Higher Education in New England: Enrollment, Transfer, & Completion

Enrollment

- Of all the students enrolled at New England colleges and universities, 31% are at 2-year public institutions, 29% are at 4-year public institutions, and 37% are at 4-year private nonprofit institutions.
- The share of students enrolled in the 2-year public sector in the region is much lower than the share nationwide (42%), while the share of students in 4-year private nonprofit institutions in the region is dramatically higher than the nation overall (14%).
- Of all the students native to New England, nearly two-thirds stay in their home state to attend college. This share has been increasing for five out of six states over the past four years, most notably in Vermont.

Transfer

- Among first-time students entering college in 2007, approximately 40% transferred to another institution, regardless of whether they began at a 2-year public, 4-year public or 4-year private nonprofit institution.
- Students who transferred from a 2-year public institution were the most likely to stay in-state, while those who transferred from a 4-year private institution were the most likely to transfer out-of-state and out-of-region.

Completion

- Completion rates for students who began at 2-year public institutions range from 33% in Connecticut to 39% in Maine and Vermont.
- Completion rates for students who began at 4-year public institutions range from 55% in New Hampshire to 78% in New Hampshire, and five out of six states are above the national average.

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Completion

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- Completion rates for students who began at 4-year public institutions range from 55% in New Hampshire to 78% in New Hampshire, and five out of six states are above the national average.
In 2014-15, average tuition and mandatory fees at 2-year public institutions ranged from $3,439 in Maine to $5,886 in Vermont. At 4-year public institutions, average tuition and mandatory fees ranged from $8,821 in Maine to $12,585 in New Hampshire.

Several states have frozen tuition and/or fees for one or more years. Rhode Island has frozen tuition and fees for the 2-year public sector for multiple years, while New Hampshire recently reduced per-credit tuition rates by 5% at community colleges.

Still, increases in tuition and fees across the region have dramatically outpaced modest growth in median income.

These changes in tuition prices disproportionately impact the approximately 1.1 million low-income households in the region.

In fact, income levels for the lowest fifth of households have declined since 2008, exacerbating the climb in tuition and mandatory fees.

When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income household, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered at five of the six New England states.

However, even with this grant aid, a low-income household would need to allocate 35% of annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution, a steep jump from 22% in 2009-10.
**Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions in Connecticut, 2014-15**

### Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in Connecticut

**Public 2-Year Institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Quintile</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>New England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Fifth</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Fifth</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Fifth</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public 4-Year Institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Quintile</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>New England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Fifth</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Fifth</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Fifth</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- In 2009-10, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,350. In 2014-15, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,730. The median values for each quintile (fifth) of household income were used in calculations.
- Source: NEBHE analysis of data from state system offices and institutions, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education

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**Average Tuition and Mandatory Fees, AY 2014-15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public 2-Year Institutions</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>New England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,866</td>
<td>$4,581</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public 4-Year Institutions</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>New England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,978</td>
<td>$10,299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note regarding tuition and fees:**
- Tuition and mandatory fees are for 2 semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted.
- These figures do not include any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board).
- Source: NEBHE analysis of data from New England (NE) state system offices and institutions, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education

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- In-state tuition and mandatory fees are lower in Connecticut than New England (NE) for both 2-year and 4-year public institutions. With the highest median household income in the region, Connecticut is one of the most affordable New England states for attending public higher education.
- In-state tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are nearly a fifth less than the regional average, though these prices have been rising faster in Connecticut than the region.
- Rates of increase in the 4-year sector in Connecticut closely mirror rates in New England for in-state students.

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating the climb in tuition and mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate 30% of annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.
In-state tuition and mandatory fees at Maine’s 2-year and 4-year public institutions are the lowest in New England.

- In-state tuition and mandatory fees at 4-year institutions are the least expensive in the region by more than $1,000.
- While tuition has climbed since the 2008 recession, multiple years of tuition freezes throughout the past seven years have led to a slower rate of increase than the region overall.
- Though growing, median household income in Maine was the lowest of all the New England (NE) states in 2013.

### Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in Maine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public 2-Year Institutions</th>
<th>Public 4-Year Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AY 2009-10</strong></td>
<td><strong>AY 2014-15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Fifth</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Fifth</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Fifth</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Fifth</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Fifth</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Fifth</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In 2009-10, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,350. In 2014-15, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,730. The median values for each quintile (fifth) of household income were used in calculations. Source: NEBHE analysis of data from state system offices and institutions, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education.

