



## Understanding College Costs, Tuition & Student Financial Aid at the State University of New York

### Benefits of a College Education

#### Inside:

Benefits of a College Education	1
Paying for College is a Partnership	1
A Closer Look at College Costs & Tuition	2
Determining Student Financial Need	2
Student Grant and Loan Options	2
Facts About SUNY	3
Federal and NYS Grants at a Glance	3
FY 2009 Federal Student Aid Requests	4

#### For More Information, Please Contact:

SUNY Washington Office  
444 North Capitol St, NW  
Suite 221  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 220-1315  
Fax: (202) 220-1372

The cost of attending college is a top concern across New York State and the nation. A college education, once perceived to be a luxury of only a privileged few is now widely viewed as a necessity that contributes to financial and social successes. Academic leaders, policymakers and the public continue to seek ways to ensure those who want to pursue their college goals find higher education to be both accessible and affordable.

A college education is an investment in one's self and in one's future. Statistics illustrate that a college edu-

cation is an investment that can provide both tangible and intangible benefits. When compared to those who have earned only a high school diploma:

- College graduates have higher levels of earnings and ultimately return higher tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments.
- College graduates average nearly 60% higher earnings than high school graduates.
- College graduates are more likely to be in better health, more likely to

vote, more likely to donate blood, and more likely to own homes than high school graduates.

While few would argue against the merits of a college education, many are unsure of the factors that determine the costs of a higher education, who pays for those costs, the factors determining college tuition and expenses, and what financing options are available for current and prospective college students.

1. Statistics taken from <http://professionals.collegeboard.com>

### Paying for College is a Partnership

For most students, paying for college is a shared task that starts with individual students and their families in partnership with the federal government, the states, institutions, foundations, and other funding sources.

Federal Title IV student aid programs, such as the Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, are essential to ensuring affordability for needy students who aspire to attend college. States also play an instrumental role in ensuring access by

subsidizing public colleges, keeping tuition within reach of their citizens, and by supplementing federal student aid with their own grant programs; in New York State, this is the Tuition Assistant Program (TAP). New York's TAP program is the largest need-based state grant program in the country. Statewide funding for the program exceeds \$850 million and more than 126,000 SUNY students receive \$260 million in TAP funds each year.

Institutions also invest

in resources that provide financial assistance for students, typically through foundations and endowments.

Another component of the funding partnership is "self help." Students and their families use savings, earnings and/or loans to pay tuition, fees and other costs. The amount that students and families are expected to pay is determined by family financial resources as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

---

## A Closer Look at College Costs & Tuition

Contrary to popular belief, tuition does not cover the full cost of the education provided by a college or university. At SUNY, the cost of providing an undergraduate education exceeds the full “sticker” price charged to students and their families in the form of tuition and fees. The difference is made up through additional resources from the state, the institution, and others.

The actual price of a full college education is affected by a variety of factors: decreasing state support, increased federal and state regulatory requirements, increased energy costs, updating and maintaining

technology, keeping pace with scientific knowledge, staff and faculty salaries and benefits, new equipment, ground maintenance, and other expenses. Colleges and universities must balance these costs with anticipated support from charitable assistance, endowment income, local, state and federal funding when setting the cost of tuition.

The SUNY Board of Trustees has power, by statute, to set tuition rates for state-operated campuses, and because the Board is subject to New York State public meeting laws, all proposed tuition increases are made public and covered widely by media

across New York State. This allows the opportunity for students, parents and the public to comment on proposed tuition increases.

The SUNY Board of Trustees, however, may only set tuition rates after the State budget has been enacted. Thus, the ability of the SUNY Board of Trustees to set tuition rates is constrained by decisions made by the Governor and New York State Legislature as to the size of the enacted “tuition appropriation.” SUNY tuition was last increased in 2003. Though tuition has remained stable since then, certain fees across the system have increased.

