

# STILL LESS FOR MORE

2023 UPDATE

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**ERN**  
CONNECTICUT



# STILL LESS FOR MORE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## THE WHY

When students invest in a Connecticut institution of higher education, they deserve to have experiences that are equitable and likely to set them up for success. But some of Connecticut's four-year colleges struggle to keep that promise, achieving low rates of completion at high costs to low-income families. When schools offer less—in terms of giving students the support needed to succeed—in exchange for more—a greater expense, we identify them as “less for more” schools.

**In the short term, the findings in this report can help students making enrollment decisions to weigh their options.**

**In the longer-term, the findings shed light on a high-level of institutional need.**

Of the schools that are offering students only “less for more,” many are themselves being offered less by way of state resources. This is especially true at the state's public institutions—which have the greatest potential to become vehicles of upward mobility because they serve a large share of students from low-income and diverse backgrounds at the most affordable prices.

As a matter of educational equity, Connecticut owes these schools and their students a state-level investment that will protect affordable postsecondary options here and fund institutional support systems that yield higher levels of student success.

## THE HOW

This analysis uses the most recently available data from the United States Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to explore costs and outcomes in Connecticut colleges. Specifically, this study looks at three metrics: six-year completion rates, six-year completion rates for students of color,<sup>i</sup> and costs to students from the lowest-income families.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> We use the term “students of color” to include data from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the following racial categories: “American Indian or Alaska Native,” “Black or African American,” “Hispanic,” “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,” “Asian,” and “Two or more races.”

<sup>ii</sup> We have deemed an average net price to be “high” when it falls above average for an institution's entire cohort. See our “Methodology” section for information about how cohorts of peers were developed.

# FINDINGS ON CONNECTICUT'S FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

**1** school with a consistent **SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE  $\leq$  50%:**

- University of Bridgeport

**3** schools with a consistent **SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE  $\leq$  50% FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR:**

- Central Connecticut State University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport



**15** schools with high average net **PRICE TO STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES** in the 2020-21 school year, relative to peer institutions nationally:



- Albertus Magnus College
- Central Connecticut State University
- Connecticut College
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Fairfield University
- Quinnipiac University
- Sacred Heart University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of New Haven
- University of Saint Joseph
- Western Connecticut State University
- Yale University\*

*\* Notably, Yale is incredibly affordable for students from low-income families; it is simply not as affordable as some of its national peers.*

**3** schools on the **"LESS FOR MORE" LIST** - those that combine low rates of completion and high prices to students from low-income families:



- Central Connecticut State University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport

# A LOOK BACK AT “LESS FOR MORE” IN 2019

In 2019, Education Reform Now CT (ERN CT) released a report that compared each of Connecticut's four-year colleges to a group of its respective national peers. [“Less for More: Low Rates of Completion and High Costs at Connecticut's Four Year Colleges”](#) identified three key concerns about how well Connecticut's institutions of higher education serve students and prepare them to succeed in Connecticut's workforce: (1) too many had low rates of completion, whether for their general populations or for underrepresented minority groups; (2) almost half charged an exceptionally high net price to students from low-income families, compared to their peers; and (3) a set of colleges fell into both categories, offering students low graduation rates in exchange for high prices.

Although methodologically distinct, this 2023 analysis similarly addresses the question of what kind of educational opportunities and costs students encounter at Connecticut's institutions of higher education.

Longitudinal data suggest that the inadequate rates of completion in institutions of higher education are a long-term, deeply entrenched problem that goes beyond pandemic-era dips; and, as compared to costs at similar schools across the country, Connecticut's costs for students from low-income families also have generally remained high.

Outcomes like these demand solutions, and a section at the end of the analysis identifies promising policies to increase the equitability of higher education in the state. Broadly speaking, we propose a high level of state investment in Connecticut institutions of higher education so that they can be better poised to nurture student success at an affordable price point—and attract both in- and out-of-state candidates.

