



Race and Education

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The transition period between high school and college is daunting. Various factors such as poverty stigma, distance, confidence, and lack of financial aid comprehension serve as barriers for low-income high achieving students. Race and low-income high achieving students are indirectly affected. The increase in money allowed to students during their college careers may seem insignificant to those who are not in college but it does make an impact in various other areas of that young person's life. Additionally, Pell Grants have decreased significantly from the 1970's to present day. A few ways to make education equitable is to increase college endowment funds directly to students, to create an outreach program that provides information on Pell grants and how to apply for scholarships (such as the Excelsior scholarship), supports the students by applying for FAFSA during their senior year, increasing the funding for high school to college pipeline programs, and encouraging students overall through modeling can lead to better results. Providing these supports could lead to a stronger economy and promote better social mobility.

- Undermatching in the face of generous financial aid options supports the notion that barriers of confidence, information, and distance stand in the way of a college education for low-income students.
- There are high achieving students who are low income who can apply but aren't aware they can do so or are unable to go to high education due to insufficient endowment funds, lack of preparation filling out FAFSA/Pell Grant.
- Endowments are money designated by the school to help students attend college if they cannot pay out-of-pocket fees.
- Endowment funds are low due to money being invested in other ventures, some of which are used questionably, such as land acquisition that isn't utilized and others that generate cash.

- Increasing endowment funds and encouraging high achieving low-income students to attend higher education schools that are reasonably within their price range and provide them with a quality education can help the level of education disparities.

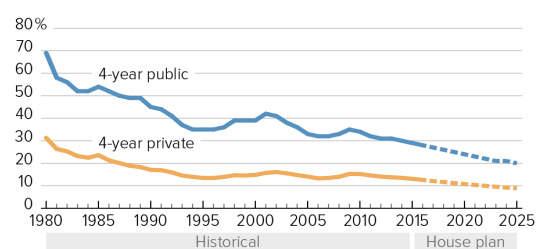
Pell Grants

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- Federal Pell Grants, the largest source of federally funded grants, are awarded solely based on your financial need.
- ****Academic grades and extra-curricular activities aren't a factor****
- You must meet general federal student aid eligibility requirements to be eligible to receive a Pell Grant.
- The maximum Pell Grant award for the 2020-2021 academic year is \$6,345.
- Among the nation's top 50 liberal arts colleges, those institutions that lead in opening doors to low-income and working-class students also generally have higher proportions of domestic students of color than do institutions with fewer Pell recipients. For instance, at the 15 selective liberal arts colleges with the highest Pell grant percentages of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, 31.7 percent of students were domestic students of color, while at the bottom 15, the figure was 20.3 percent (Drier & Kalhlenberg, 2014).
- In 2012-13 the maximum Pell grant covered 31 percent of the cost of attending a public four-year college, down from between 69 percent and 84 percent in the 1970s. At private colleges, the maximum Pell grant now pays for only 14 percent of the list price of tuition, fees, and room and board. As a result, colleges have to supplement the federal aid with their own resources if they want to have low-income students on campus.

House Budget Committee Plan Continues to Reduce Pell's Purchasing Power

Maximum Pell Grant as a share of 4-year college cost, by institution type



Note: College cost includes tuition, fees, and room and board. House Budget Committee plan freezes the maximum Pell Grant at \$5,775. Assumes college costs continue to rise at average rate of past five years.

Source: Calculations by The Institute for College Access and Success and CBPP based on College Board and Department of Education data.

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What makes you eligible for a Pell Grant

- You need to be eligible for federal student aid programs. All federal aid is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. General eligibility for federal aid programs includes that you have financial need, are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, are enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program at your college or career school, and more.
- You're an undergraduate student who's enrolled full-time or part-time. Part-time students might not receive as much funding as full-time students, but your school can't refuse your Pell Grant funds because you're enrolled less than half-time.
- The FAFSA decides your eligibility. Students whose total family income is \$50,000 a year or less qualify, but most Pell grant money goes to students with a total family income below \$20,000. The total amount of Pell money available to colleges is determined by government funding.

Who's excluded from Pell Grant

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- Once you have earned a bachelor's degree or your first professional degree or have used up all 12 terms of your eligibility, you are no longer eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

How to apply for a Pell Grant

- The Pell Grant application process is the same as any federal financial aid process.
- You need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- The U.S. Department of Education determines your Pell Grant eligibility based on your answers on the FAFSA. Don't forget to complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible, beginning October 1. Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- You'll need to re-apply for a Pell Grant every year you want one by submitting the FAFSA.

Restoring Grant and Loan Eligibility COVID

- Both federal grants and federal student loans have maximum lifetime limits, meaning that no additional aid will be available to you once you've received the full amount. If you withdrew from college due to COVID-19, you might be eligible to have Pell grants you received during that term excluded from your maximum limit. This means your eligibility for future Pell grants will be restored.
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Endowments and how they affect students

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According to the American Council of Education, endowments are “an aggregation of assets invested by a college or university to support its educational and research mission in perpetuity. It represents a compact between a donor and an institution and links past, current, and future generations”. The amount of money in a single college's endowment can range from 1-37.1 million dollars. Usually, universities have this large amount of money on stand-by and use only a small amount. A portion of this money can be used to help low-income, but high-achieving students pursue their dreams and further this education.

SUNY vs. CUNY

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- The State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) are the two public university systems in New York State.
- Both are known for having low in-state tuition for New York State residents
- SUNY schools are much larger than CUNY schools and offer a lot more programs. Overall, SUNY consists of 64 campuses, and CUNY consists of 24, giving the SUNY system more degree opportunities than the CUNY system.
- Most SUNY schools are located in smaller towns all over the state, while CUNY schools are only found within New York City. Because CUNY schools are located throughout the boroughs of

NYC, most of their student body lives at home and commute. On the other hand, most SUNY students have students living on campus.

What is philanthropy, and how does it affect students?

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- Philanthropy refers to charitable acts or other good works that help others or society as a whole.
 - Donations to colleges and universities directly help fund research, new facilities, build endowments, sports, scholarship programs.
 - Donations to students directly in the form of scholarships and grants.
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Potential Solutions

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- Unigo- an online portal that connects students to various types of potential scholarships
- NICHE- is a website that gives information about different Universities and colleges by showing their rankings and various scholarships available to applicants.

Excelsior Scholarship Eligibility

- A recipient must be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term, for which an Excelsior Scholarship award is being sought.
- A recipient must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as provided in §661(3) of New York State Education Law.
- A recipient must have either a certificate of graduation from a high school within the United States; or the recognized equivalent of such certificate (e.g. earned a high school equivalency diploma); or received a passing score on a federally approved ability to benefit test that has been identified by the State Education Department Board of Regents and has been independently administered and evaluated as defined by the Commissioner.
- A recipient must have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less for the 2017-18 academic year, \$110,000 or less for the 2018-19 academic year, and \$125,000 or less for academic years 2019-20 and thereafter.
- A recipient must be matriculated and pursuing his or her undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University. Students who have earned an Associate's degree (and who enroll immediately after completing their Associate's degree) may receive an award for purposes of completing a Bachelor's degree.