



## New England Fast Facts

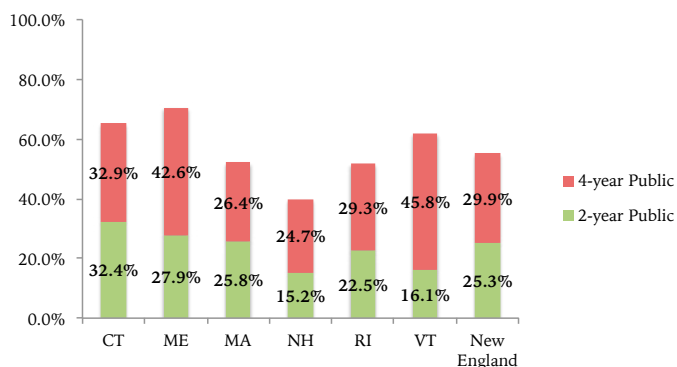
### The Price of Public Colleges in New England, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of New England residents and the region as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the low-cost-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, tuition and fees at public colleges are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions across the region.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in New England?

- **Roughly 445,000 undergraduate students enrolled at public colleges in fall 2015.**
- Over a quarter of undergraduates enrolled at colleges in the region enrolled at 2-year public colleges, and nearly a third enrolled at 4-year public colleges (Figure 1).
- While the share varies widely by state, the majority (55%) of students in New England enrolled at 2-year and 4-year public institutions across the region in fall 2015.

Figure 1: Share of Undergraduates Enrolled in Public Colleges in Each State, Fall 2015



Note: Vermont Technical College is classified as a 4-year institution, though it awards a large number of 2-year degrees.

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in New England?

- **Before financial aid, it costs an average of \$4,913 to attend a community college and \$11,108 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study for in-state students.**
- Average tuition and required fees has increased 5% (\$260) at 2-year public colleges and 4% (\$417) at 4-year public colleges since last academic year (Figure 2). Nationally, public tuition and fees increased 2.4% since 2015-16.

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions in New England

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
2-year	\$4,913	5%	16%
4-year	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 among students.

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

- In the last five years, tuition and required fees have increased 16% at community colleges and 18% at 4-year public institutions.
- While tuition prices in New England continue to climb, annual increases have been smaller in recent years.
- Recent initiatives to control the cost of college and increase enrollment include the Maine Flagship Match, New Hampshire's Granite Guarantee, and Rhode Island's free college proposal.

Candace Williams

August 2017

New England Board of Higher Education

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

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at New England 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

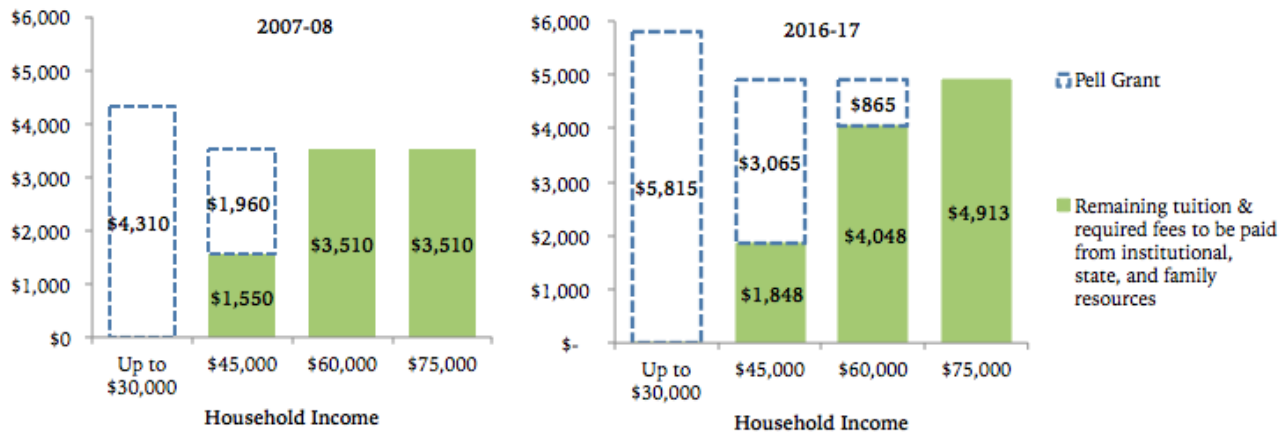
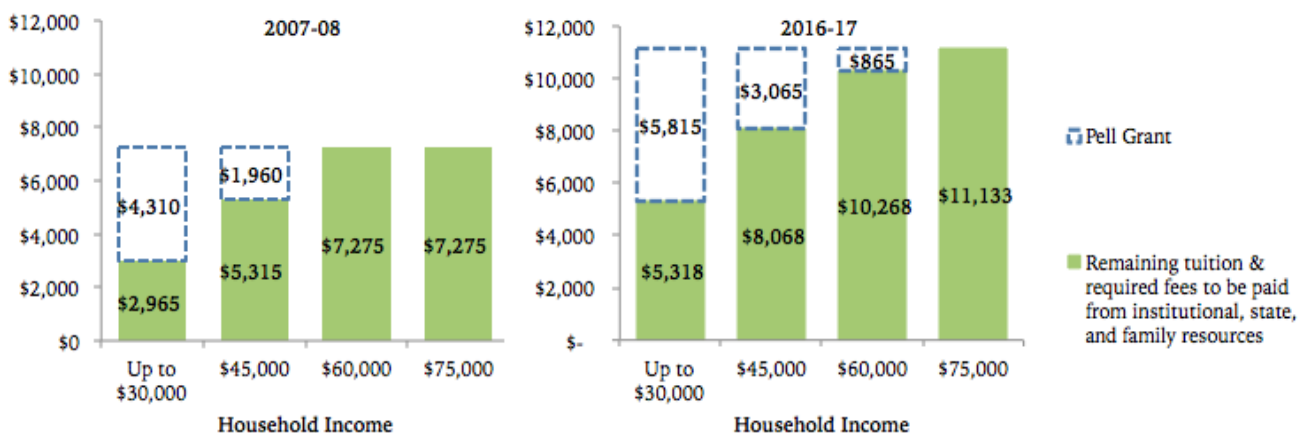


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at New England 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%) have largely kept pace with rising tuition at community colleges (40%), covering more than tuition and required fees for the lowest-income students (Figure 3).
- At 4-year public colleges, increases in the maximum Pell Grant have not kept up with rising tuition (53%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with institutional or state aid, or family resources (Figure 4).
- **Further, exacerbating the impact of gaps between federal financial aid and tuition is another trend: Median household income has grown very slowly since 2007 (8%), while income for the lowest earners actually decreased.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, and *Forbes*.

