



CPEC

Costs at Public Universities: How does California Compare with other States?

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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The cost of attending the University of California and California State University has increased in recent years as UC and CSU have raised fees in response to reduced state funding. Fees are generally lower than fees at public universities in other states, but with California's higher living costs, the overall cost of attendance at UC is higher than at most major public research universities. At CSU, lower fees offset higher living costs. CSU's cost of attendance for students living on campus is about the same as for in-state students at comparable universities in other states. Costs for CSU commuter students are lower than costs for commuter students at most other state universities.

University of California

For the 2009–10 school year, the total cost of attendance, before financial aid, for undergraduate students living on campus ranged from \$25,400 at UC Irvine to \$28,900 at UC Berkeley. Fees account for 30% to 35% of the cost of attendance.

In other states, lower living costs can make the overall cost of attendance at public research universities lower than UC even though fees are higher. Fees for in-state students at the University of Illinois are 30% more than UC's fees, but with lower living costs, the overall cost of attendance is about the same as at UC's lower-cost campuses. Similarly, costs at the University of Michigan are lower than at UC, despite higher fees.

California State University

Costs for CSU students living on campus are generally in the \$20,000–\$22,000 range before financial aid. Costs are lower at the inland campuses, such as Fresno and Stanislaus. Fees are lower at CSU than at most state universities, but these are offset by California's high living costs. Overall, costs for CSU students living on campus are about the same as costs at comparable universities in other states, such as Arizona State University and the University of Nevada.

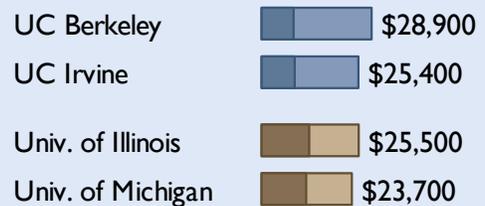
Commuter students living with their families avoid the costs of renting an apartment or living in a dorm. For these students, CSU's cost of attendance is lower

Cost of Attendance 2009–10

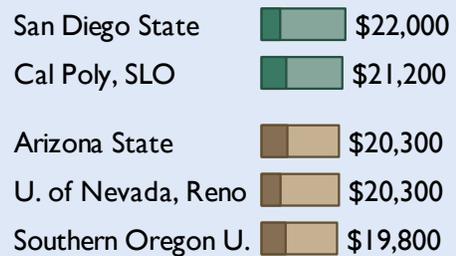
Full-time in-state undergraduates

Student living on campus

Major public research universities

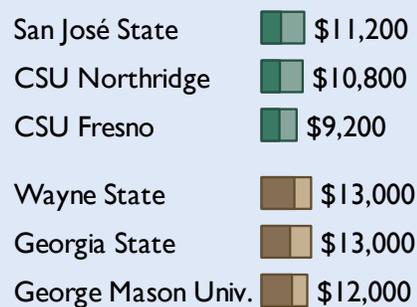


State universities



Student living with family

State universities



Fees Total costs

Data from National Center for Education Statistics. More details on pages 3–4.

than most other state universities. Total costs for commuter students are \$10,000–\$11,000 at most CSU campuses, compared with \$11,000–\$14,000 at comparable campuses such as Wayne State and Georgia State.

Costs Compared with Incomes

Although UC is more expensive than most major public research universities, the gap in costs is less when compared with incomes, because incomes are higher in California than in most other states. A year’s attendance at UC for a student living on campus is about 40% of California median family income. This is about the same percentage of family income as at the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan, where both costs and incomes are lower. At the University of Virginia and the University of Washington, higher incomes offset costs and a year’s attendance at these universities is about 29% of median family income.

California’s higher incomes make costs for CSU a lower percentage of family income than at most other state universities. The cost of a year at San Diego State is 33% of California median family income for students living on campus. The corresponding figure for Arizona State University is 35% of median family income in Arizona, and the cost for a student at Southern Oregon University is 33% of Oregon median family income.