# COMPLETION RATES

FINDING

1

## Six-Year Completion

Students who enroll in institutions of higher education deserve to know that their investments of resources and time are likely to lead to skills that will help them to meet workforce demands. However, there are some four-year colleges in Connecticut that produce low rates of college completion for their students.

Table 1 below lists the Six-Year Completion Rates for Connecticut four-year colleges, with the years in which the rates dropped to 50% or below highlighted in blue.

TABLE 1: SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATES						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average (2017-2021)
Albertus Magnus College	61.3%	71.8%	61.3%	49.0%	59.2%	60.5%
Central Connecticut State University	52.1%	51.4%	57.2%	52.1%	54.7%	53.5%
Connecticut College	84.8%	81.1%	84.0%	81.9%	81.0%	82.6%
Eastern Connecticut State University	54.5%	57.7%	57.1%	55.9%	57.0%	56.4%
Fairfield University	80.9%	80.5%	83.3%	82.4%	83.9%	82.2%
Mitchell College	39.6%	45.1%	42.6%	59.4%	41.4%	45.6%
Quinnipiac University	74.8%	77.1%	77.4%	76.2%	80.0%	77.1%
Sacred Heart University	72.4%	69.8%	73.0%	72.6%	73.5%	72.3%
Southern Connecticut State University	48.1%	50.5%	51.9%	51.1%	52.3%	50.8%
Trinity College	81.0%	84.4%	82.8%	82.2%	85.2%	83.1%
University of Bridgeport	41.6%	41.6%	45.4%	39.6%	44.1%	42.5%
University of Connecticut	82.9%	84.6%	84.4%	83.0%	83.1%	83.6%
University of Hartford	54.3%	58.0%	58.7%	54.6%	58.6%	56.8%
University of New Haven	60.3%	64.7%	61.6%	64.7%	66.1%	63.5%
University of Saint Joseph	68.2%	65.0%	54.9%	56.4%	56.4%	60.2%
Wesleyan University	90.2%	89.4%	91.6%	90.9%	91.0%	90.6%
Western Connecticut State University	43.9%	49.0%	52.3%	51.2%	52.9%	49.9%
Yale University	97.4%	96.6%	97.2%	96.4%	96.9%	96.9%

There are five four-year colleges in Connecticut—Albertus Magnus College, Mitchell College, Southern Connecticut State University, University of Bridgeport, and Western Connecticut State University—that have achieved six-year completion rates of 50% or below in at least one of the school years between 2017 and 2021. Only one school, however, has graduated less than half of its students year-over-year.

**The University of Bridgeport has consistently graduated under 50% of enrolled students within 150% of normal time over each of the past five years.** In fact, the six-year completion rate at University of Bridgeport has not been above 46% at any point over the past ten years.<sup>1</sup> This means that the majority of students who enroll in this school do not graduate from there with a meaningful degree.

As a point of contrast, Table 2 below on left shows the 2021 Six-Year Completion Rates for a cohort of four-year colleges that are comparable to the University of Bridgeport nationally.<sup>2</sup> These peer schools have similar admissions standards and serve similar student populations, allowing for an "apples to apples" comparison.

TABLE 2: SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE FOR UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND COHORT OF NATIONAL PEERS (2021)

University of La Verne (CA)	69.4%
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (IN)	62.3%
Augsburg University (MN)	58.1%
Cazenovia College (NY)	55.6%
Rosemont College (IL)	49.6%
University of Bridgeport	44.1%
Houston Baptist University (TX)	43.9%
Roosevelt University (PA)	39.5%

The University of Bridgeport falls well below the average for its cohort's Six-Year Completion Rate (52.8%).

Several of its national peers demonstrate the capacity to produce better outcomes for their students.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are calculated using data from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). We have divided data for "Completers within 150% of normal time" by the "Adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus exclusions." (See: IPEDS. "Compare Institutions." Last retrieved April 2023 at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/institutionlist.aspx?stepid=1>.)