### About the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)

Established in 1955 by six visionary New England governors, NEBHE is a regional compact that works across New England to: help leaders assess, develop and implement education practices and policies of regional significance; promote regional cooperation that encourages efficient sharing of education resources; and strengthen the relationship between higher education and the regional economy.

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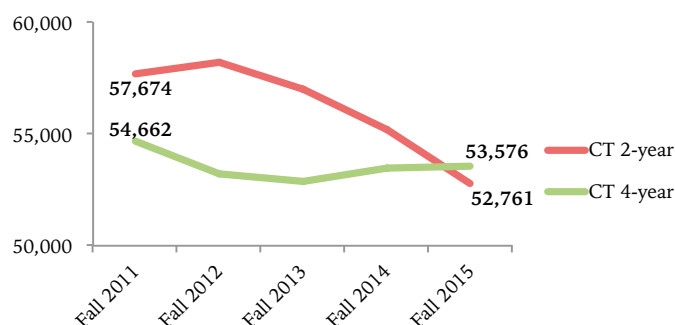
### The Price of Public Colleges in Connecticut, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of Connecticut and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in Connecticut.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in Connecticut?

- **More than 105,000 undergraduate students enrolled at Connecticut's public colleges in fall 2015.**
- Nearly two of every three (65%) undergraduates enrolled in Connecticut are at public institutions—a higher share than across the region (55%).
- Undergraduate enrollment at Connecticut's public colleges is split almost equally between 2-year and 4-year colleges (Figure 1).
- Enrollment at the state's public colleges has fallen slightly in the past five years, with a 5% decrease from fall 2011 to fall 2015, just above the regional average decrease.

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at Connecticut Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



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

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in Connecticut?

- **Before financial aid, it costs an average of \$4,618 to attend a community college and \$10,988 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study for in-state students.**

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
<b>2-year</b>			
Connecticut	\$4,618	3%	19%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
<b>4-year</b>			
Connecticut	\$10,988	4%	28%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices

- Average tuition and required fees mirror New England rates (Figure 2).
- In the last five years, tuition prices have jumped 20% (\$624) at community colleges and 29% (\$1,869) at 4-year public colleges in Connecticut.
- While tuition prices continue to climb, annual increases have been smaller in recent years.

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## How Much Do Public Colleges in Connecticut Cost After Financial Aid?

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at Connecticut 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

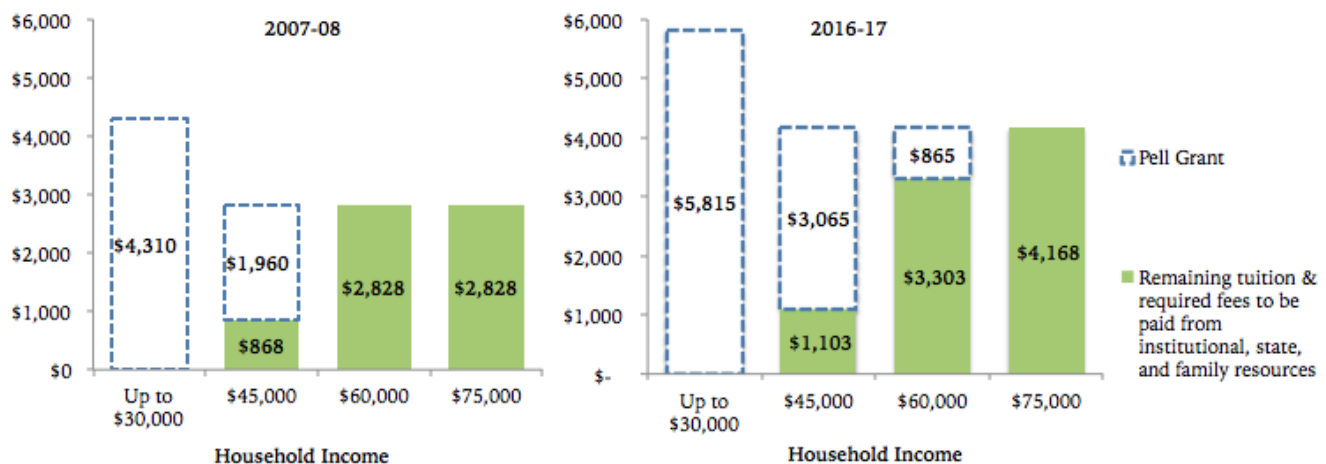
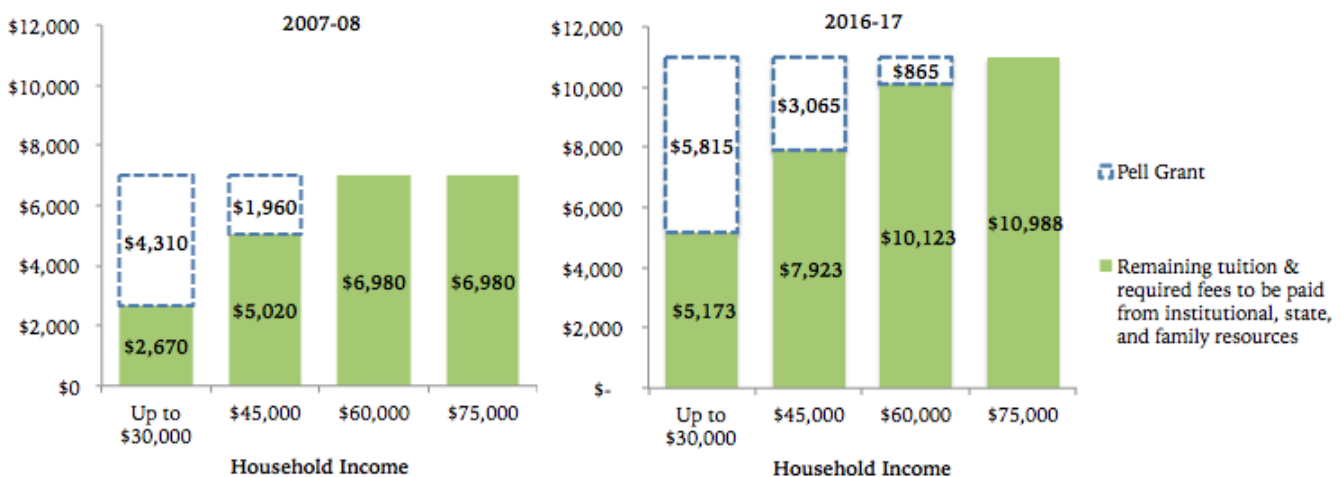


