



Higher Education in New Hampshire: A Regional Perspective

About NEBHE

NEBHE was founded in 1955, when six visionary New England governors – realizing that the future prosperity of New England rested on higher education – committed their states to the shared pursuit of academic excellence. Soon thereafter, NEBHE was approved by New England's six state legislatures and authorized by the U.S. Congress.

NEBHE's work focuses on three key areas:

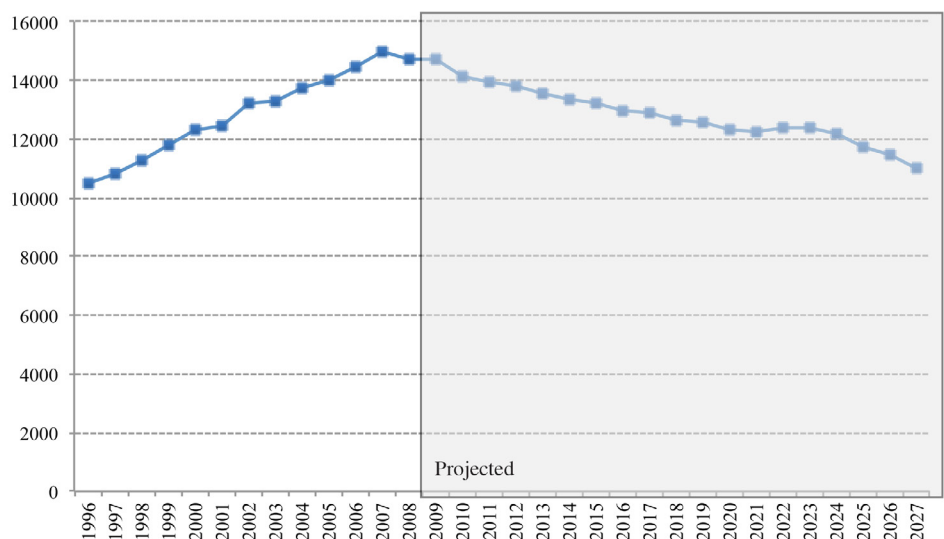
- Cost savings & affordability
- College readiness & success
- Strengthening higher education's link to local and regional economic development

Around the Region

While New England has historically been a bastion of high-quality education, the region is facing challenges outside the educational realm: New England's population is aging and older than the rest of the country. Without a large influx of new, younger residents, it may be more difficult to maintain the vibrant communities and economic vitality currently in place.

- Economic projections from the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce predict that by 2020, more jobs in New England will require some postsecondary education than the rest of the country.
- In New Hampshire, 68% of New Hampshire jobs will require some postsecondary education or credential compared with 65% nationally. According to the 2012 American Community Survey, 62% of the state's working-age population has some postsecondary education.
- New England's population, however, is aging.
- In New Hampshire, projections estimate that the number of public high school graduates will decline, limiting the number of traditional-age New Hampshire college students (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Projections of High School Graduates, New Hampshire



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*. December 2012

Serving Students In New Hampshire

- New Hampshire's postsecondary institutions enrolled the full-time equivalent of over 60,000 students in fall 2012.
- In 2011, first-time, full-time students graduated with a bachelor's degree in six years from public nonprofit four-year institutions at a rate of 68%, well above the national average of 54%.
- Graduation rates at New Hampshire private four-year nonprofit institutions are also higher than the national average (66% compared with 64%).
- First-time, full-time students enrolled at public two-year institutions from 2008-2011 graduated at a rate of 26% in three-years, also higher the national average of 17% (Figure 2).
- In recent years, New Hampshire postsecondary institutions served more New Hampshire students than in the past (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Overview of New Hampshire Postsecondary Institutions

	Number of Institutions	Fall Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment, 2012	First-time, full-time Graduation Rate, 2011
Two-Year Public	7	8,395	26%
Four-Year Public	5	25,843	68%
Four-Year Private	12	28,336	66%

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Figure 3: Enrollment of First-Time New Hampshire Undergraduates in New England

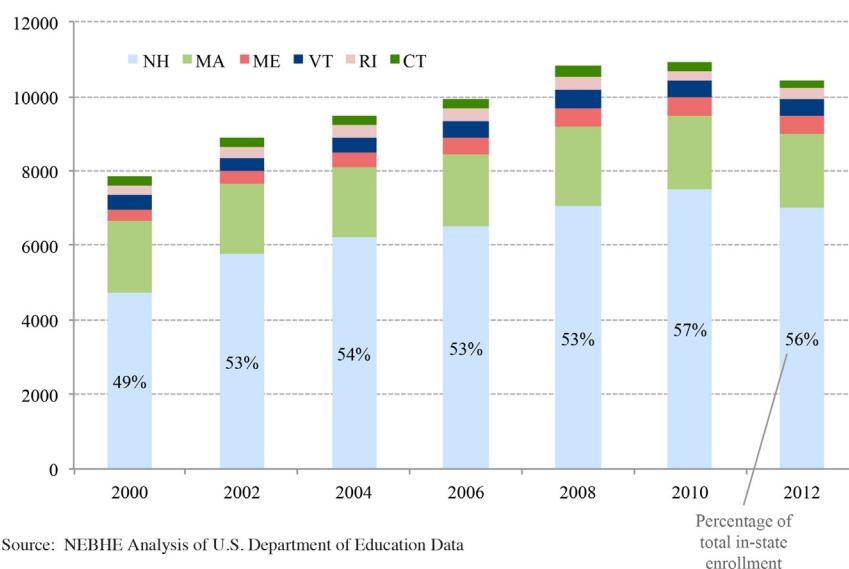


Figure 3a: Migration and Enrollment of First-Time Undergraduates in New England

	% Enrolled in Home State	% Enrolled in a New England state	% of Out-of-State Enrollees Enrolled in a New England State
CT	59%	76%	42%
ME	72%	87%	53%
MA	71%	85%	47%
NH	56%	83%	62%
RI	69%	87%	59%
VT	53%	74%	45%

Source: NEBHE Analysis of U.S. Department of Education Data

How Do New Hampshire Students Pay for College?

