

California Community College Financial Aid Facts

Student Age Groups

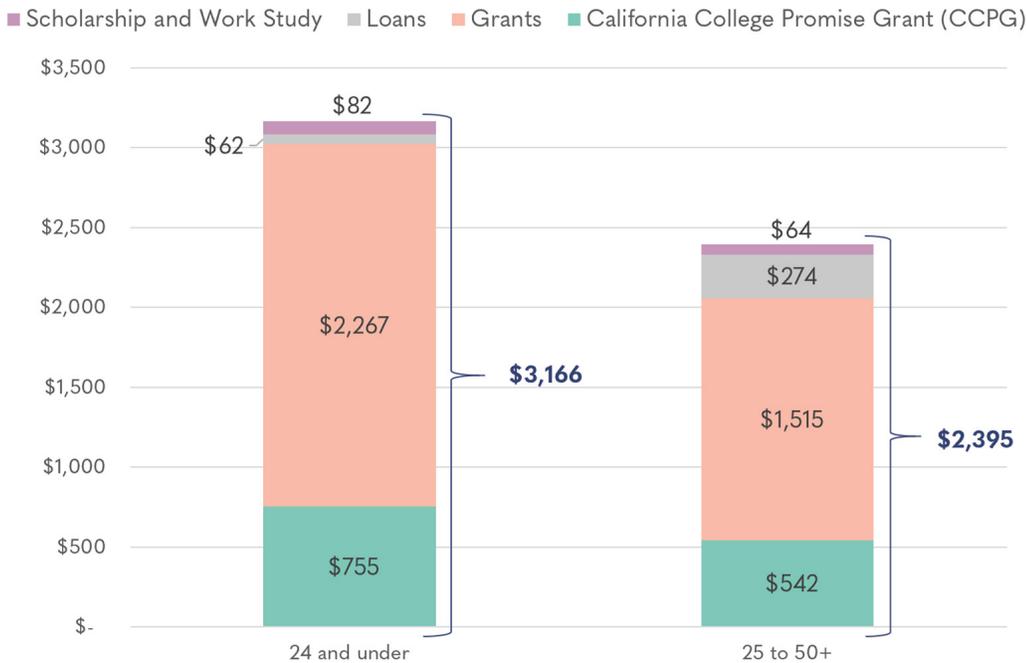
MAY 2021

This fact sheet is part of a series that explores the financial aid available to California Community College students and how it varies by region, race/ethnicity, and age, using data from the [California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart](#).

Financial aid is a key tool to help California community college students enroll in courses and persist towards their degree. However, despite total college costs exceeding \$20,000 annually for many students, they receive only a fraction of the aid received by their peers at other institutions.¹

In 2019-20, the majority (59%) of California community college (CCC) students were age 24 or younger. Per financial aid recipient,² students in this age group receive about \$3,165 in financial aid, which is substantially more than the amount received by students age 25 or older (\$2,395). Notably, students in the younger age group receive nearly 50 percent more grant dollars than their older peers. And older students are more than four times as likely as younger students to rely on loan dollars to cover college costs.

