

# Community Colleges

**About 6.4 million students were enrolled in public two-year colleges in fall 2007. Almost 40% of these students were enrolled full-time. Community colleges enrolled 40% of all undergraduate students in fall 2007, but only 24% of full-time undergraduates.**

Average Published Charges for Undergraduates by Type and Control of Institution, 2009-10 (Enrollment-Weighted)

Sector	Tuition and Fees				Room and Board				Total Charges			
	2009-10	2008-09	\$ Change	% Change	2009-10	2008-09	\$ Change	% Change	2009-10	2008-09	\$ Change	% Change
Public Two-Year	\$2,544	\$2,372	\$172	7.3%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Four-Year In-State	\$7,020	\$6,591	\$429	6.5%	\$8,193	\$7,773	\$420	5.4%	\$15,213	\$14,364	\$849	5.9%
Public Four-Year Out-of-State	\$18,548	\$17,460	\$1,088	6.2%	\$8,193	\$7,773	\$420	5.4%	\$26,741	\$25,233	\$1,508	6.0%
Private Not-for-Profit Four-Year	\$26,273	\$25,177	\$1,096	4.4%	\$9,363	\$8,986	\$377	4.2%	\$35,636	\$34,163	\$1,473	4.3%
For-Profit	\$14,174	\$13,315	\$859	6.5%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source: The College Board, *Annual Survey of Colleges*.

## Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees at public two-year colleges in 2009-10 average \$2,544, a 7.3% increase over the \$2,372 average published price in 2008-09. Although the percentage increase in average tuition and fees at public two-year colleges was higher than the increases in other sectors from 2008-09 to 2009-10, published prices have increased much more slowly than those at either public four-year or private not-for-profit four-year colleges over the past decade.

From 1999–2000 to 2009-10, average published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges increased 1.8% per year after adjusting for inflation, compared to 4.9% at public four-year and 2.6% at private not-for-profit four-year institutions.

The average total budget for a full-time community college student is \$14,285 in 2009-10. Estimated housing and food costs for students living off campus (but not with parents) constitute 50% of this budget. Budgets for books and supplies are about \$1,100 per year.

The 1.8% constant dollar increase in published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges for the decade 1999–2000 to 2009-10 was lower than both the 3.4% increase from 1979-80 to 1989-90 and the 3.9% increase from 1989-90 to 1999–2000.

Published prices and the rate of change in those prices vary considerably across states and regions of the country.

Community college prices in California, where 17% of full-time students in this sector are enrolled, are substantially lower than in other states. The average price of public two-year colleges outside of California is \$2,917, 6.2% higher than in 2008-09.

By state, average tuition and fees for full-time students in 2009-10 range from lows of \$817 in California and \$1,204 in New Mexico, to highs of \$5,888 in New Hampshire and \$6,070 in Vermont.

By region, average tuition and fees for public two-year colleges in 2009-10 range from \$1,475 in the West to \$3,992 in New England.

## Average Grant Aid and Net Price for Public two-year College Students, 2007-08

In 2007-08, institutional grant aid (non-need-based and need-based) at public two-year institutions averaged about \$160 for dependent students attending full time. Those from families with incomes below \$32,500 received an average of \$200 per student, while those with incomes of \$100,000 or higher received an average of \$80 per student.

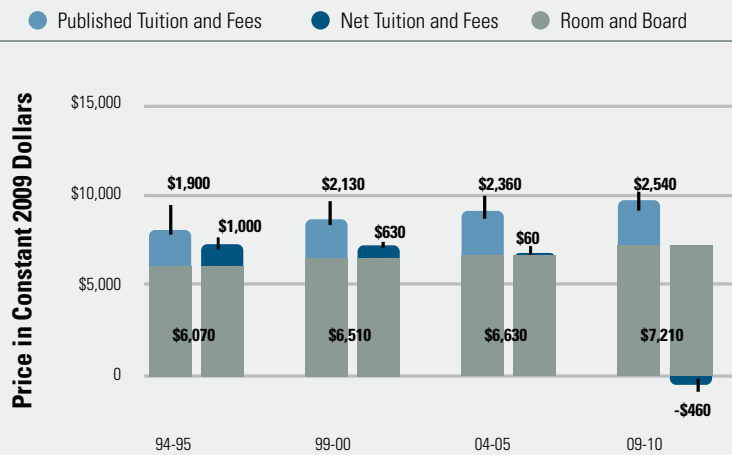
In 2007-08, about half of the total institutional grant dollars at public two-year colleges were distributed without regard to financial circumstances.

Full-time low-income dependent students at public two-year colleges received an average of \$3,130 in total grant aid in 2007-08. Those with incomes between \$32,500 and \$59,999 received an average of \$1,200 per year.

The lowest-income students at public two-year colleges receive, on average, enough grant aid to cover their entire tuition and fees. However, these students faced an average of \$6,480 in room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other costs after grant aid in 2007-08.



**Published Tuition and Fees, Net Tuition and Fees, and Room and Board in Constant 2009 Dollars, Full-Time Undergraduate Student, 1994-95, 1999-2000, 2004-05 and 2009-10**



**Public Two-Year**

**Note:** Net tuition and fees are calculated by subtracting estimated average grant aid plus tax benefits per full-time student in the sector from the published price. Aggregate aid amounts are from *Trends in Student Aid 2009*. Division of total aid across sectors and between full-time and part-time students is based on the *NPSAS*, 1993 through 2008.

The average net price paid by full-time students at public two-year colleges has declined steadily since 1997-98. Since 2006-07, for full-time students at public two-year colleges, average total grant aid from

all sources, when combined with estimated federal education tax credits and deductions, has covered average tuition and fees and contributed somewhat to other college expenses.

In 2009-10, the average \$3,000 in grant aid and tax benefits received by these students covered average tuition and fees of \$2,500, and provided about \$500 toward average living expenses.

**Federal Aid to Community College Students, 2007-08**

In 2007-08, students at public two-year colleges, who accounted for 32% of full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollments, received 30% of Pell Grant funds. These students received only 14% of Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG). These grants are limited to first- and second-year Pell Grant recipients who graduated from high school after Jan. 1, 2005, and have

completed a rigorous secondary school program. Before 2009-10, these grants were not available to part-time students.

Public two-year college students borrow about 7% of all Stafford Loans, and their parents take out only 1% of the federal PLUS Loans for parents of undergraduate students.

Public two-year college students received only 9% of campus-based aid in 2007-08. Unlike Pell Grants, which are allocated to students directly by the federal government, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) and Perkins Loans are allotted to institutions based on a complex formula and then distributed to students with financial need enrolled in those institutions.

**Undergraduate Debt by Sector and Degree or Certificate, 2007-08**

Among students earning associate degrees from public two-year colleges in 2007-08, 62% graduated with no debt and another 23% had borrowed less than \$10,000.

Five percent of community college students graduated with \$20,000 of debt or more. Among those receiving associate degrees

from for-profit institutions, 98% had borrowed and 42% graduated with \$20,000 of debt or more.