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at Connecticut 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, increases in tuition and required fees at community colleges (47%) and 4-year public colleges (57%) have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with institutional or state aid, or family resources (Figure 3, Figure 4).
- **The Connecticut General Assembly, during the 2017 legislative session, took up one facet of the rising cost of college by proposing statewide transfer and articulation agreements, as well as a system to increase information on transferable courses.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

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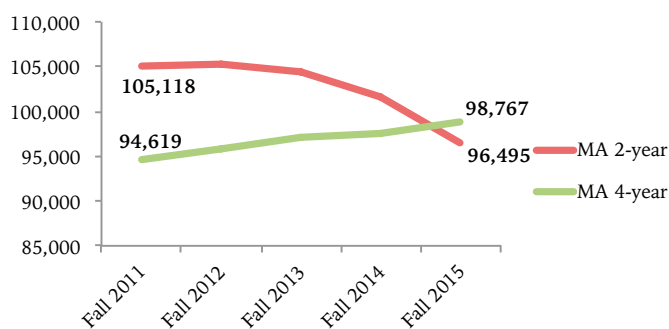
### The Price of Public Colleges in Massachusetts, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of Massachusetts and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in Massachusetts.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in Massachusetts?

- Nearly 200,000 undergraduate students enrolled at Massachusetts public colleges in fall 2015.
- More than half (52%) of all undergraduates enrolled in Massachusetts are at public institutions—a similar share to the region overall (55%).
- Total enrollment at the state's public colleges has fallen 2% since fall 2011, slightly below the regional average decrease, with enrollment nearly split between 2-year and 4-year public colleges (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at Massachusetts Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



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

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in Massachusetts?

- Before financial aid, it costs state residents an average of \$5,890 to attend a community college and \$11,024 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study.

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
2-year			
Massachusetts	\$5,890	4%	18%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
4-year			
Massachusetts	\$11,024	5%	22%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices

- Average tuition and required fees at Massachusetts community colleges are higher than across New England (Figure 2). Tuition and required fees at 4-year public colleges are on par with region but have risen more quickly.
- Over the last five years, tuition and fees have jumped more than 18% (\$904) at community colleges and nearly 22% (\$1,971) at 4-year public colleges in Massachusetts.

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## How Much Do Public Colleges in Massachusetts Cost After Financial Aid?

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at Massachusetts 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

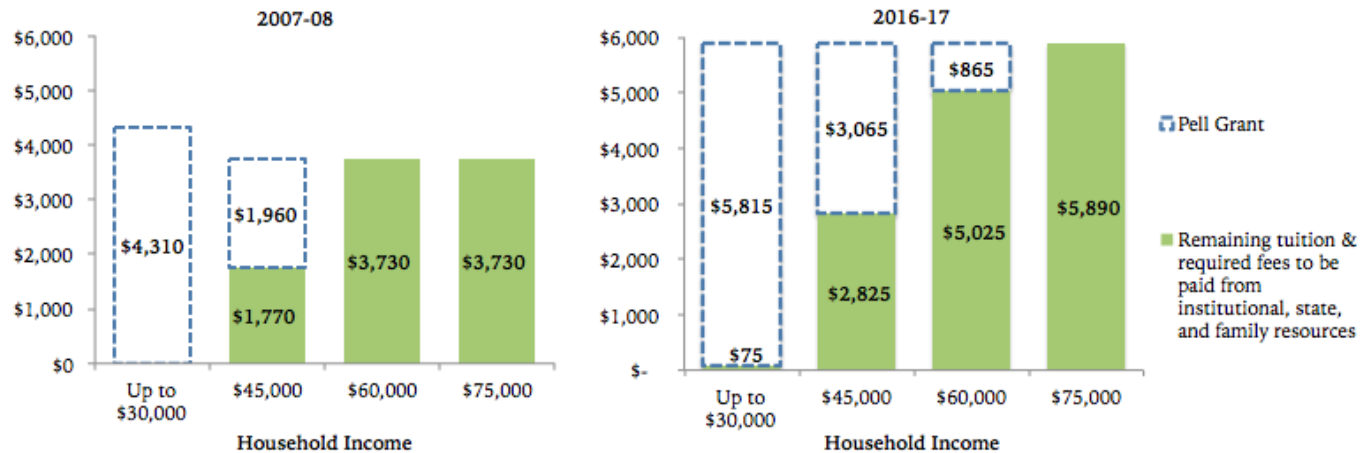
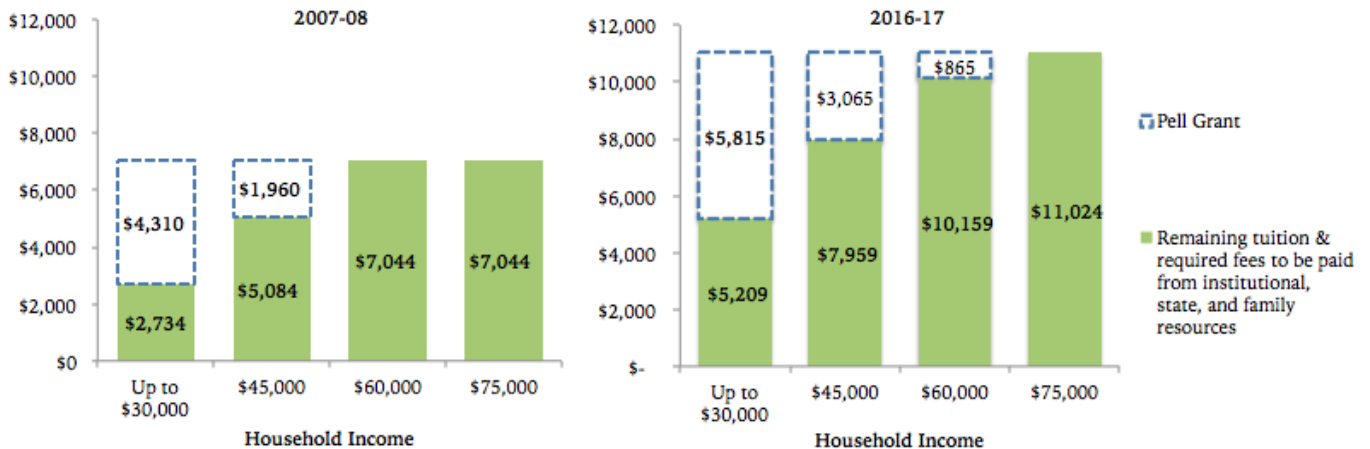


