

Published Tuition and Fees at New England Public Colleges and Universities, 2017-18

Introduction

In New England and across the U.S., it has never been more critical to hold a postsecondary credential to be able to fully participate in the workforce and earn a sustainable wage. According to research at the Georgetown University Center for Education and the Workforce, roughly 90% of the jobs available in four of the nation's five current fastest growing occupational clusters require some form of education beyond high school.¹ The same study estimates that 63% of all jobs available nationwide in 2018 require a postsecondary degree. As a result, employers will need approximately 22 million new employees with a postsecondary degree.

However, in recent years the cost of a college degree has risen precipitously – oftentimes becoming prohibitively expensive for far too many Americans to attend college. As postsecondary education becomes increasingly important for the vitality of New England's economy and its workforce, the growing cost of higher education has garnered substantial critical attention from the public and from policy makers. New England's public colleges continue to be the most affordable and financially accessible option for most individuals in the region. Their primary mission is to serve each of their state's residents. Tuition and fees at public colleges are of particular interest to both students and state policymakers.

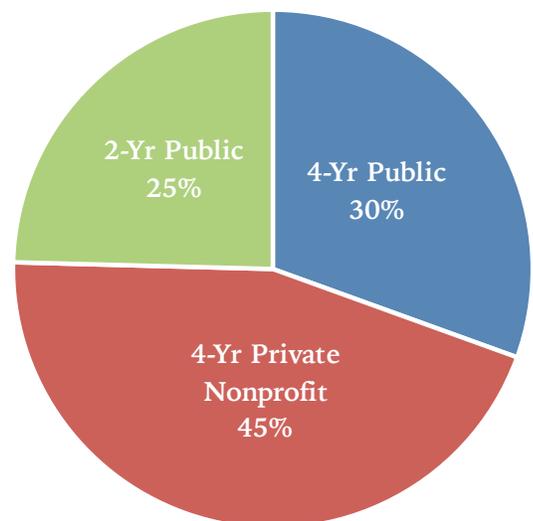
New research from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals that a majority of students and parents tend to overestimate the out-of-pocket cost of tuition and fees, yet the perception of affordability is strongly linked to an individual's future plans for higher education.² As a result, published tuition and fee rates play a significant role in students' and their families' decision about which college to attend or whether to ever pursue a college degree. This brief takes an in-depth look at the tuition and required fees published by public two- and four-year postsecondary institutions in New England.

How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in New England?

Roughly **436,000 undergraduate students** enrolled at public two- and four-year postsecondary institutions across New England in fall 2016. From 2015 to 2016, **enrollment at New England's public colleges declined by 1.8%, or by 8,036 fewer undergraduates.**

Of the undergraduates in the region, **one-quarter enrolled at two-year public colleges**, and nearly **one-third enrolled at four-year public colleges.**

While the share varies widely by state, **the majority (55%) of postsecondary students in New England enrolled at public two- and four-year institutions** in fall 2016. The remainder (45%) enrolled at *private* four-year institutions in the region.



1. Carnevale, Anthony P., Nicole Smith, Jeff Strohl (2010). *Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018*, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/help-wanted/#report>.
2. Velez, Erin Dunlop and Laura Horn (2018). *What High Schoolers and Their Parents Know About Public 4-Year Tuition and Fees in Their State*, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019404.pdf>.

What is the Price of Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions Before Financial Aid?

Before financial aid, in-state tuition and fees cost students an average of \$5,193 at two-year public institutions and \$11,596 at four-year public institutions.

Since the last academic year, average tuition and fees have increased 3% (\$164) at two-year public colleges and have decreased 2% (\$196) at four-year public colleges, spurred, in part, by a 14% decrease in tuition and fees at four-year colleges in Rhode Island in 2016-17. In the last five years, the cost of tuition and fees has increased 16% (\$734) at two-year colleges and 10% (\$1,001) at four-year colleges.³

Recent initiatives in New England have been implemented to mitigate the price of college, particularly for

traditionally underserved populations. For instance, Gov. Charlie Baker announced during his 2018 State of the Commonwealth Address that Massachusetts will allocate an additional \$7 million in college scholarship funding to cover the remaining tuition and fees balance of the state’s poorest community college students with an unmet

Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees in New England

	2017-18	Change from 2016-17	Change from 2012-13
Public Two-year Colleges	\$5,193	3%	16%
Public Four-year Colleges	\$11,596	-2%	10%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are published rates for two semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not reflect any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary significantly between students.

Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices.

How Much Do Public Colleges Cost in New England After Financial Aid?

Similar to the experience of buying a new car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price” and may lead students and parents to experience “sticker shock” and potentially overestimate the actual out-of-pocket cost of earning a college degree. In reality, few students pay the published rates. Financial aid plays a critical role in lowering the final amount students pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and from college to college, which can make estimating and tracking the price of college difficult.

Federal Pell Grants are one of the largest, least variable sources of financial aid. They are typically awarded to undergraduate students who exhibit exceptional financial need and have not yet earned an associate, bachelor’s, graduate, or professional degree. Unlike loans, these grants do not need to be repaid (except in a few rare circumstances).



Note: Pell Grant eligibility is estimated based on a family of four with two dependent children and \$0 assets. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state systems offices, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Census Bureau.

Because there is little variation in the Pell Grant amount awarded across institutions, as compared to other types of aid, the grant serves as a helpful tool to detect changes in tuition and fee prices over time and can provide policymakers with a better understanding of what students pay after aid.

Since 2012-13 across New England, increases in tuition and fees at community colleges (16%) and four-year public colleges (10%) have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (6.25%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income families to fill with additional institutional or state aid and/or family resources.

Published Tuition and Fees at Colleges and Universities in New Hampshire, 2017-18

In New England and across the U.S., it has never been more critical to hold a postsecondary credential to be able to fully participate in the workforce. Yet, in recent years the cost of a college degree has risen precipitously – oftentimes becoming prohibitively expensive for far too many Americans to attend college. New England’s public colleges are the most affordable and financially accessible option for most individuals in the region, and their primary mission is to serve each of their state’s residents. Published tuition and fee rates play a significant role in students’ and their families’ decision about which college to attend or whether to even pursue a college degree. This brief takes an in-depth look at the tuition and required fees published by public two- and four-year postsecondary institutions in New Hampshire.

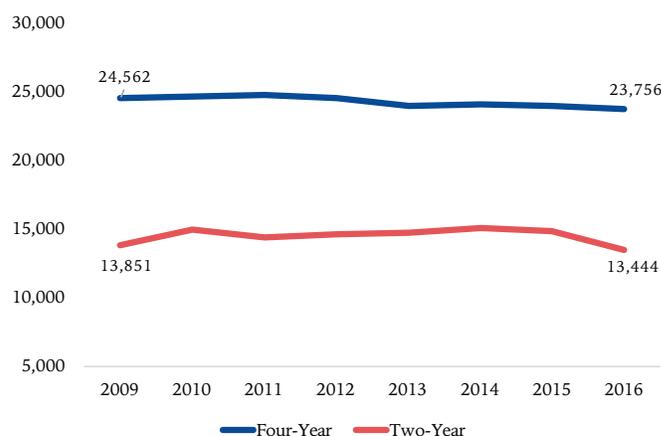
How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in New Hampshire?

In fall 2016, there were **37,200 undergraduate students** enrolled at public two- and four-year postsecondary institutions in New Hampshire.

About one-third (35.7%) of undergraduates in New Hampshire were enrolled at public institutions – a much lower share than across the region (55%).

Overall enrollment at New Hampshire’s public colleges is affected by the high number of online students (60,000+) enrolled at the private Southern New Hampshire University.

Undergraduate Enrollment at New Hampshire Public Two- and Four-Year Institutions, Fall 2009-2016



Source: NEBHE analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2017-18	Change from 2016-17	Change from 2012-13
Two-year			
New Hampshire	\$5,407	2%	1%
New England	\$5,193	3%	16%
Four-year			
New Hampshire	\$13,445	1%	7%
New England	\$11,596	-2%	10%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are published rates for two semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not reflect any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary significantly between students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices.

What is the Price of Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions in New Hampshire?

