

# California Community College Financial Aid Facts

## Southern Region

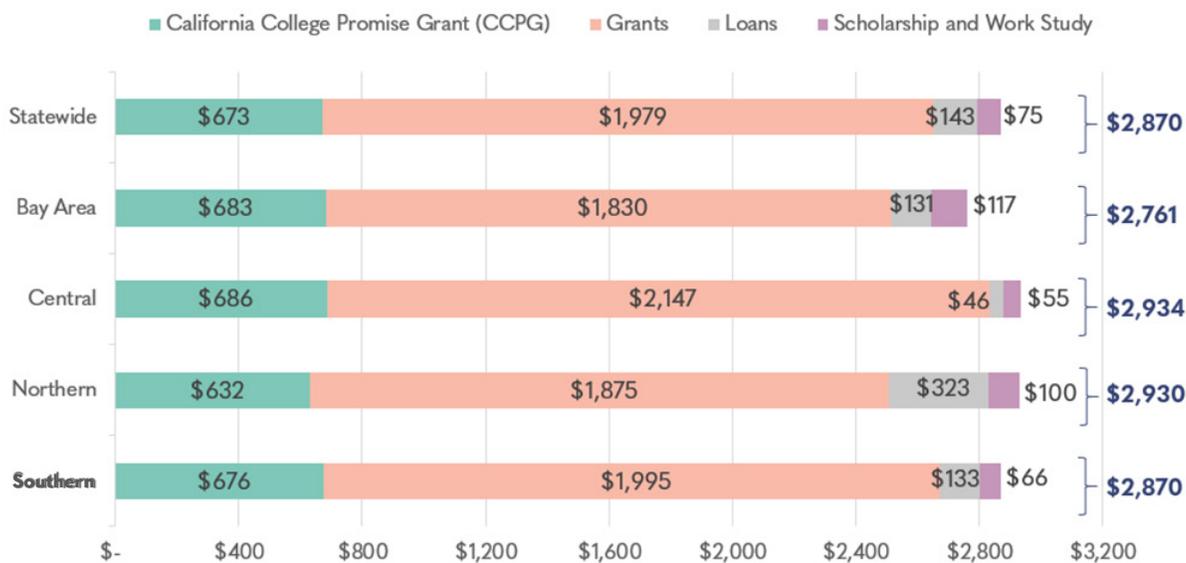
MAY 2021

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.<sup>1</sup>**

In 2019-2020, the 58 California Community Colleges (CCC) in the Southern region of the state enrolled 61 percent of CCC students. Per financial aid recipient,<sup>2</sup> **students in the Southern region typically receive about \$2,870 in financial aid**, which is more than students in the Bay Area but slightly less than those in the Central and Northern regions.

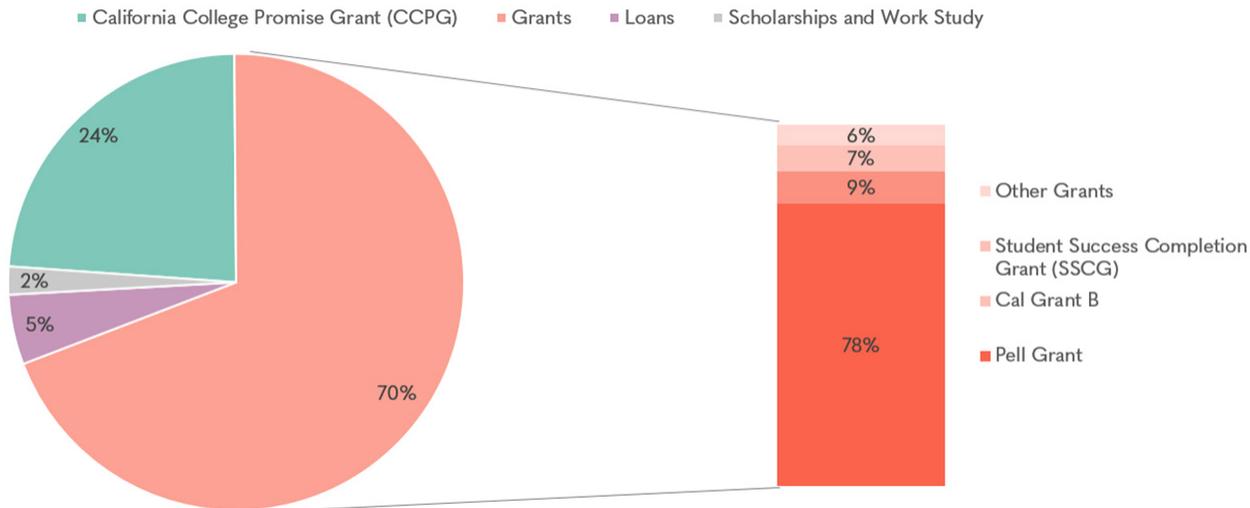
### Financial Aid Amounts Per Financial Aid Recipient by Region, 2019-20:



**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.

Seven in ten financial aid dollars received by CCC students attending Southern colleges are grants, over 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 to students in other regions. Another seven percent of Southern 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. Five percent of total aid dollars are loans that need to be repaid.

## Distribution of Aid Dollars for Southern 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 all other regions, Southern region students age 24 or younger receive significantly more financial aid than students age 25 or older. Across all types of aid, younger students typically receive \$3,184 per aid recipient, while older students typically receive \$2,355.

The type of aid Southern California community college students receive also differs in important ways. Younger students receive 54 percent more in grant dollars per aid recipient than their older peers, while older students receive almost five times the loan dollars that younger students do. Younger students 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 Southern California community colleges. Notably, in line with trends in other regions, Filipino students receive the least amount of grant dollars in the Southern California region – typically \$1,527 for each financial aid recipient. Black students receive the most in loans (\$342) while Latinx students receive the least (\$59). The award amounts for Cal Grants and the SSCG can vary significantly by student race/ethnicity as well, with Pacific Islander and Filipino students receiving the least in Cal Grants, and Native American students receiving the least in SSCG in this region. *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).*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.