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at Massachusetts 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, increases in tuition and required fees at community colleges (58%) and 4-year public colleges (57%) have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with institutional or state aid, or family resources (Figure 3, Figure 4).
- **Massachusetts’ 4-year public institutions traditionally had very low tuition rates but very high required fees. In 2016, the Department of Higher Education increased tuition and lowered required fees to better match customary messaging of these figures and to help students understand the price of college.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

### About the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)

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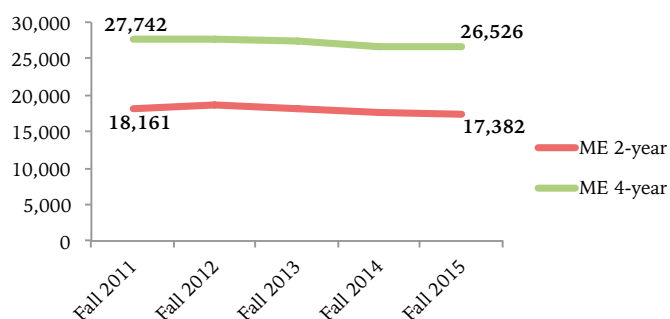
### The Price of Public Colleges in Maine, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of Maine and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in Maine.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in Maine?

- Nearly 44,000 undergraduate students enrolled at Maine's public colleges in fall 2015.
- Almost three of four (71%) undergraduates enrolled in Maine are at public institutions—the highest share among the New England states.
- Total enrollment at the state's public colleges declined 4.4%, about one percentage point more than the regional average decrease.

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at Maine Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



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

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in Maine?

- Before financial aid, it costs state residents an average of \$3,521 to attend a community college and \$9,399 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study.

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
<b>2-year</b>			
Maine	\$3,521	2%	7%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
<b>4-year</b>			
Maine	\$9,399	6%	8%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Change in average rates at 4-year public colleges from 2014-15 reflects an increase at Maine Maritime Academy. Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students.

- Average tuition and required fees at Maine's 2-year and 4-year public colleges are the lowest in New England.
- In the last five years, tuition prices have risen 7% (\$180) at community colleges and 7% (\$512) at 4-year public colleges in Maine—much smaller increases than across the region (Figure 2).
- Tuition freezes at the community college and University of Maine systems entered their historic sixth year but are not expected to continue into the 2017-18 academic year.

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

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## How Much Do Public Colleges in Maine Cost After Financial Aid?

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at Maine 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

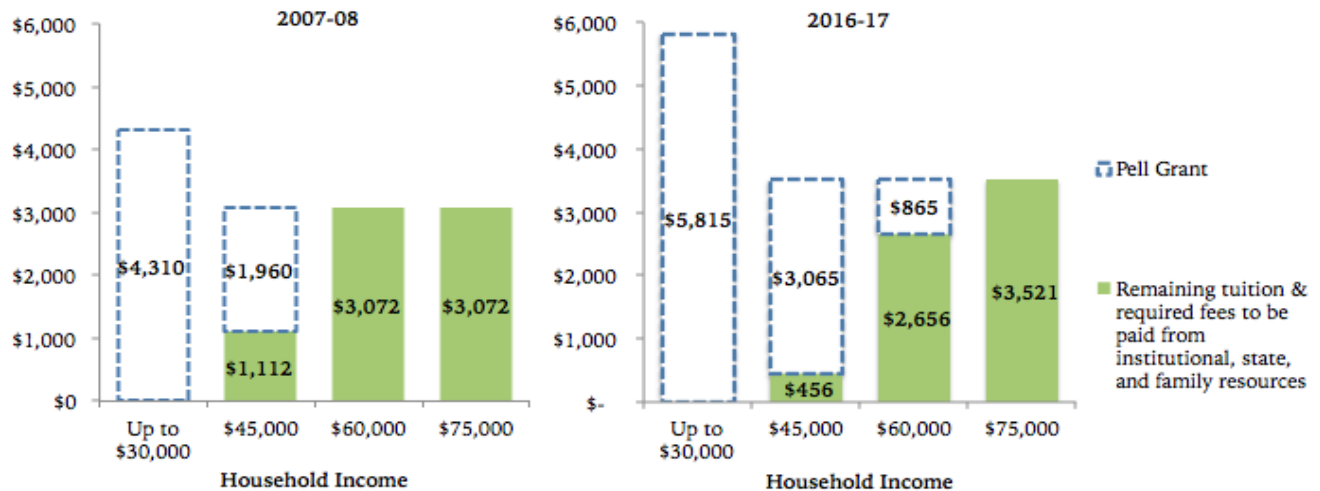
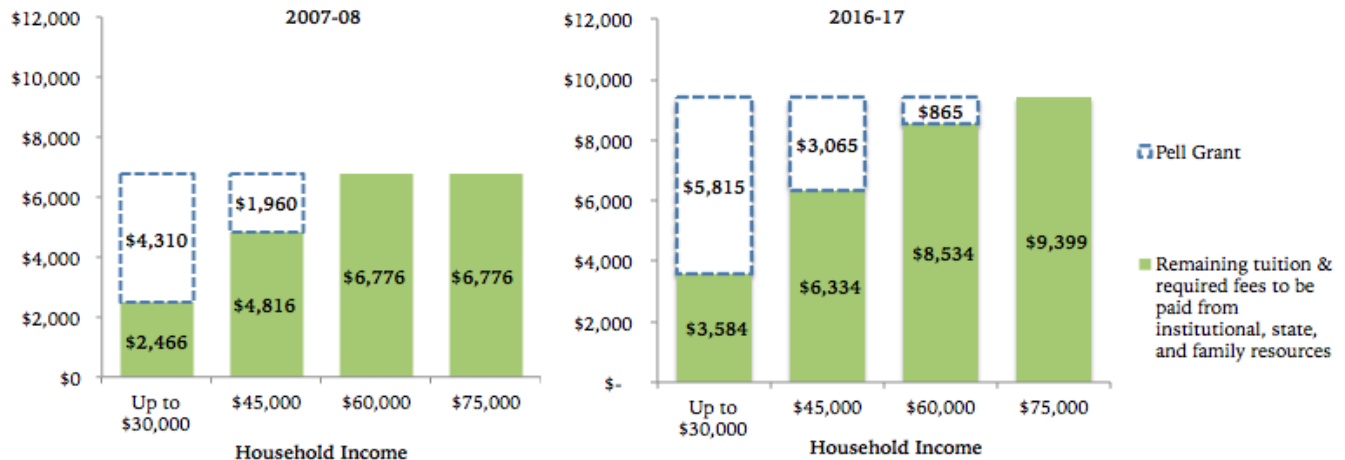


