

College Affordability in Massachusetts

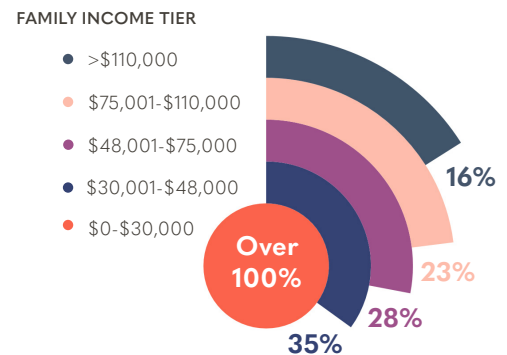
College is increasingly unaffordable, especially for students with the least resources.

Net price is the total cost of college – including not just tuition but also textbooks, transportation, and living expenses – minus any grants or scholarships the student receives. It is what students and families must pay through savings, earnings, or loans.

Comparing the net prices that students and families are being asked to pay with their incomes gives a sense of how manageable net prices are for families with different resources.

College costs after grant aid **exceed total family income** for the lowest income students at Massachusetts public four-year colleges, more than double the burden placed on any other income group.

Share of Total Income Needed to Pay for a Four-Year Public College in Massachusetts, 2016-17



The purchasing power of the Pell Grant has declined over time.

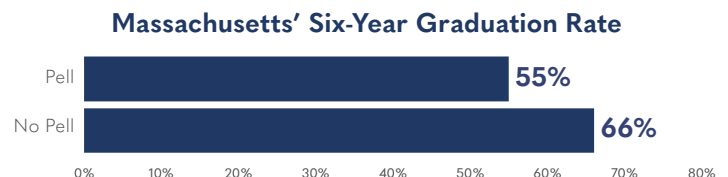
Grants and scholarships can help bring college costs within reach and help students both enroll in and graduate from college.

The federal Pell Grant is the nation's largest grant program, helping **30,200 low- and middle-income students** in Massachusetts public four-year colleges. Yet, the purchasing power of the Pell Grant has declined over time, covering about three-quarters of public four-year college costs in the 1970s and less than a third today.

In Massachusetts, the maximum Pell Grant covers just **26 percent** of public four-year college costs.

Students who receive Pell Grants are less likely to graduate than students with more resources.

Just 55 percent of degree-seeking Pell Grant recipients at four-year public colleges in Massachusetts earn a bachelor's degree within six years, compared to 66 percent of those who did not receive a Pell Grant.



Many Massachusetts college graduates leave school with student debt.

Over 7 in 10 graduates of Massachusetts public four-year colleges use loans to pay for college.



These graduates leave school with an average of **\$30,554** in debt.

22 percent of Massachusetts public college graduates' student debt is made up of nonfederal loans, which lack the repayment options and consumer protections of federal student loans.

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