

Trident University, Inc.

Summary: 2012 of U.S. Senate Committee Findings + 2015 Update

Overview

- Trident University, Inc. (TUI), a privately-held, California based company, offers exclusively online Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in the fields of business administration, education, health sciences, and information systems
- Enrollment in 2010 was about 7,300 students, primarily military personnel and veterans, a decrease of about 700 since 2008
- It has faced challenges in addressing concerns raised by its accreditor

Tuition

- Unlike most of its for-profit competitors, its tuition is comparable to or lower than public colleges offering the same Bachelor's programs—its Bachelor's in Business Administration is \$35,400 but \$55,800 at the University of California-Irvine
- Tuition is set to closely match the benefits available to active duty servicemembers

Federal Revenue

- 76.6% (\$43 million) of its revenue was derived from federal student aid (12.2%) plus military and veterans educational benefits (64.3%) in 2010

Expenditure Priorities

- It allocated 33% (\$16 million) of its revenue in 2009 to profit (3rd highest of 30 companies examined) and 7.9% (\$3.9 million) to marketing/recruiting, well below the average for public traded schools examined
- As a privately held company, TUI is not obligated to release executive compensation figures

Recruiting

- It spent \$494 per student on recruitment, \$2,084 on profit, and \$1,118 on instruction in 2009
- In 2010, it employed 17 career services, 16 student services staff, and 17 student services staff; the number of student services employees was still sparse for its 7,307 students that year

Academic Quality and Student Outcomes

- Spent \$1,118 annually on instruction in 2009 compared to \$15,039 at the University of California-Irvine and \$35,920 at the University of Southern California
- 51.3% of Bachelor's degree students who enrolled in 2008-09 had withdrawn by 2010, slightly lower than sector-wide rate of 54.3% for the 30 schools examined
- 1.9% default rate by 2010 for student entering repayment in 2008-09, one of the lowest of the 30 schools examined, but most of its revenue came from DOD tuition assistance rather than federal student aid
- 74% of its faculty was employed part time, close to the 80% average for the 30 schools examined
- In 2011, TUI was notified that it risked losing its accreditation for failing to meet standards related to defining and achieving educational objectives but had made progress in meeting those standards by 2012 and was placed on probation

2015 Update

- No update to report