Median family income, 2009

Maryland	\$84,600
New Jersey	83,800
Virginia	72,900
Washington	68,900
California	67,600
Colorado	67,400
Illinois	67,100
New York	65,300
Wisconsin	64,000
Nevada	61,200
Oregon	60,000
Ohio	59,200
Michigan	59,000
Georgia	58,400
Arizona	58,100
Texas	56,700
N. Carolina	55,300

For commuter students, CSU’s lower fee levels keep the cost of attendance down relative to incomes. Total costs are about 16–17% of California median family income. In most other states, costs are generally 20–24% of median family income.

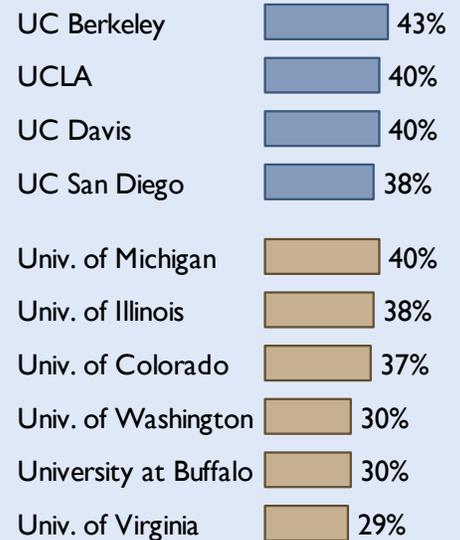
Financial Aid

Financial aid affects affordability for many students. The cost figures here do not reflect the way that aid from federal, state, and university sources offsets some students’ costs. Nearly half of CSU students do not pay any fees because of CSU grants, fee waivers, and Cal Grant awards. At UC, 55% of undergraduates received grant assistance in 2008–09, averaging about \$10,000 per recipient.

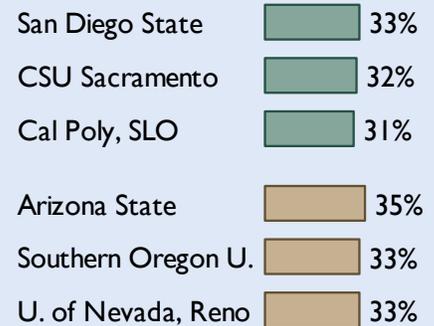
Costs as a percentage of median family income

