

Nothing like competition to encourage cost consciousness and quality

Pearl River Community College [proudly announced](#), “PRCC board adopts \$37.4 million budget; No increase in student tuition” According to the report “[t]he board also voted to freeze student tuition at last year’s level. Tuition for a full-time student (12 hours or more) is \$1,325. The hourly rate for in-state students (less than 12 hours) remains at \$115.”

Let’s take a look at the [Southern Miss’ tuition](#). A 7% hike approved in 2013 (to be spread over two years) already had USM’s annual in-state bill pegged to \$7,224 per year in 2014-15 (\$3,612 per semester). In 2014, Southern Miss announced an additional 3.2% increase in tuition, tacking on an additional \$231 per year, bringing the per semester tuition at Southern Miss to \$3,943.

That’s a difference of more than \$2,300.00 per semester in tuition alone, not including fees, room and board, etc. On a yearly basis, USM can easily cost an extra \$6,000 more than PRCC. Over the first two years of college education, a student can save \$12,000 by attending PRCC. If the money is borrowed, that can add up to a huge difference in debt.

College courses taken in the University Transfer program are fully transferable to any University in Mississippi. The “[PRCC University Transfer](#) or Academic Program is recommended for a student who intends to transfer to a college or university to earn a bachelor’s degree. This program is designed to meet the requirements of the first two years of a college or university program leading to a bachelor’s degree.”

It’s a matter of simple economics. Why not attend the first couple of years at PRCC, save more than \$10,000.00 then transfer to USM to complete a four year degree?

More on the economics resulting in declining enrollment at Southern Miss tomorrow.