

California Community College Financial Aid Facts

Student Race/Ethnicity

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](#).

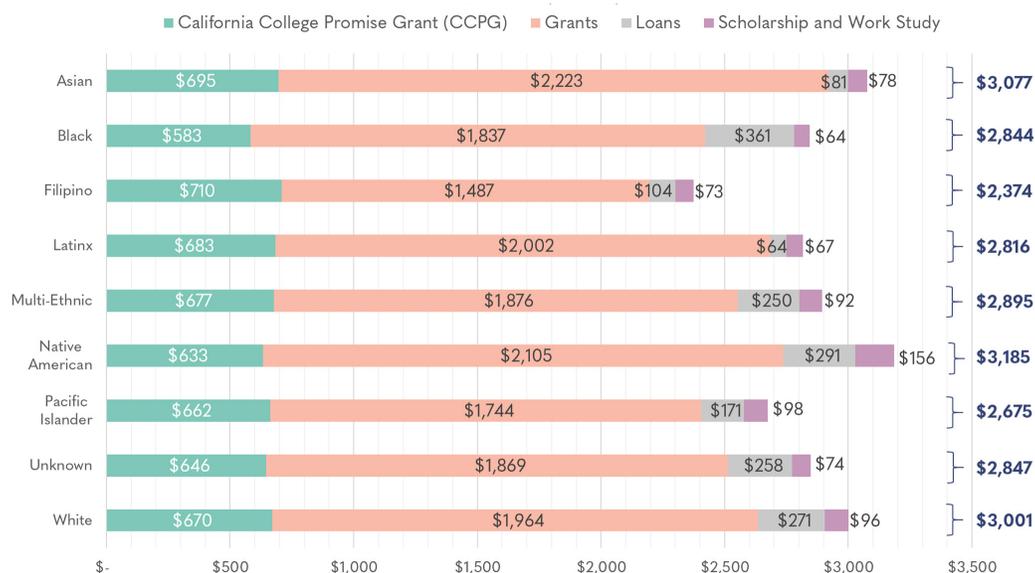
Financial aid is a key tool to help California community college students enroll in courses and persist towards their degree. However, despite total college costs exceeding \$20,000 annually for many students, they receive only a fraction of the aid received by their peers at other institutions.¹

The amount of financial aid students receive can be related to their financial need, how many courses they take per term, and even their age or prior grades. Aid distribution at the California community colleges (CCC) also differs across demographics, including student race/ethnicity, in important ways, on a per financial aid recipient basis.

Comparatively, White, Asian, and Native American students receive the most aid, typically over \$3,000 per recipient, while Pacific Islander and Filipino students receive the least (\$2,675 and \$2,374, respectively).²

The type of aid students receive varies by race/ethnicity, even among groups that receive similar total amounts of aid. While Black and Latinx students receive comparable amounts of overall aid on a per-recipient basis, grant aid makes up nearly \$200 more of Latinx students' aid. The California College Promise Grant, which waives CCC enrollment fees for those who are eligible, is among the most evenly distributed type of aid. Per-student loan amounts vary the most by race/ethnicity, with Latinx students receiving \$64 in loans per aid recipient compared to \$361 for Black students.³

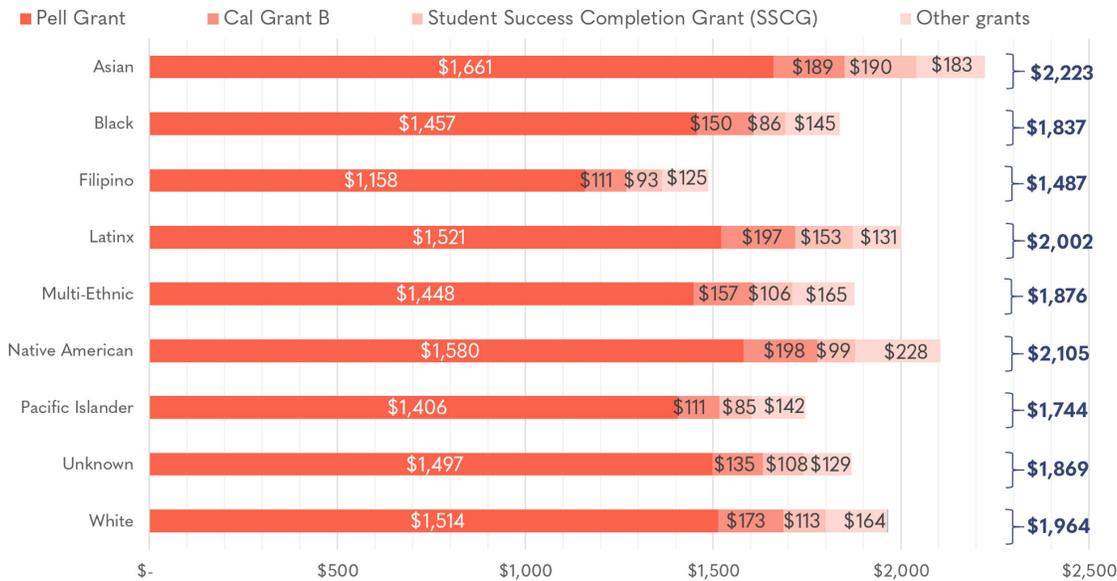
Distribution of Aid Dollars by Student Race/Ethnicity, 2019-20:



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.

Filipino students receive the least in almost all aid categories, and they receive hundreds of dollars less in total grants than any other racial/ethnic group. Asian and Latinx students receive nearly twice as many Cal Grant dollars per aid recipient as do their Filipino and Pacific Islander peers. Proportionately, the largest differences in grant aid amounts exist for the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG), a supplement to Cal Grants for full-time CCC students. Per aid recipient, Pacific Islander, Black, and Filipino students receive less than half the SSCG dollars that Asian students do (\$85, \$86, \$93, and \$190, respectively).

Distribution of Grant Aid Dollars by Student Race/Ethnicity, 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.

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, Age).

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.

³ Out of all CCPG recipients, 19% are White, 9.1% are Asian, 0.4% are Pacific Islander, 2.7% are Filipino, 0.4% are Native American, 7.9% are Black, 54.1% are Latinx, 3.9% are Multi-Ethnic, and 2.5% are unknown race/ethnicity.