Student living on campus

Major public research universities

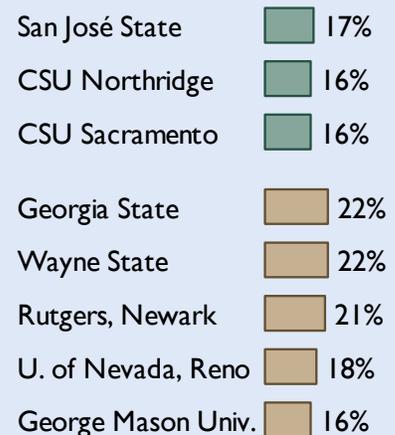


State universities



Student living with family

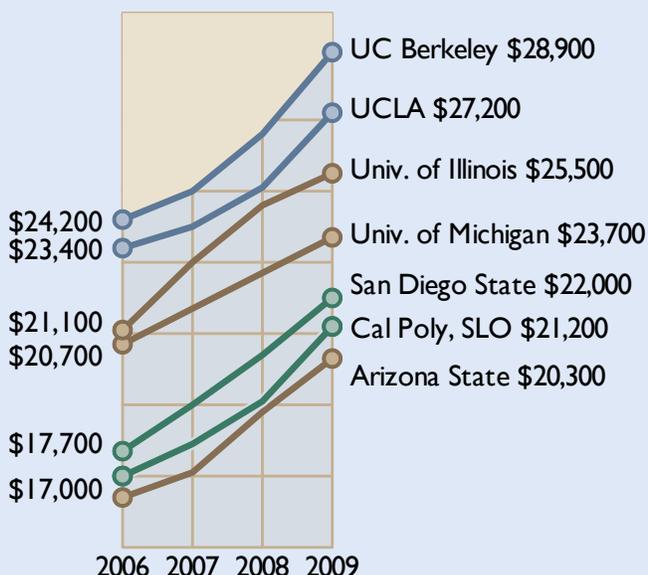
State universities



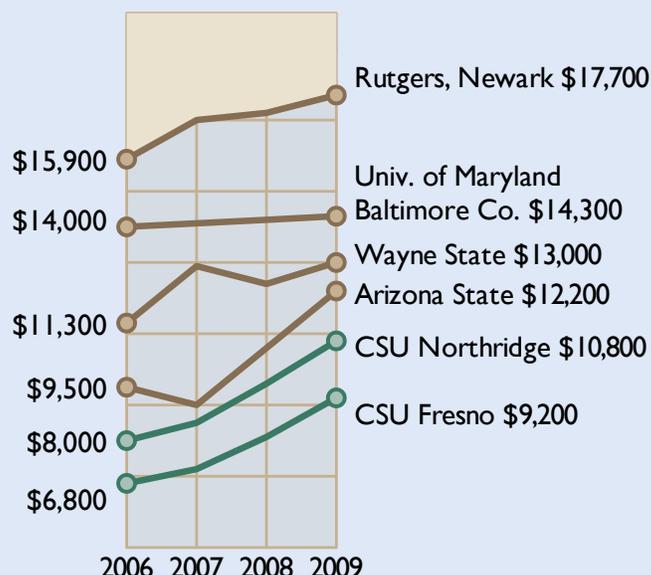
Growth in Student Costs

Annual costs for full-time in-state students

Student living on campus



Student living with family



2009–10 Costs: UC and Other Major Public Research Universities

	Total costs			Fees	Books	Room & board		Other costs		
	On-campus	Off-campus	Living w. family			On-campus	Off-campus	On-campus	Off-campus	Living w. family
Largest UC campuses										
UC Berkeley	28,900	24,200	x	8,940	1,310	15,300	10,000	3,300	3,900	nr
UC Los Angeles	27,200	25,100	x	8,850	1,600	13,300	10,200	3,400	4,400	nr
UC Davis	27,000	23,700	x	9,940	1,590	12,400	8,200	3,100	4,000	nr
UC San Diego	25,500	25,700	x	9,380	1,560	11,100	10,100	3,500	4,700	nr
UC Irvine	25,400	25,500	x	9,300	1,650	10,700	9,600	3,800	5,000	nr
UC comparators										
U. of Illinois, Urbana	25,500	x	x	12,530	1,200	9,300	nr	2,500	nr	nr
U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor	23,700	23,700	16,500	11,660	1,050	8,900	8,900	2,100	2,100	3,800
University of Virginia	21,100	x	x	9,870	1,150	8,200	nr	1,900	nr	nr
University at Buffalo	19,500	20,000	10,300	7,010	980	9,600	9,600	1,800	2,300	2,300
Other public research universities										
U. of Colorado, Boulder	24,800	x	x	7,930	1,750	10,400	nr	4,700	nr	nr
Univ. of Texas, Austin	22,900	22,900	13,300	8,930	860	9,600	9,600	3,500	3,500	3,500
University of Arizona	20,500	x	12,900	6,860	1,000	8,600	11,200	4,100	nr	5,000
University of Washington	20,400	25,400	11,500	7,690	1,040	8,900	12,900	2,800	3,800	2,800
University of Oregon	19,800	19,800	10,900	7,430	1,050	8,900	8,900	2,400	2,400	2,400

See notes on page 4.

