

Watching our high school seniors meeting with and researching perspective universities prompted our group to explore information about the fifteen universities in the state of Michigan. Using the following website <http://www.pcsum.org/universities.html>, I searched for data answering the following questions:

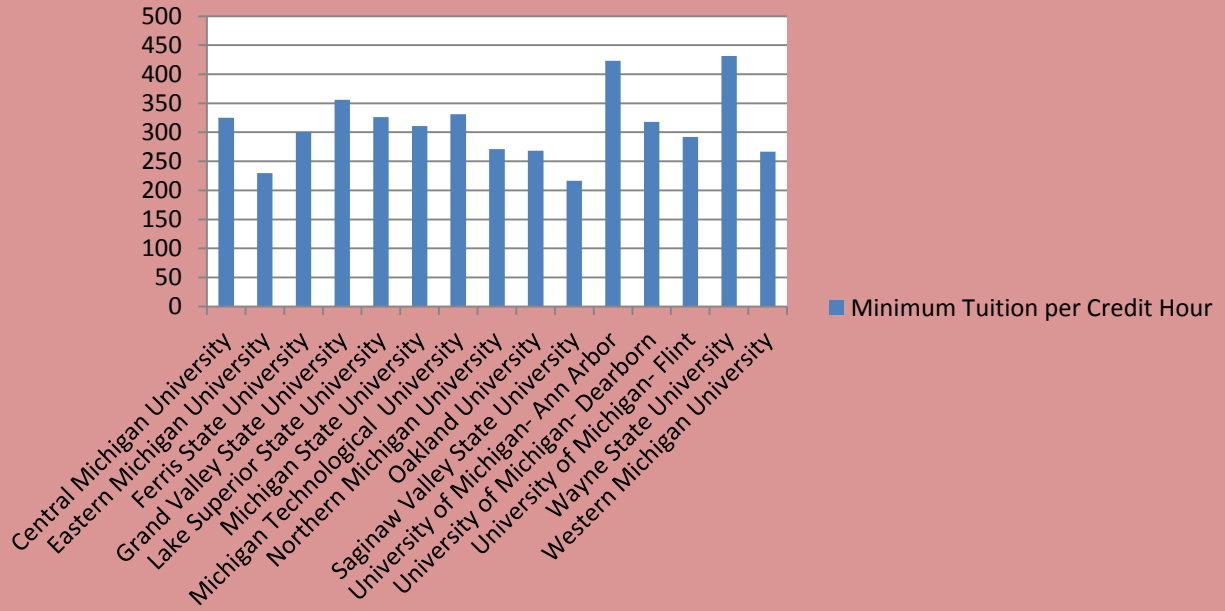
1. What is the minimum tuition cost per credit hour?

University	Minimum Tuition per Credit Hour
Central Michigan University	325
Eastern Michigan University	229.5
Ferris State University	300
Grand Valley State University	356
Lake Superior State University	326
Michigan State University	311
Michigan Technological University	331
Northern Michigan University	271
Oakland University	268.5
Saginaw Valley State University	216.4
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	423
University of Michigan- Dearborn	317.95
University of Michigan- Flint	292
Wayne State University	431.3
Western Michigan University	266.6