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at Maine 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, the maximum Pell Grant has increased faster (35%) than tuition and required fees at community colleges (14%), allowing households earning up to \$45,000 a year to pay nearly all of tuition and fees with federal aid (Figure 3). However, students of every income level face a gap to fill with institutional or state aid or family resources at 4-year public colleges, and that gap has grown since 2007 (Figure 4).
- **The University of Maine system plans to increase tuition, fees and room and board costs by an overall 2.9% for the 2017-18 academic year, as well as embark on a unified budget system across campuses.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

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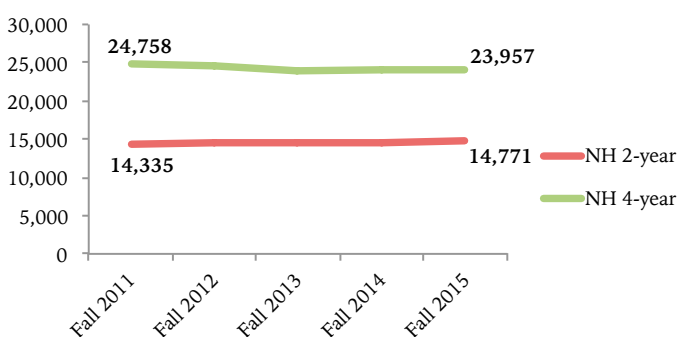
## The Price of Public Colleges in New Hampshire, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of New Hampshire and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in New Hampshire.

### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in New Hampshire?

- Nearly 40,000 undergraduate students enrolled at New Hampshire's public colleges in fall 2015.
- 40% of all undergraduates enrolled in New Hampshire are at public institutions—a lower share than across the region (55%).
- In the last five years, enrollment in New Hampshire's public colleges and universities has declined only 1%, the lowest fall in enrollment in the region.

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at New Hampshire Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



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

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

- Before financial aid, it costs state residents an average of \$5,275 to attend a community college and \$13,326 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study.

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
<b>2-year</b>			
New Hampshire	\$5,275	2%	-1%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
<b>4-year</b>			
New Hampshire	\$13,326	3%	15%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices

- Average tuition and required fees at New Hampshire's 2-year public colleges are higher than rates across the region (Figure 2).
- New Hampshire's 4-year public colleges are the most expensive among New England states, and tuition prices have jumped 61% (\$5,048) since the recession (2007-08)—a steeper increase than across all 4-year public colleges in the region.
- However, tuition and fees at the state's community colleges have been increasing at a slower rate than the region, thanks in part to recent tui-

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

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at New Hampshire 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