2009–10 Costs: CSU and Other State Universities

	Total costs			Fees	Books	Room & board		Other costs		
	On-campus	Off-campus	Living w. family			On-campus	Off-campus	On-campus	Off-campus	Living w. family
Largest CSU campuses										
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	21,200	21,200	11,400	6,500	1,640	9,800	9,800	3,300	3,300	3,300
San José State	21,300	22,900	11,200	5,050	1,730	10,400	12,000	4,100	4,100	4,400
San Francisco State	22,800	22,800	10,900	4,740	1,730	12,000	12,000	4,400	4,400	4,400
San Diego State	22,000	21,400	10,800	4,900	1,640	11,500	10,400	4,000	4,500	4,200
CSU Northridge	21,400	21,400	10,800	4,800	1,640	10,900	10,900	4,100	4,100	4,400
CSU Los Angeles	19,500	22,400	10,700	4,640	1,640	9,100	12,000	4,100	4,100	4,400
CSU Sacramento	21,500	22,500	10,600	4,900	1,730	11,300	12,000	3,500	3,900	4,000
CSU San Bernardino	19,400	21,500	10,400	4,840	1,640	9,400	11,100	3,400	3,800	3,900
CSU Fullerton	19,200	21,300	10,200	4,660	1,640	9,100	11,100	3,800	3,900	3,900
CSU Long Beach	20,100	20,400	9,400	4,370	1,640	10,800	10,900	3,200	3,500	3,400
CSU Fresno	18,400	19,600	9,200	4,670	1,290	9,700	10,200	2,800	3,500	3,300
Cal Poly Pomona	17,900	18,200	8,600	4,550	1,500	9,600	9,400	2,300	2,800	2,500
Other state universities										
Rutgers University, Newark	26,300	30,600	17,700	11,410	1,430	11,200	14,400	2,300	3,400	4,800
U. of Maryland, Baltimore Co.	22,000	25,600	14,300	8,870	1,200	9,600	11,300	2,300	4,200	4,200
U. of Texas, Arlington	19,200	19,200	13,100	8,190	910	6,100	6,100	4,000	4,000	4,000
Cleveland State	22,300	22,300	13,100	7,970	800	9,200	9,200	4,300	4,300	4,300
Wayne State	19,100	19,700	13,000	8,640	970	7,700	6,700	1,800	3,400	3,400
Georgia State	22,100	22,200	13,000	7,500	1,000	11,200	9,200	2,500	4,500	4,500
U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	20,600	22,600	12,600	7,700	1,000	6,800	8,800	5,100	5,100	3,900
Arizona State	20,300	19,900	12,200	6,840	1,270	9,200	8,200	3,000	3,700	4,100
North Carolina State	16,700	17,800	12,100	5,480	950	8,000	8,800	2,300	2,600	5,700
George Mason University	19,300	24,200	12,000	8,020	900	7,700	11,700	2,700	3,600	3,100
Northern Arizona Univ.	19,800	21,600	11,900	6,630	920	7,900	9,700	4,300	4,300	4,300
Portland State	21,400	23,100	11,600	6,760	1,910	9,800	11,500	3,000	2,900	2,900
University of Nevada, Reno	20,300	22,300	11,100	5,050	1,300	10,100	10,000	3,900	6,000	4,800
Southern Oregon University	19,800	x	x	6,250	1,350	8,500	nr	3,800	nr	nr

nr — Cost component not reported

x — Total cost not meaningful because not all components are reported

Other costs are the amount estimated by each institution's financial aid office to cover expenses such as transportation, laundry, entertainment, and furnishings. UC comparators are the universities that UC traditionally compares itself to for faculty salaries and other purposes.

About the data

The cost data is from National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. This is from costs submitted annually to IPEDS by financial aid offices at colleges and universities. Fees for UC were updated by CPEC to reflect the mid-year fee increase in January 2010.

These figures are preliminary reported costs as of fall 2010 and may differ from figures published elsewhere. Cost data for 2009–10 has not yet been finalized by IPEDS and is subject to revision.

2009 Median family incomes are CPEC estimates based on 2008 median family income and the 2008–2009 change in state per capita income. Data from U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.