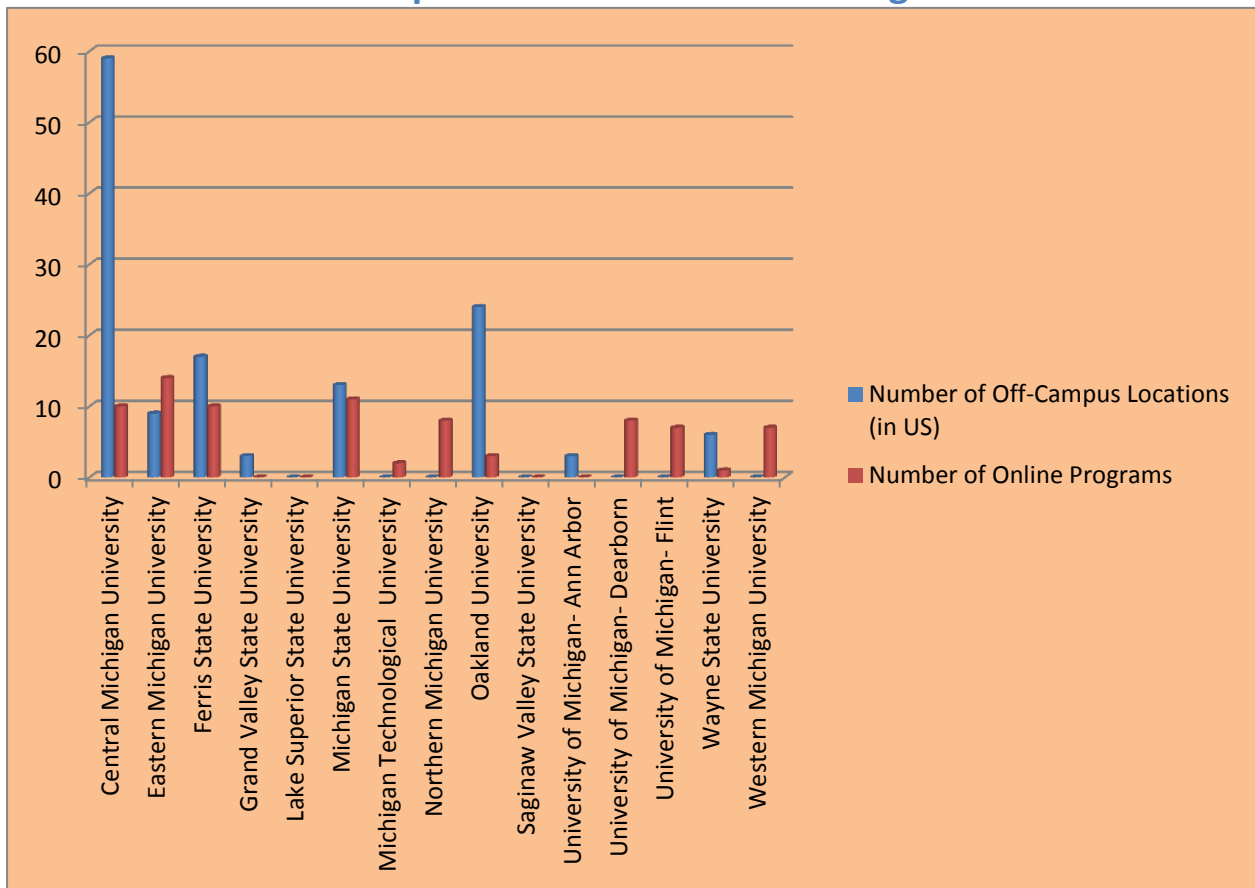
2. How many online programs are offered?

University	Number of Off-Campus Locations (in US)	Number of Online Programs
Central Michigan University	59	10
Eastern Michigan University	9	14
Ferris State University	17	10
Grand Valley State University	3	0
Lake Superior State University	0	0
Michigan State University	13	11
Michigan Technological University	0	2
Northern Michigan University	0	8
Oakland University	24	3
Saginaw Valley State University	0	0
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	3	0
University of Michigan- Dearborn	0	8
University of Michigan- Flint	0	7
Wayne State University	6	1
Western Michigan University	0	7

Minimum Tuition per Credit Hour



Off-Campus Locations & Online Programs



Who wouldn't want to get the best deal possible? That I think is the relevance and appropriateness of tuition rates. While as a student I want a quality education, a lower tuition rate may make attending post-secondary accessible to those who otherwise may not be able to attend. I chose to show this data in a simple bar graph because it clearly shows the variation in rates. I also chose to show the schools in alphabetical order so that if this data was being used by multiple individuals they could e

As an experienced online and distance learner myself, researching what programs and locations other schools had to offer was intriguing to me. As our world becomes less bounded by space and time through technology, universities have to offer these options to stay competitive. To represent this data, I used a two column bar graph and compared these two sets of data side by side. I think that the two sets of information together show each schools progressiveness and willingness to adapt to student needs. Therefore, showing them in one chart would give the reader a more complete view of a schools ability to embrace the needs of their students.

Through doing this activity I learned much about the schools that I researched and their websites. Some were much more user friendly than others. Many seemed to have random locations for statistical information. Some had a single page, while others (like MSU) showed their information as a side note that appeared within other pages of information. I also learned that the new version of Microsoft Office is somewhat more user friendly (easier) than the previous version. I use the older version at school and rarely use the new version that is on my personal computer. I found that creating the graphs themselves as well as altering the background did not require as many steps. All in all, I feel that our final collaborative effort would be a useful tool for any student looking at beginning (or continuing) their post-secondary education.