

Highlights

PUBLISHED TUITION AND FEE AND ROOM AND BOARD CHARGES

Over the decade from 2000-01 to 2010-11, published tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 5.6% per year beyond the rate of general inflation. This growth rate led the price to increase from 22% of the average tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions to 28% over the decade.

- Published charges do not reflect the prices most students pay. About one-third of full-time students pay without the assistance of grant aid, and some of these students receive federal tax credits and deductions to help cover expenses.
- Published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions average \$7,605 in 2010-11, \$555 (7.9%) higher than in 2009-10. Average total charges, including tuition and fees and room and board, are \$16,140, up 6.1%.
- Published out-of-state tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities average \$19,595, \$1,111 (6.0%) higher than in 2009-10. Average total charges are \$28,130, up 5.6%.
- Published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges average \$2,713, \$155 (6.0%) higher than in 2009-10.
- Published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities average \$27,293 in 2010-11, \$1,164 (4.5%) higher than in 2009-10. Average total charges, including tuition and fees and room and board, are \$36,993, up 4.3%.
- Estimated published tuition and fees at private for-profit institutions average \$13,935, \$679 (5.1%) higher than in 2009-10.
- All students, whether they live in campus housing or not, must buy books and supplies and pay for food, housing, and other living expenses while in school. They would face many similar expenses if they were not in school, but would be able to devote more time to the labor force.

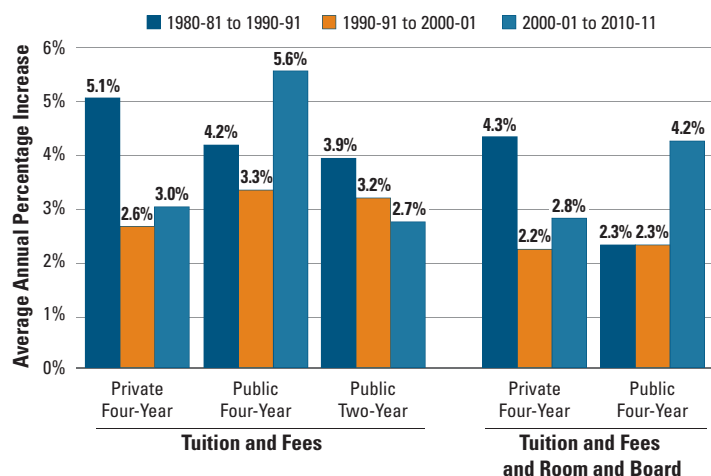
VARIATION IN TUITION AND FEES

Half of all full-time public and private nonprofit four-year college students attend institutions charging tuition and fees less than \$9,418 and half attend institutions with higher published prices.

- In 2010-11, published in-state tuition and fees at public doctoral universities are \$8,503, compared to \$6,588 at public master's universities and \$6,224 at public bachelor's colleges.
- Although the average increase in tuition and fees at public four-year colleges in 2010-11 was 7.9% for in-state students and 6.0% for out-of-state students, 19% of full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities attend institutions that increased their published prices by 12% or more, and 13% attend institutions that increased their prices by less than 3%.
- In 2010-11, average published tuition and fees for public four-year colleges range from \$6,428 in the South to \$9,857 in New England. Average published tuition and fees for public two-year colleges range from \$1,594 in the West to \$4,221 in New England.

AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES

in Inflation-Adjusted Published Prices by Decade, 1980-81 to 2010-11



WHAT STUDENTS ACTUALLY PAY

Although average published tuition and fees increased by about 24% at public four-year colleges and universities from 2005-06 to 2010-11, by 17% at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and by 11% at public two-year colleges, average net price for full-time students, after considering grant aid and federal tax benefits, declined in each sector over this five-year period, after adjusting for inflation.

- As documented in *Trends in Student Aid 2010*, total grant aid per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student increased by about \$1,100 (22%) in 2009-10, largely because of increases in federal Pell Grants and Veterans' Benefits.
- When room and board costs are also considered, total net cost of attendance is about \$600 higher in inflation-adjusted dollars at public four-year colleges than it was in 2005-06, but it has not increased at private nonprofit four-year or public two-year institutions.
- In 2010-11, full-time students receive an estimated average of about \$6,100 in grant aid from all sources and federal tax benefits at public four-year institutions, \$16,000 at private nonprofit institutions, and \$3,400 at public two-year colleges.
- As a result of the grant aid they receive, the additional tuition lower-income students pay to attend a high-price private nonprofit college is significantly smaller than the price increment for students from higher-income families. Because of the role of grant aid, net tuition and fee prices are lower for many students attending private nonprofit institutions with higher published prices than for students attending for-profit institutions.
- On average, grant aid covered the entire tuition and fees for low-income dependent students enrolled in both public two-year and in-state public four-year institutions in 2007-08, with about \$1,250 for two-year and \$1,720 for four-year students left over to put toward other college-related expenses.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

In 2009, average income was 11% lower than it had been a decade earlier for the bottom 20% of families, 5% lower for the middle 20%, and the same as a decade earlier for the top 20%.

- In 2009, median family income for those with a bachelor's degree or more was \$99,707, compared to \$48,637 for those with a high school diploma.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCES

In 2009-10, appropriations per FTE student averaged 19% lower than a decade earlier, after adjusting for inflation.

- State appropriations per FTE student declined by 9% in 2008-09 and by another 5% in 2009-10. Federal stimulus funds accounted for 3% of these state appropriations in 2008-09 and 5% in 2009-10.
- Average state appropriations per \$1,000 of personal income declined from \$9.70 in 1989-90 to \$6.60 in 2009-10. Excluding the federal stimulus funds provided to states, the state funding for higher education was \$6.30 per \$1,000 in personal income in 2009-10.
- In 2008, the average cost of educating a full-time student ranged from \$34,330 at private doctoral universities to \$10,400 at public two-year colleges.

ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

From fall 2000 to fall 2009, the percentage of all full-time students enrolled in for-profit institutions increased from 4% to 10%. The percentage of part-time students enrolled in this sector increased from 1% to 6%.

- The percentage of all bachelor's degrees awarded that came from the for-profit sector increased from 1% in 1997-98 to 5% in 2007-08. The percentage of associate degrees that were from this sector increased from 10% to 17% over this time period.
- Thirty-six percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in degree-granting programs in fall 2008 attended public four-year institutions, and 41% attended public two-year colleges.