This year the University of Oklahoma freshman class has the largest number of freshman National Merit Scholars ever enrolled at the university with 311 Scholars, placing OU at the top ranks in the nation among public universities.

For the five-year period from 2008-09 to 2013-2014, OU averaged the lowest increase in tuition and fees nationwide at a statewide public university, according to a College Board report.

As part of OU’s 125th Anniversary Celebration fundraising campaign, OU will become one of the first public universities in the country to build residential colleges for upperclassmen and women, patterned on those at Yale, Oxford, Harvard and Cambridge in England. The living/learning communities will become the cornerstone of the undergraduate experience.

OU became the first public university in the nation to be awarded the prestigious Davis Cup in recognition of its record-setting enrollment of 45 United World College international freshmen in 2013.

OU’s Research Campus was named No. 1 in the nation last year by the National Association University Research Parks, placing it among such past recipients as the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

OU has doubled privately funded scholarships in the last four years.

At a ceremony in May at the White House, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History was one of the top five museums in the country to receive the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to libraries and museums for service to the community.

Also as part of OU’s 125th Anniversary Celebration, the university orchestra and chorus will present a major concert at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas on April 11, 2015.

The One University Digital Initiative encourages OU faculty to develop digital alternatives to high-cost textbooks, translating to an annual savings averaging $400 per student in textbook costs.

OU has been named one of the top 25 most beautiful campuses in America along with Yale, Harvard and Princeton universities, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Chicago.