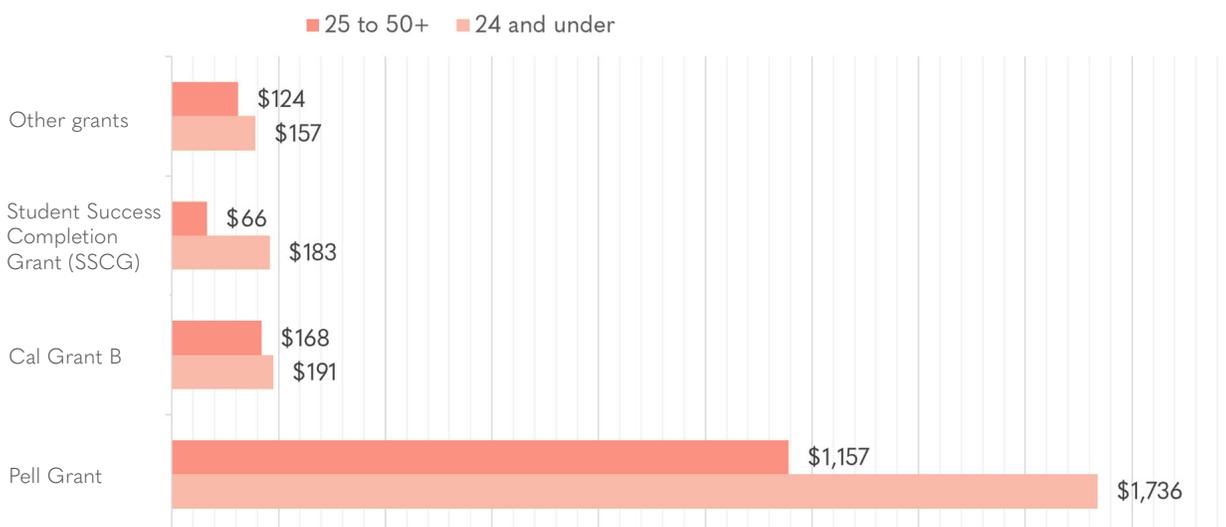
Distribution of Aid Dollars by Student Age Group, 2019-20:



Note: Figures in this chart have been rounded to the nearest whole number for visual simplicity and may be marginally different from their in-text references.

While students in the two age groups receive similar Cal Grant award amounts, younger students receive almost three times more in Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) dollars – a supplement to Cal Grants for full-time CCC students – and 50 percent more in Pell Grant dollars compared to older students.

Distribution of Grant Aid Dollars by Student Age Group, 2019-20:



Note: "Other grants" includes a total of 17 smaller grant programs such as the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Grant, and more. Figures in this chart have been rounded to the nearest whole number for visual simplicity and may be marginally different from their in-text references.

Trends in award amounts by age are largely consistent across the four regions of the state, as well as across different student racial/ethnic groups. The greatest difference between the amount of financial aid younger and older students receive is in the Central region (\$3,274 vs. \$2,301, respectively), and the smallest in the Northern region (\$3,078 vs. \$2,738). Across all four regions of the state, Filipino students in both age groups consistently receive the least in financial aid overall (\$2,374) and in grants (\$1,487). Furthermore, Filipino students in the younger age group and Pacific Islander students in the older age group receive the least in Cal Grants and SSCG. Additionally, Black students, regardless of their age, receive the most loan dollars (\$361) than other racial/ethnic groups. *For more detail on how aid distribution differs by region and student race/ethnicity, please see additional fact sheets in this series (Bay Area, Central, Northern, Southern, Race/Ethnicity).*

¹ The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), July 2020, *What College Costs for Low-Income Californians: 2020*, <https://bit.ly/3fV5wCC>, Table 1; whereas a full-time equivalent student at community colleges receives about \$2,300 in grant aid, their peers at California State University and University of California receive approximately \$7,400 and \$10,600, respectively.

² Figures calculated using data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart for the 2019-20 academic year. Grant aid per financial aid recipient is intended to show relative aid availability for students at different colleges and in different demographic groups, and given data limitations we cannot calculate the exact share of students (including those not receiving aid) who receive any type of aid, or how much any individual student receives. We calculate dollars per financial aid recipient by summing dollars received by award type, and dividing by the number of California College Promise Grant (CCPG) recipients. The number of CCPG recipients is used as a proxy for total aid recipients because nearly all CCC students who receive financial aid receive a CCPG, many along with other types of aid. For more details on common CCC student financial aid packages, including the share of students receiving the CCPG (formerly known as Board of Governors Fee Waiver, or BOGFW), please see: TICAS and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), February 2017, *Aiding Success*, <https://bit.ly/31Oklyz>, Table 3.