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating even a small climb in tuition and mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate over a quarter of annual income to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.
Average Tuition and Mandatory Fees, AY 2014-15

2-Year Public Institutions
- Massachusetts: $5,375
- New England: $4,581

4-Year Public Institutions
- Massachusetts: $9,896
- New England: $10,299

Note regarding tuition and fees: Tuition and mandatory fees are for 2 semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not include any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board).

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

Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in Massachusetts

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating the climb in mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate nearly a third of annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.
Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions in New Hampshire, 2014-15

Average Tuition and Mandatory Fees, AY 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Hampshire</th>
<th>New England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>$5,150</td>
<td>$4,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>$12,585</td>
<td>$10,299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note regarding tuition and fees: Tuition and mandatory fees are for 2 semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not include any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board).

Source: NRBHE analysis of data from New England (NE) state system offices and institutions, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education

- In-state tuition and mandatory fees at public 2-year institutions are above the regional average and tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions are the highest in New England (NE).
- While tuition in New Hampshire’s public 2-year sector has risen more slowly than the region’s, tuition increases in the state’s public 4-year sector have outpaced all other New England states.
- Recent tuition and fee freezes in the 2-year and 4-year sectors have slowed the rate of tuition increases for New Hampshire residents. In fact, the tuition rate per credit hour was reduced 5% at 2-year institutions in 2014-15.

Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in New Hampshire

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and mandatory fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating the climb in tuition and mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate 43% of annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.

Changes in Tuition and Mandatory Fees and Income Compared to AY 2007-08

- NH 4-Year Public: 52%
- NE 4-Year Public: 38%
- NH 2-Year Public: 28%
- NE 2-Year Public: 21%
- NH Median Household Income: 5%
- NE Median Household Income: 4%

Note: In 2009-10, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,350. In 2014-15, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,730. The median values for each quintile (fifth) of household income were used in calculations.

Source: NRBHE analysis of data from state system offices and institutions, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education
Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions in Rhode Island, 2014-15

Average Tuition and Mandatory Fees, AY 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2-Year Public Institutions</th>
<th>4-Year Public Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,950</td>
<td>$4,581</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,054</td>
<td>$10,299</td>
</tr>
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Note regarding tuition and fees: Tuition and mandatory fees are for 2 semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not include any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board).

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

- In-state tuition and mandatory fees at both public 2-year and 4-year institutions are below the regional average.
- Tuition and fee increases at Rhode Island’s public 2-year and 4-year institutions have outpaced tuition and fee increases across New England (NE).
- Recent tuition and fee freezes in the 2-year and 4-year sectors have slowed the rate of increase in tuition for Rhode Island residents.
- The decline and subsequent modest growth in median household income in the state is typical for the region.

Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in Rhode Island

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating the climb in tuition and mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, over 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate over a third of annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.
Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions in Vermont, 2014-15

Average Tuition and Mandatory Fees, AY 2014-15

2-Year Public Institutions

Vermont $5,886
New England $4,581

4-Year Public Institutions

Vermont $12,232
New England $10,299

Note regarding tuition and fees: Tuition and mandatory fees are for 2 semesters of in-state full-time study. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation and averages are not enrollment-weighted. These figures do not include any financial aid (e.g. grants, loans) or living expenses (e.g. room, board).

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

- In-state tuition and mandatory fees at Vermont’s 2-year public institutions are the highest in New England (NE), and tuition and fees at 4-year public institutions are second highest in the region.
- The rate of tuition and mandatory fee increases at Vermont’s public institutions has largely mirrored increases across the region.
- Though growing, median household income in Vermont is one of the lowest among New England states.

Changes in Tuition and Mandatory Fees and Income Compared to AY 2007-08

- Tuition rising faster than income has led to greater shares of earnings needed to pay tuition and fees for low- and moderate-income households since 2009-10.
- Income levels for the lowest fifth of households declined during this time, exacerbating the climb in tuition and mandatory fees.
- When including the maximum Pell Grant award for the lowest income quintile, almost 100% of tuition and fees at 2-year institutions are covered.
- However, even with this aid, a low-income household would need to allocate nearly half its annual earnings to pay for a year of tuition and fees at a 4-year institution.

Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant in Vermont

Note: In 2009-10, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,350. In 2014-15, the maximum Pell Grant was $5,730. The median values for each quintile (fifth) of household income were used in calculations.

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