing kits) which is still almost \$900 less than the average across Oregon community college Nursing programs. **This is a proposed \$150 / term increase or \$900 increase over the 2-year Nursing program.** Even with the proposed fee increase, it is still considerably less than the fees charged by other COCC programs such as Culinary and Aviation (see COCC catalog for their program fees). It is common practice across the country for CTE programs such as Nursing that produce high-wage jobs to charge moderate program fees to offset costs associated with offering the program. The increased fee structure would be implemented Fall of 2018 only for 1st year Nursing students (academic year 2018-2019 2nd year students would be grandfathered in with the old fee and would not pay the increase). All Nursing program students (1st and 2nd year students) will pay the increased fee starting Fall 2019. The fee increase will bring in \$43,200 more in revenue each year to COCC, chipping away at the annual Nursing subsidy required to offer the program. According to Chris Egertson in the COCC Institutional Effectiveness Office, the proposed \$150 / term Nursing course fee increase would also be the exact number that would prevent the Nursing program from triggering the "cost per revenue" criteria that RSC (Review & Support Committee) uses as one of four criteria to determine the health of a program.

Oregon Community College Nursing Program Fees:

It is difficult to obtain exact comparisons but the data below is as close as we can get at this time. It should be noted that COCC Nursing students do also pay for books \$1500, scrubs \$150, stethoscope \$80, licensure fees \$520, fingerprinting fees \$65, background checks \$55, drug screen \$60, immunizations & screenings \$300, and CPR certification \$50 separately on their own (Total \$2,780) which is in addition to the fees listed below and separate of tuition which is \$95 / credit with 104 credits required. The fees below are paid directly to COCC.

Program	Course Fee	Lab Fee	Clinical Fee	Total per two years
PCC (<i>\$104/credit</i>)	Exam Fee 450/year	Up to \$45.00/course	Total cost \$13,000 with approx. \$11,000 in tuition & regular fees so \$2,000 Nursing program fee	
Rogue Community College	None	----	----	\$0.00
Treasure Valley			Lab fee* (I could not find the amount anywhere on the web site)	
KCC	\$250/term			\$1,500.00
COCC	\$300/term	\$90.00 first year \$45.00 2 nd year	---	\$1,935.00
CCC- (Clatsop)	\$300-\$400/term	---	---	\$2100.00
MHCC				5,085.00 <i>Total of lab, clinical and course fees</i>
BMCC	\$660/term	\$300		\$5,760.00
CGCC	\$2925/year	----	----	\$5,850.00
SWOCC	1 st year \$3325.00 2 nd year \$307.00			\$6400.00 – <i>this is just nursing!</i>
LCC (Lane)	1 st year \$5921 2 nd year \$5789	\$581 \$702	The fees listed include all college fees... not just nursing-- \$12,993.00, approx. so approx. \$10,000 nursing fees	
Average Program Fee for 2 year CC Nursing Programs				\$3,694