### 2007-08 Projected

**SUNY “All Funds” Budget:  
\$10.08 billion**

**Total New York State  
Support: \$3.48 billion**

**Tuition: \$939.3 million**

*Additional SUNY budget funds are from community college sponsors, hospital revenue, sponsored activity and other campus activities.*

For every state dollar received (\$3,484 billion in total), SUNY generates \$8 in total spending in NYS. The 2007-08 all-funds budget of \$10,080.5 billion yields an estimated total economic impact of \$27.5 billion in the State's economy.

## Determining Student Financial Need

As previously mentioned, paying for college is a partnership between several key players. Colleges and universities are responsible for coordinating, or packaging, the funds received from those sources to cover a student's full cost of attendance.

**To receive financial aid, a student must complete a financial aid application each year. Eligibility for**

**nearly all of the financial aid administered to SUNY students is based on the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA).** The family's contribution is determined by a formula established in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act, as amended, based on information reported on the FAFSA. The formula measures a family's ability to pay for college, relative to other

applicants, based on prior year income, a portion of liquid assets, debt, family size, number of students in college, and the age of the parents, among other factors.

Based upon this information, the college financial aid office determines a student's ‘financial need,’ the difference between the cost of attendance and the family's contribution. The real cost

of attendance includes direct tuition and fees but students must also pay for books, room, board, travel, and personal expenses to sustain themselves during the academic year. The college packages different types of financial aid to close that gap. These programs include a variety of private, state and federal grants, scholarships, loans, and student employment.

## Student Grant and Loan Options

Once a student's need has been determined, financial aid offices first examine all possible grant opportunities.

**Federal grant programs including the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and**

**Teach Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, among others. In New York State, TAP is a substantial source of grant aid for needy students.**

If a student still has need after all family contributions and grant aid has been taken

into consideration, then loans and employment become options.

There are four federal loans that a student may use: Stafford Loan (Subsidized), Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized), Perkins Loans, and Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

Qualification for these federal grant and loan programs is based on information reported in the FAFSA.

Private grants and state and private loan options are also available and eligibility for these programs is determined by the provider.

## 2007 Facts about SUNY

**SUNY Campuses: 64**

**Total Enrollment: 427,398**

Undergraduate: 386,818

Graduate: 40,580

Community College: 214,129

**Gender:**

Female: 235,641 (55.1%)

Male: 191,757 (44.9%)

Minority Enrollment: 85,023 (19.9%)

**Student Diversity:**

Black Non-Hispanic: 37,088 (8.7%)

Hispanic: 26,702 (6.2%)

Asian/Pacific Islander: 19,172 (4.5%)

American Native: 2,061 (0.5%)

**SUNY Employees: 83,547**

Faculty: 30,923 (49.2% Full-Time)

Non-Faculty: 52,624

**Total Alumni: 2,450,690**

Alumni / Current NYS Residents:

1,992,411

### 2008-09 Typical Expenses for Undergraduate Students at SUNY

	New York State Residents		Out-of-State Residents
	Living on Campus	Commuter	Living on Campus
<b>Tuition</b>	\$4,350	\$4,350	\$10,610
<b>Student Fees*</b>	\$1,190	\$1,190	\$1,190
<b>Room and Board*</b>	\$9,260	\$2,750	\$9,260
<b>Books and Supplies**</b>	\$1,110	\$1,110	\$1,110
<b>Personal Expenses**</b>	\$1,340	\$1,500	\$1,340
<b>Transportation**</b>	\$810	\$1,500	\$810
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$18,060</b>	<b>\$12,400</b>	<b>\$24,320</b>

\* Varies by campus

\*\*Average across SUNY System

Contrary to popular belief, tuition does not cover the full cost of the education provided by a college or university.

Visit SUNY online at:  
[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

*The above illustrates the estimated total cost incurred by a SUNY student enrolled full-time at any one of SUNY's baccalaureate degree programs.*

## Federal and NYS Financial Aid Programs at a Glance

*During the 2004-2005 academic year, SUNY awarded 400,000 students throughout the system with over \$670 million in grant aid.*

**Pell Grant**— Federal grant program administered by the US Department of Education. During the 04-05 academic year, \$301 million in Pell Grants were awarded to 120,000 SUNY students.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**— Grant installments range from \$100 to \$4,000 a year for undergraduate students. During the 04-05 academic year, \$16 million in grants were awarded to 30,000 SUNY students.

