University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Performance Metrics

TUITION AND FEES AND FINANCIAL AID UPDATES BY:
UNIVERSITY OFFICE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING
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REPORTED BY:
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Peer Group

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
Ohio State University
Purdue University**
University of California - Berkeley***
University of California - Los Angeles
University of Florida
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
University of Texas - Austin
University of Washington - Seattle
University of Wisconsin - Madison

* Carle Illinois College of Medicine launched in 2018.
** Indiana University has School of Medicine located in Purdue University West Lafayette campus.
*** No medical center or college of medicine.
Tuition and Financial Aid
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of the most expensive public universities in the country. This reality is apparent in our relationship to our peer group. This tuition comparison does not account for the fact that Illinois students pay a constant, guaranteed tuition rate for four years. In the graph, base-rate tuition is used, while 60% of our students pay a program differential of up to $5,004 per year. In addition to high tuition, mandatory student fees ($3058 per year, not including student health insurance) are well above the Big 10 average of about $1200 per year.

The recent Board of Trustees policy to limit tuition increases is helping with affordability, but it is important to remember that tuition only comprises 52-56% of the total cost of attendance. Other costs (e.g., fees, room and board) have risen continuously even as tuition has been frozen.
As shown by this chart, 51 percent of Urbana undergraduates receive grant aid (i.e., gift aid that does not have to be repaid) – whether need-based, merit-based, or both. Most of these students are also taking out loans that must be repaid. An additional 18 percent of undergraduates receive no grant aid and are receiving only loans or are working (this group does not appear in the chart above). When these two groups are combined, 69 percent of Urbana undergraduate students have some form of financial aid.

Both need-based and merit-based financial aid strongly influence students’ decision to attend our campus.
Pell Grants are federal grants for low-income students. The percentage of Pell recipients on the Urbana campus began to rise in 2005 with the launch of Illinois Promise – a program that supports nearly the full cost of education for Illinois residents whose family income is at or below the federal poverty level. This fall, we welcomed 341 new Illinois Promise students to campus, bringing the campus total to 1,117. Since 2010, our percentage of Pell students has held steady at around 20 percent.

Poverty level for a family of four is $24,600.
This chart shows the percentage of Urbana undergraduates whose financial need was fully met. (Financial need is defined as the estimated cost of attendance – tuition, fees, housing, food, books, personal expenses – less the expected family contribution calculated from the FAFSA by federal formula.)
As previously noted, financial need is the difference between total cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. We meet a great deal of that need through a combination of federal grants (Pell), state grants (MAP), institutional grant aid, loans, and work-study. Note that the lower a student’s family income, the greater the percentage of their financial need we meet.

Although our campus does not have the resources to meet all documented financial need, we continue to address this issue. Over the past five years, annual grant aid from funds managed by the campus has increased by $28 million dollars. As a result, the growth in the total amount of unmet need for the campus has slowed and currently stands at $124.6M in FY18. Still, this is a critical campus metric. The top two reasons cited by admitted students for why they decided not to attend the University of Illinois relates to our costs and their wish for more financial aid and scholarships.

Beginning Fall 2019, the campus is introducing Illinois Commitment, which is a financial aid package that provides scholarships and grants to cover tuition and campus fees for students who are Illinois residents and have a family income of $61,000 or less. Also, there will be a new AIM High Grant program that provides $5,000 per year merit-based awards to undergraduate students.
Average student loan borrowing for graduating seniors, which had been growing steadily for the preceding decade, leveled off in recent years. This positive trend is a consequence of our campus’s commitment to provide additional grant aid for our students. It is worth noting we continue to be well below the national average debt of $28,650 and the state average debt of $29,214. Note these numbers are the average for the 45 percent of our students who borrowed money for their education; 55 percent of Urbana students graduate with no debt.
This chart shows that 27 percent of Urbana students are paying less than $3,000 for tuition (after financial aid), and 18 percent have their tuition fully covered.

Note that this is only a small part of the picture, as it does not include fees, food, housing, or books.