

California Community College Financial Aid Facts

Northern Region

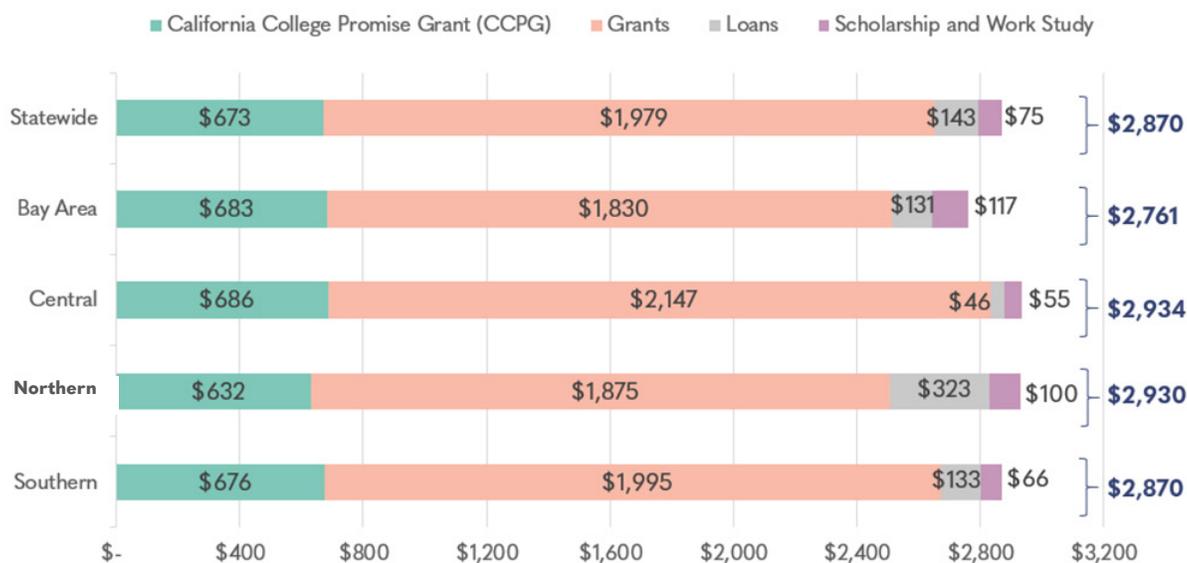
MAY 2021

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 2019-2020, the 16 California Community Colleges (CCC) in the Northern region of the state enrolled 11 percent of CCC students. Per financial aid recipient,² **community college students in the Northern region typically receive about \$2,930 in financial aid**, an amount similar to their Central region peers, and higher than their peers in the Bay Area and the Southern region.

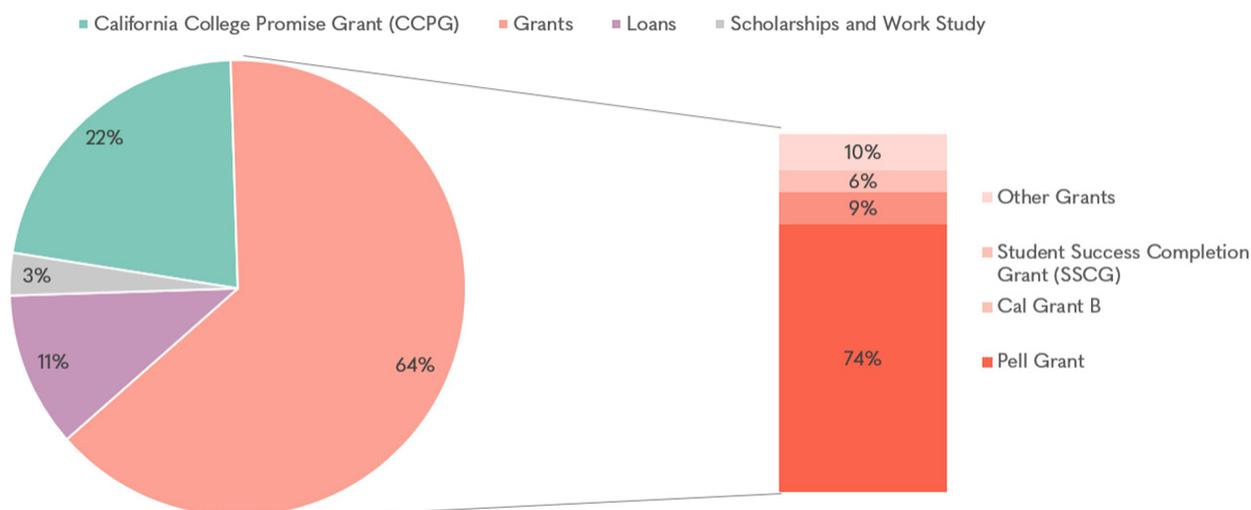
Financial Aid Amounts Per Financial Aid Recipient by Region, 2019-20:



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.

More than six in ten financial aid dollars received by CCC students attending Northern colleges are grants, almost three quarters of which comes from the federal Pell Grant program. Nine percent of grant aid dollars come from the state's Cal Grant program, a similar share as in other regions. Another six percent of Northern region CCC students' financial aid grant dollars come from the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG), a supplement to Cal Grants for full-time CCC students. Eleven percent of total aid dollars are loans that need to be repaid, the highest share across all regions.

Distribution of Aid Dollars for Northern Region Community College Students, 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.

As in other regions, Northern region community college students age 24 or younger receive more financial aid than students age 25 or older, though the gap is smaller relative to other parts of the state. Across all types of aid, younger students typically receive \$3,078 per aid recipient, while older students typically receive \$2,738.

The type of aid Northern region community college students receive also differs in important ways. Younger students receive 30 percent more grant dollars per aid recipient than their older peers, while older students receive more than three times the loan dollars that younger students do. Younger students also tend to receive more Pell and SSCG dollars than older students, but similar Cal Grant dollar amounts. *For more information on how aid distribution differs by student age, see our fact sheet here.*

Aid receipt also varies by race and ethnicity in the Northern region. Notably, in line with trends in other regions, Filipino students in this region receive the least amount of grant dollars, at \$1,060 per financial aid recipient. Additionally, Black students receive the most in loans (\$691) while Asian students receive the least (\$106). The award amounts for Cal Grants and the SSCG can vary significantly by student race/ethnicity as well, with Filipino students in this region receiving the smallest awards in both categories. *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.