Starting in the 2018-19 academic year, the chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, Todd Leach, has agreed to limit tuition increases system wide to no more than 2.5% annually for the next two years.

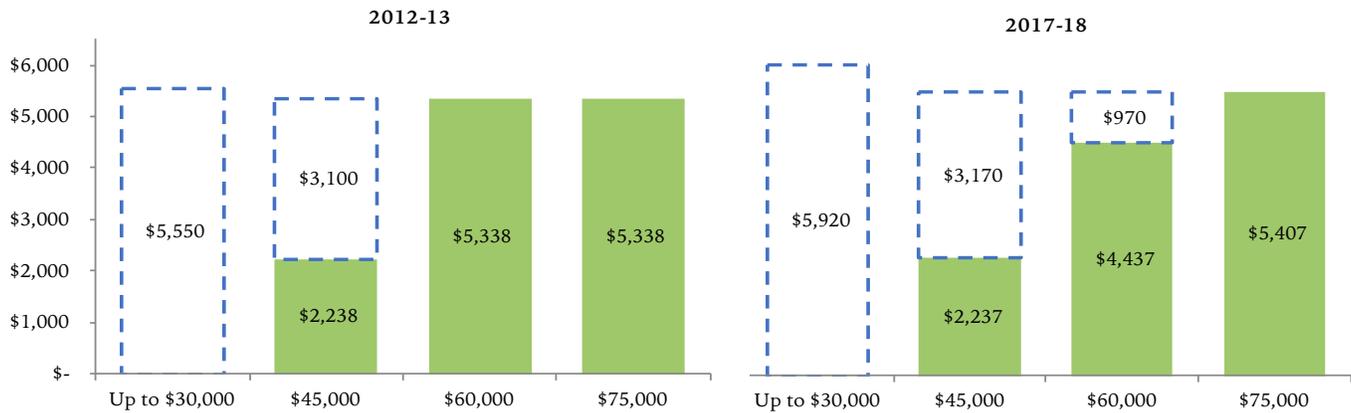
In 2016-17, New Hampshire’s four-year colleges were the most expensive in the region. Yet, with Chancellor Leach’s pledge to limit tuition increases, coupled with steep tuition increases in other New England states, New Hampshire’s colleges are no longer the most expensive in the region.

Even so, the University of New Hampshire still ranks in the nation’s top five most expensive flagship campuses for low-income, in-state students, who, in 2017-18, were charged an average net price of \$18,067.

How Much Do Public Colleges Cost in New Hampshire After Financial Aid?

Published tuition and fee prices are, similar to the experience of buying a new car, only the “sticker price” and may lead students and parents to feel “sticker shock” and potentially overestimate the actual cost of higher education. In reality, few students pay the published rates. Financial aid plays a critical role in lowering the final amount students pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and from college to college, which can make predicting and tracking the cost of college difficult.

Tuition & Fees at Two-Year Institutions, New Hampshire



Tuition & Fees at Four-Year Institutions, New Hampshire



 Pell Grant
 Remaining tuition & required fees to be paid from institutional, state, and family resources

Note: Pell Grant eligibility is estimated based on a family of four with two dependent children and \$0 assets.

Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state systems offices, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Census Bureau.

Since 2012-13, increases in tuition and fees at New Hampshire’s four-year public colleges (7.4%) have slightly outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (6.25%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with additional institutional or state aid and/or family resources. However, a smaller increase at community colleges (1.3%) has kept in close pace with increases in the maximum Pell Grant, allowing households with an annual income of up to \$45,000 to pay only about 40% of tuition and fees out-of-pocket at community colleges.

As of 2018, the Granite State ranks at the bottom of the nation in terms of the percentage of state support for higher education. A 2017 State Higher Education Finance report by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association shows that, in 2016, state support for higher education was \$93 per person, far behind the next-lowest state, Pennsylvania, which allocated \$139 per person for higher education. The national average was \$289. The result has been high tuition and high student debt in New Hampshire. It has also caused the state’s college enrollment to fall in recent years: from 17,277 in 2012 to 14,562 in 2016. Data from the U.S. Department of Education shows that a higher percentage of college-going high school graduates in New Hampshire leave the Granite State to attend college out-of-state than in any other state in the nation.