**Federal Work Study (FWS)**— Eligible college students join work programs through their college to earn money for tuition and expenses. The SUNY system employed more than 14,000 students that earned \$15 million in wages during the 04-05 academic year.

**Academic Competiveness Grant (ACG)**— First year and second students that have earned at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible to apply. The federal ACG provides up to \$750 for a student's first year and up to \$1300 for a student's second year of study.

**Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)**— This federal grant is new for the 08-09 academic year. TEACH will provide students up to \$4,000 per year to students that will teach in school districts that serve low-income families for a minimum of four year upon graduation. The grant becomes a loan and must be repaid if the teaching obligation is not met.

**Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**— TAP is a New York State grant program for residents who attend college in New York. Students apply for TAP as part of the FAFSA process. Undergraduate awards at SUNY currently range from \$500 to \$4,375. These grants are available for a maximum of eight full-time semesters for undergraduates and eight additional semesters for graduate students.

**To learn more about paying for college at SUNY, visit:**

# SUNY FY 2009 Federal Student Aid & Education L/HHS/Education Programmatic Priorities



## **The maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,100.**

Pell Grants provide basic college assistance to financially disadvantaged students. The grants are the foundation of a low-income student's aid package. More than 5.2 million students with a median family income of less than \$20,000 received Pell Grants in FY 2006. Until the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution set the Pell Grant maximum at \$4,310, the grant had been static at \$4,050 for five years.

## **SEOG funding should be increased to \$1 billion.**

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program provides up to an additional \$4,000 in grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients in order of need. SEOG expands college options for these students. Colleges and universities match one-to-three the federal SEOG funds.

## **Federal Capital Contributions for Perkins Loans should be restored to \$100 million.**

Perkins Loans are a key part of student aid, with a low interest rate and flexible repayment terms, and they are targeted to help low-income students. Capital invested in Perkins loans is matched by schools and recycled again and again to help future generations. Perkins Loan cancellation reimbursements should be increased to \$120 million, to fully reimburse colleges for loans forgiven for students who pursue public service careers. Years of underfunding is depleting campuses' Perkins Loan revolving funds, hurting future generations of students who may want to take a public service job.

## **Federal Work-Study (FWS) should be increased to \$1.25 billion.**

FWS provides students money to pay for college through jobs on campus, in the community, and in the private sector. This self-help program encourages 810,000 financially disadvantaged students to develop strong work habits and gain exposure to potential employment opportunities. FWS funds must be matched by at least one-to-three. FWS has suffered a \$30.6 million decrease since FY 2002, and now with the pending \$2.10 increase in the minimum wage, FWS funds must be increased. Many schools will need additional federal funds to meet the minimum wage requirement for student employment, including community service placements. Without it, campuses will have to reduce FWS recipients.

## **Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP) should be increased to \$100 million.**

The LEAP program encourages states to continue to expand their own grant programs, such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in New York State, improve access for low-income students. States match each federal dollar two-to-one. At \$100 million, LEAP would provide an estimated \$270 million in need-based grants.

## **The Javits Fellowship Program should be funded at \$12.5 million.**

The Javits program provides fellowships to students of superior academic ability for graduate studies in selected fields of arts, humanities and social sciences. It is the only graduate program that supports the arts and the humanities.

## **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) should be funded at \$32 million.**

GAANN assists graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree possible in their course study in a field designated as an area of national need, such as chemistry, engineering, mathematics, nursing and physics.

## **Community Based Job Training Grants (CBJTG) should be funded at \$250 million.**

Currently funded at \$125 million, Community based job training grants (CBJTG) serve a vital national need—enhancing community colleges' capacity to train workers in high-demand, high-growth industries. The CBJTG program brings together community colleges, local businesses, and the federal workforce investment system to meet the training needs for industries such as health-care, advanced manufacturing, and energy.

## **Title VII Health Professions should be funded at \$299.5 million.**

These programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.