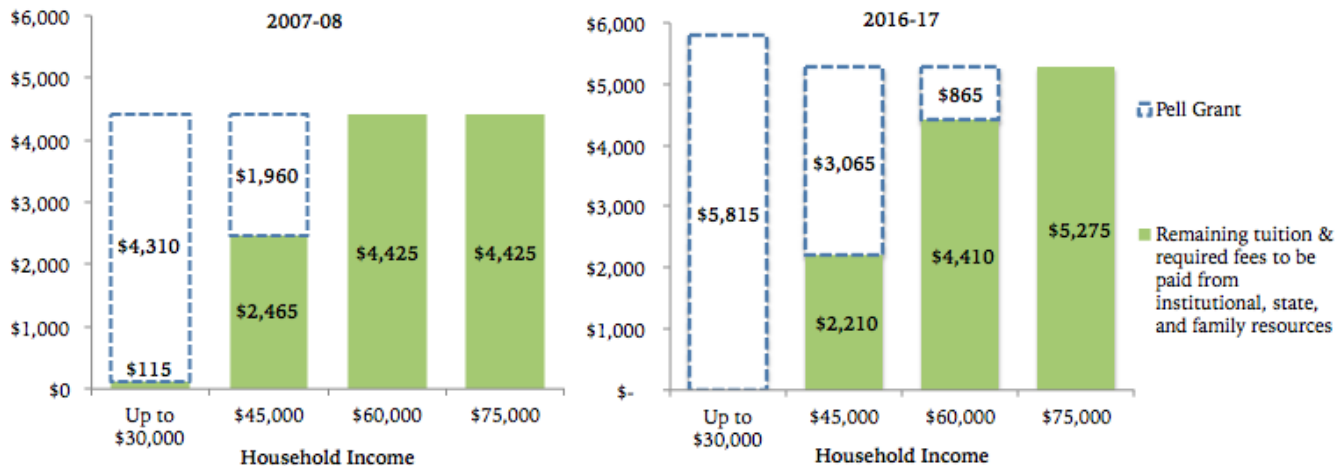
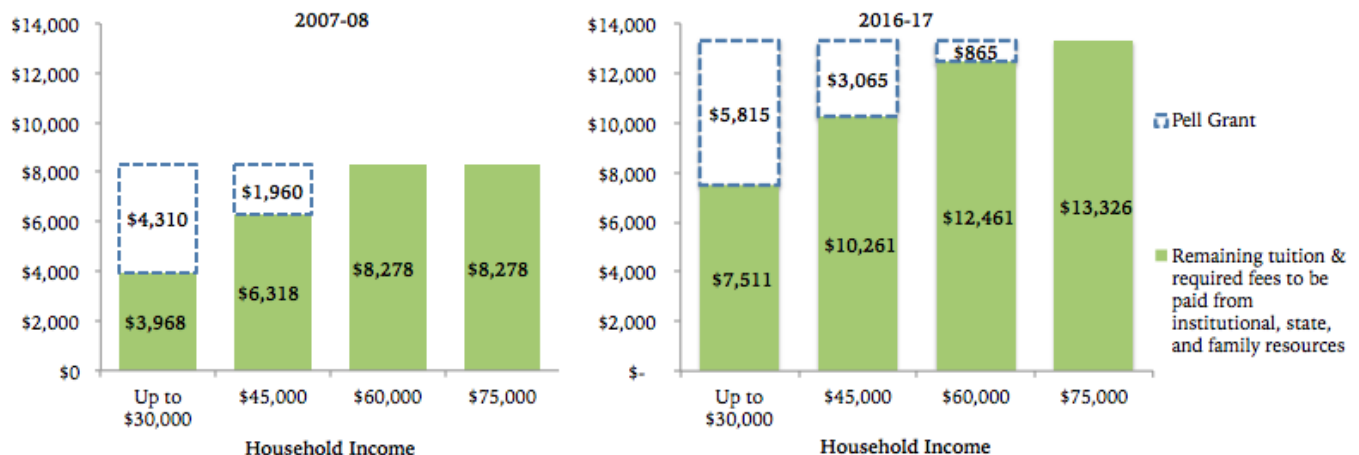


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at New Hampshire 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Because increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%) have outpaced increases in tuition at New Hampshire community colleges (19%) since the recession, low- and moderate-income households pay *less* in 2016-17 than in 2007-08 (Figure 3).
- In 2016, the University of New Hampshire launched the Granite Guarantee, a program that will begin in fall 2017. The Granite Guarantee offers free tuition to any Pell-eligible freshmen who are residents of New Hampshire and will be full time students at the Durham or Manchester campuses. The University expects 285 students will qualify. Approximately 21% of all NH undergraduates were Pell-eligible during 2016-17.

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

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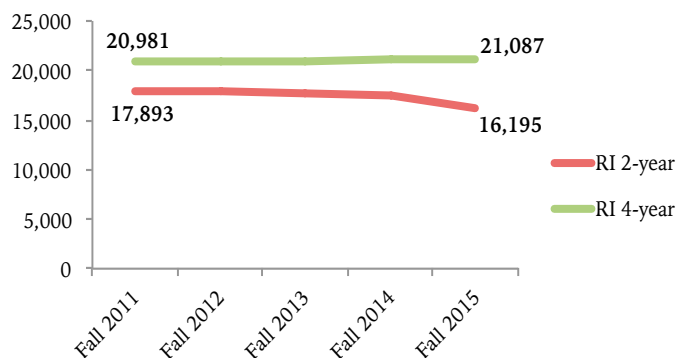
### The Price of Public Colleges in Rhode Island, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of Rhode Island and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in Rhode Island.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in Rhode Island?

- **Nearly 40,000 undergraduate students enrolled at Rhode Island's public colleges in fall 2015.**
- More than half (52%) of all undergraduates enrolled in Rhode Island are at public institutions—a similar share to across the region (55%).
- Consistently since 2011, slightly more undergraduates enroll at Rhode Island's 4-year public colleges than at community colleges (Figure 1).
- Total enrollment at the state's public colleges has declined 4% since 2011, on par with the regional average decrease.

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at Rhode Island Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



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

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in Rhode Island?

- **Before financial aid, it costs state residents an average of \$4,266 to attend a community college and \$10,545 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study.**

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
<b>2-year</b>			
Rhode Island	\$4,266	0%	16%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
<b>4-year</b>			
Rhode Island	\$10,545	0%	13%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices

- Average tuition and required fees at Rhode Island's public colleges mirror New England rates (Figure 2).
- In the last five years, tuition prices have risen 18% (\$594) at community colleges and more than 13% (\$1,071) at 4-year public colleges in Rhode Island.
- However, in the past year, tuition and required fees at Rhode Island's community colleges and 4-year public colleges remained frozen at the 2015-16 levels.

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## How Much Do Public Colleges in Rhode Island Cost After Financial Aid?

- Much like buying a car, published tuition and fees are only the “sticker price”—**many students do not pay full price**. Financial aid plays a crucial role in lowering the price students actually pay. The source and amount of financial aid varies significantly from student to student and college to college, which can make predicting and tracking what students pay difficult.
- Tracking the Pell Grant provides policymakers with a general idea of what students pay after aid. As one of the largest sources of financial aid, the grant serves low-income students—whose ability to pay is of most concern—and varies less between students and institutions than other aid, making it a better tool to see changes over time.