Students and families traditionally pay for college through a combination of grant aid, loans, and savings.

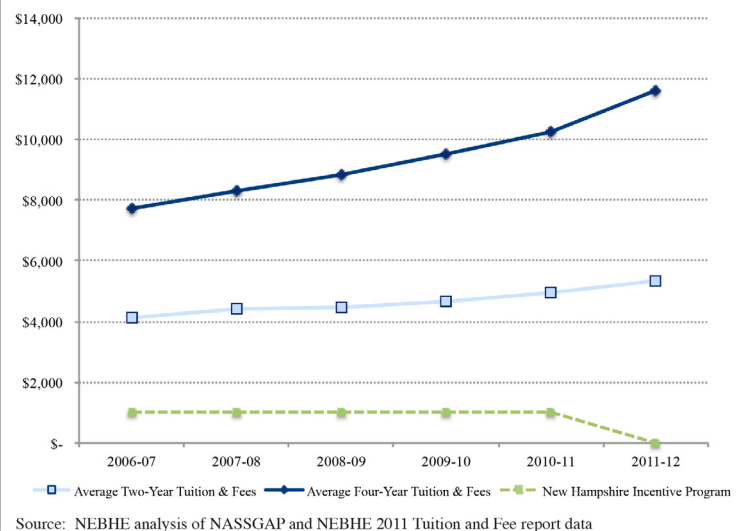
- Graduates in the Class of 2012, who borrowed to finance their education at four-year New Hampshire institutions, graduated with an average debt load over \$32,000. Almost three in four graduates in 2012 graduated with debt.
- Student debt levels may be a result of tuition and fee rates growing faster than student grant aid and family resources.

Sticker Price

New England has traditionally been one of the most expensive regions in the country for higher education. In all states, published tuition and fees at state two- and four-year institutions have risen, on average, at a faster rate than median household income.

- In 2012-13, New Hampshire had some of the highest average published tuition and fee rates among the region's public institutions.
- Yet, according to the State Higher Education Executive Officer's association (SHEEO), net educational revenue at New Hampshire public institutions is slightly less than the US average.

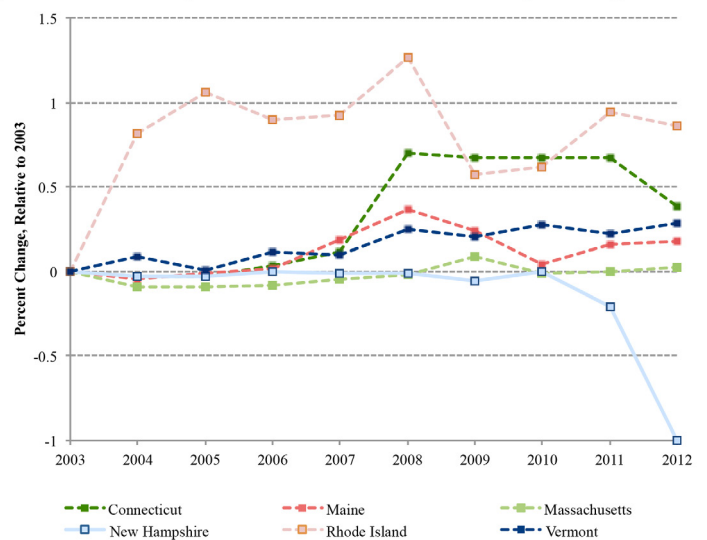
Figure 4: Changes to In-State Published Tuition & Fees and Maximum Grant Award for New Hampshire's Primary Need-based Grant Program, 2006-2011



State Grant Aid

- Nationally, state grant aid made up approximately 8% of all available student grant aid in 2012-13. According to the College Board, additional sources of student grant aid included the federal government (45%), postsecondary institutions (38), and employers and other private sources (13%).
- Across most of New England, need-based grant aid awards have not kept up with changes in published tuition and fees at public institutions (Figure 4).
- Most New England states have, however, maintained a steady stream of grant aid funds per student. According to the most recent annual survey from the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP), New Hampshire was the only state that did not award students any grant aid in 2011-12 (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Percent Changes in Total State Grant Aid Awarded by New England State



Strategies to Increase Cost Savings and Affordability

- 1. Tuition & Fee Freezes:** Some state universities or higher education systems have negotiated tuition freezes in exchange for increases in state appropriations or level-funding from the state. Examples in New England include Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.
- 2. Regional Student Program:** Since 1958, NEBHE's RSP Tuition Break has provided New Hampshire residents with access to specialized undergraduate and graduate degree programs at public campuses across New England at a substantial tuition discount. In FY13, over 3,000 New Hampshire residents saved over \$16 million on their tuition bills by participating in the program.
- 3. State 529 Plans:** Most states offer a college savings plan, allowing families to invest funds towards a college education income-tax free. Some states such as Maine and Rhode Island match the amount invested for certain families.
- 4. Transfer and Articulation Agreements:** By 2013, 13% of students who enrolled in fall 2007 had completed a credential at an institution other than their starting institution. Examples like the New Hampshire Transfer Connections Program help students seeking a four-year degree save money by smoothing the transfer process between a state's public two- and four-year institutions.