Figure 3: Average Tuition and Fees at Rhode Island 2-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant

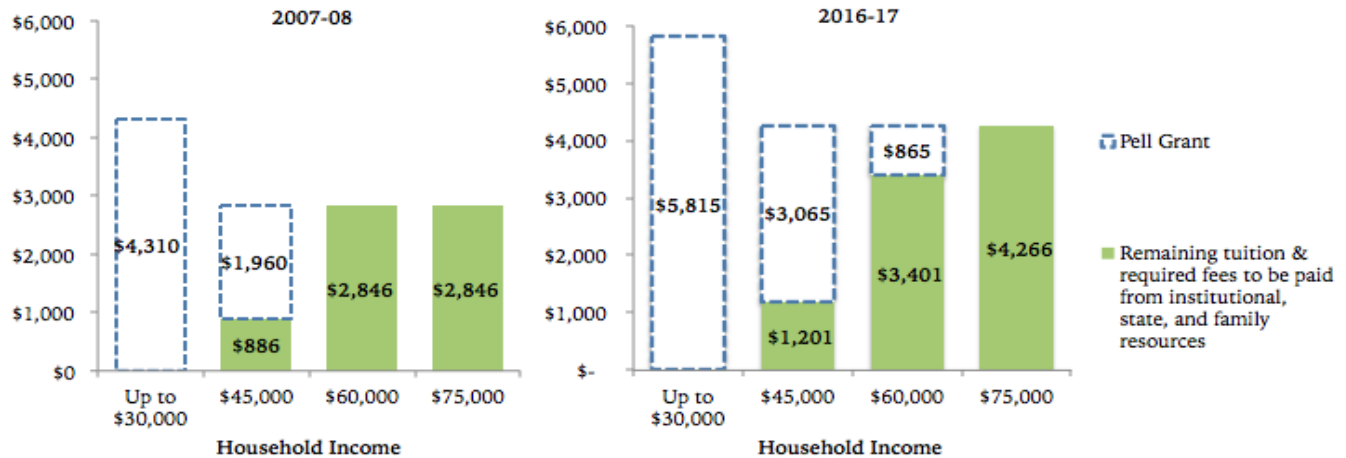
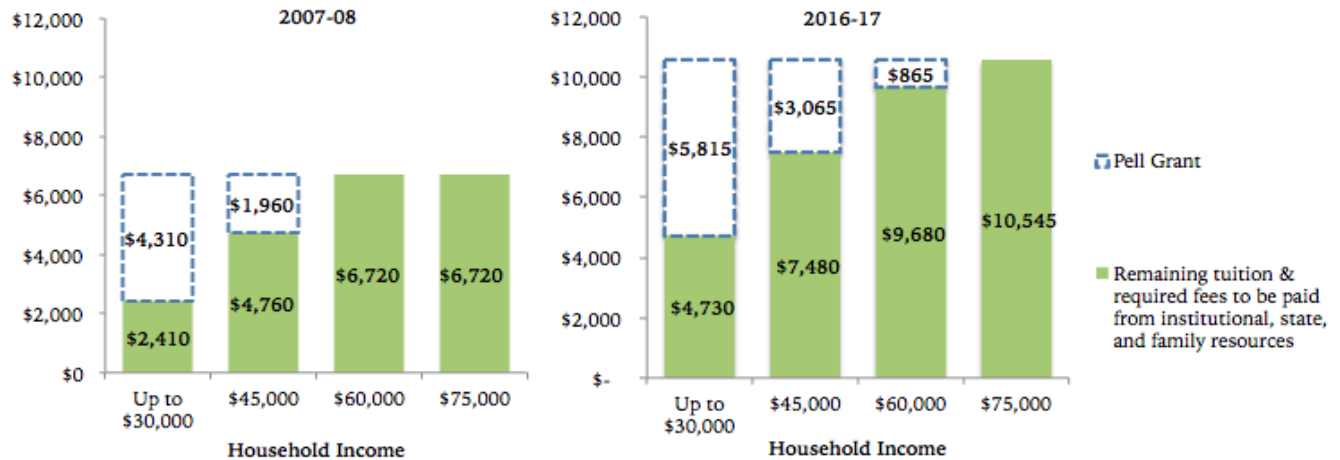


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at Rhode Island 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, increases in tuition and required fees at community colleges (50%) and 4-year public colleges (57%) have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with institutional or state aid, or family resources (Figure 3, Figure 4).
- **In 2016, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo introduced a plan for free tuition for two years at any of the state’s three public colleges. Facing a budget shortfall, the proposal was pared down to a free tuition-pilot at the Community College of Rhode Island. The program was adopted in the Rhode Island state budget on August 3, 2017.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

### About the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)

Established in 1955 by six visionary New England governors, NEBHE is a regional compact that works across New England to: help leaders assess, develop and implement education practices and policies of regional significance; promote regional cooperation that encourages efficient sharing of education resources; and strengthen the relationship between higher education and the regional economy.

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## New England Fast Facts

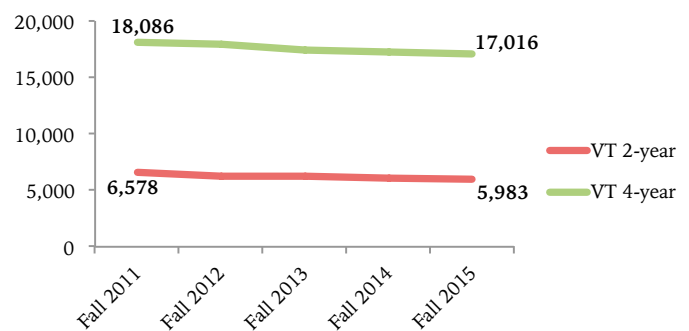
### The Price of Public Colleges in Vermont, '16-'17

As postsecondary education becomes increasingly vital to the livelihood of Vermont and New England as a whole, policymakers are taking a more critical look at the price of college. As the lowest-price institutions, whose primary mission is to serve state residents, public colleges' tuition and fees are especially of interest to state policymakers. Published tuition and fee rates are a major part of the equation of what students and families must pay for college. This *Fast Facts in New England* examines average tuition and required fees for state residents at public institutions in Vermont.

#### How Many Students Enroll at Public Institutions in Vermont?

- **About 23,000 undergraduate students enrolled at Vermont's public colleges in fall 2015.**
- More than six in 10 (62%) undergraduates enrolled in Vermont are at public institutions—a higher share than across the region (55%).
- Undergraduate enrollment at Vermont's 4-year public colleges is consistently much higher than enrollment at the state's community college (Figure 1).
- Since 2011-12, enrollment at Vermont's public institutions has declined almost 7%, the largest-decline in the region.

Figure 1: Undergraduates Enrolled at Vermont Public Institutions, Fall 2011 to 2015



Note: Vermont Technical College is classified as a 4-year college, though it awards a large number of 2-year degrees. Fall 2015 enrollment at Vermont Tech was 1,559 students. Based on first-time full-time enrollment.

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

#### What is the Price of Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions in Vermont?

- **Before financial aid, it costs state residents an average of \$7,053 to attend a community college and \$13,095 to attend a 4-year public college for a year of full-time study.**

Figure 2: Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees at Public Institutions

	2016-17	Change from 2015-16	Change from 2011-12
<b>2-year</b>			
Vermont	\$7,053	17%	36%
New England	\$4,913	5%	16%
<b>4-year</b>			
Vermont	\$13,095	3%	20%
New England	\$11,108	4%	18%

Note: Average tuition & required fees are 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 financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board), which vary among students. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England institutions and state system offices

- Average tuition and required fees at Vermont's 2-year public college are the highest among the New England states, and tuition at Vermont's 4-year public colleges are second-highest in the region.
- The average tuition rates at Vermont's 2-year colleges are increasing more quickly when compared to the region (Figure 2).
- In the last five years, tuition prices have jumped 18% (\$936) at the community college and nearly 17% (\$1,704) at 4-year public colleges in Vermont. Required fees in each sector have also increased significantly.

Candace Williams

August 2017

New England Board of Higher Education

[www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org)



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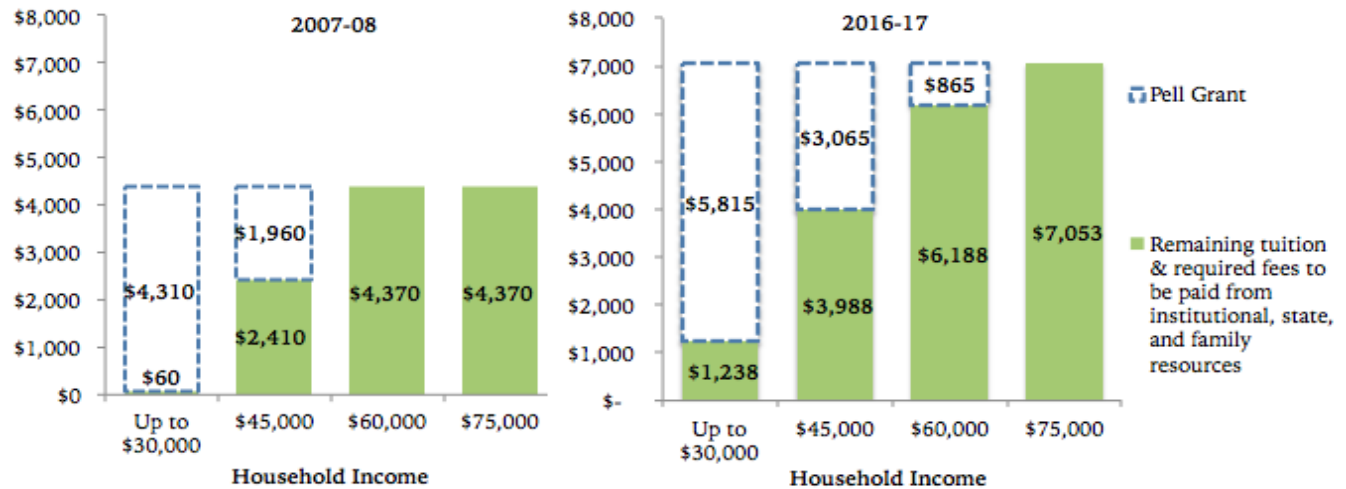
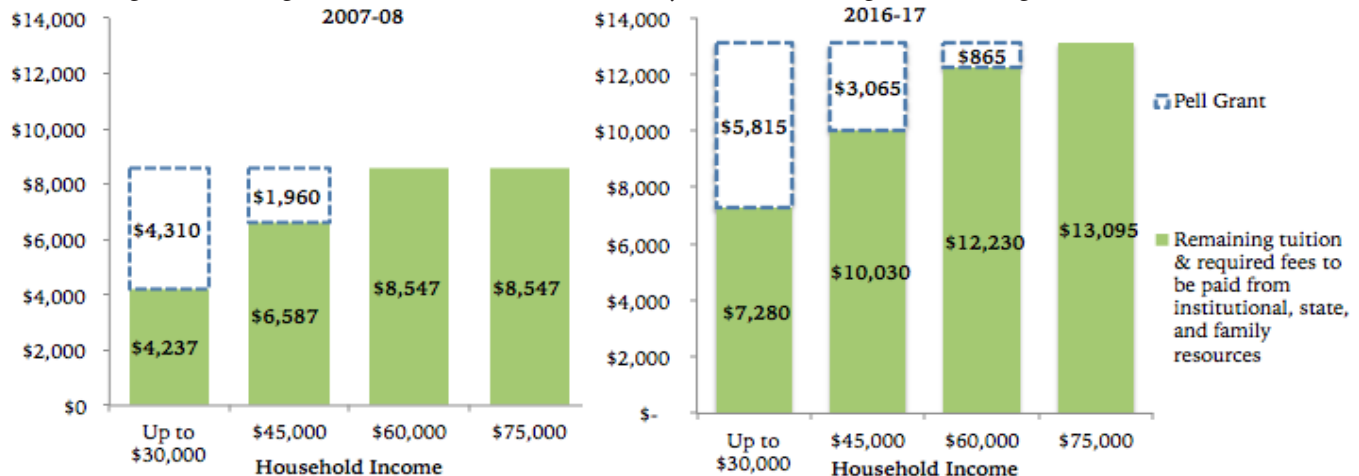


Figure 4: Average Tuition and Fees at Vermont 4-year Public Colleges Remaining After Pell Grant



- Since 2007-08, increases in tuition and required fees at 2-year public colleges (61%) and 4-year public institutions (53%) have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (35%), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income students to fill with institutional, state or family resources (Figure 3, Figure 4).
- **Exacerbating the impact of growing gaps between federal financial aid and tuition are trends in income: Median household income has grown very slowly (8%), and income for the lowest earners *decreased* slightly.**

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 system offices, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, FinAid.org, *Forbes* and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

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