<sup>2</sup> See "Methodology" for an explanation about how we created these cohorts of national peers. The University of Bridgeport did not submit a list of peer institutions to IPEDS, so, for the purposes of our analysis, its cohort comes from [College Results Online](#), which uses an algorithm to identify similar schools.

## Six-Year Completion for Students of Color

Broken out by how well they are able to serve students of color in terms of college completion, there are also other institutions of higher education that bear mentioning.

Table 3 below lists the Six-Year Completion Rates for students of color at Connecticut four-year colleges, with the years in which the rates dropped to 50% or below highlighted in blue.

TABLE 3: SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATES FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average (2017-2021)
Albertus Magnus College	54.1%	57.7%	48.3%	42.1%	59.2%	52.3%
Central Connecticut State University	43.5%	44.9%	45.7%	47.1%	50.0%	46.2%
Connecticut College	84.7%	83.3%	84.9%	82.4%	75.7%	82.2%
Eastern Connecticut State University	44.3%	47.0%	51.5%	52.3%	48.4%	48.7%
Fairfield University	74.8%	73.5%	83.2%	77.2%	78.8%	77.5%
Mitchell College	26.2%	51.0%	44.8%	58.0%	37.5%	43.5%
Quinnipiac University	71.7%	73.4%	75.1%	66.2%	72.3%	71.7%
Sacred Heart University	73.1%	63.9%	71.1%	66.7%	66.8%	68.3%
Southern Connecticut State University	44.3%	46.1%	46.6%	41.4%	46.6%	45.0%
Trinity College	82.6%	84.8%	82.4%	82.8%	80.7%	82.7%
University of Bridgeport	34.2%	36.4%	37.9%	35.6%	40.3%	36.9%
University of Connecticut	77.2%	78.5%	81.4%	78.4%	79.5%	79.0%
University of Hartford	43.2%	46.7%	50.2%	43.8%	47.5%	46.3%
University of New Haven	51.0%	56.6%	55.0%	57.6%	55.5%	55.1%
University of Saint Joseph	59.1%	61.7%	46.9%	52.5%	43.4%	52.7%
Wesleyan University	90.1%	89.5%	90.7%	90.7%	91.0%	90.4%
Western Connecticut State University	38.2%	46.9%	51.5%	43.5%	42.4%	44.5%
Yale University	98.2%	96.3%	97.1%	96.6%	96.8%	97.0%

**There are three four-year colleges in Connecticut that have consistently produced Six-Year Completion Rates of 50% or below for students of color over the last five years:**

- Central Connecticut State University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport

In fairness to Central Connecticut State University, although its graduation rates for students of color have remained low, they have also improved year-over-year.

Table 4 below shows the 2021 Six-Year Completion Rates for students of color at the other two schools—Southern Connecticut State University and the University of Bridgeport—relative to their respective cohorts of national peers.

TABLE 4: SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATES FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR			
Southern Connecticut State University and Cohort of National Peers (2021)		University of Bridgeport and Cohort of National Peers (2021)	
Montclair State University (NJ)	62.3%	University of La Verne (CA)	70.4%
Bridgewater State University (MA)	54.7%	Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (IN)	62.5%
William Paterson University of New Jersey (NJ)	53.6%	Augsburg University (MN)	54.3%
University of Northern Colorado (CO)	47.0%	Houston Baptist University (TX)	41.7%
Southern Connecticut State University	46.6%	Cazenovia College (NY)	41.5%
Kean University (NJ)	44.5%	University of Bridgeport	40.3%
University of Nebraska at Omaha (NE)	43.4%	Rosemont College (PA)	39.2%
SUNY Buffalo State (NY)	38.6%	Roosevelt University (IL)	31.5%
Southeast Missouri State University (MO)	37.2%		
Rhode Island College (RI)	36.2%		
Indiana State University (IN)	28.0%		

Again, these national comparisons illustrate that similar schools across the country can and do produce better outcomes for students of color.



# COSTS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

FINDING

2

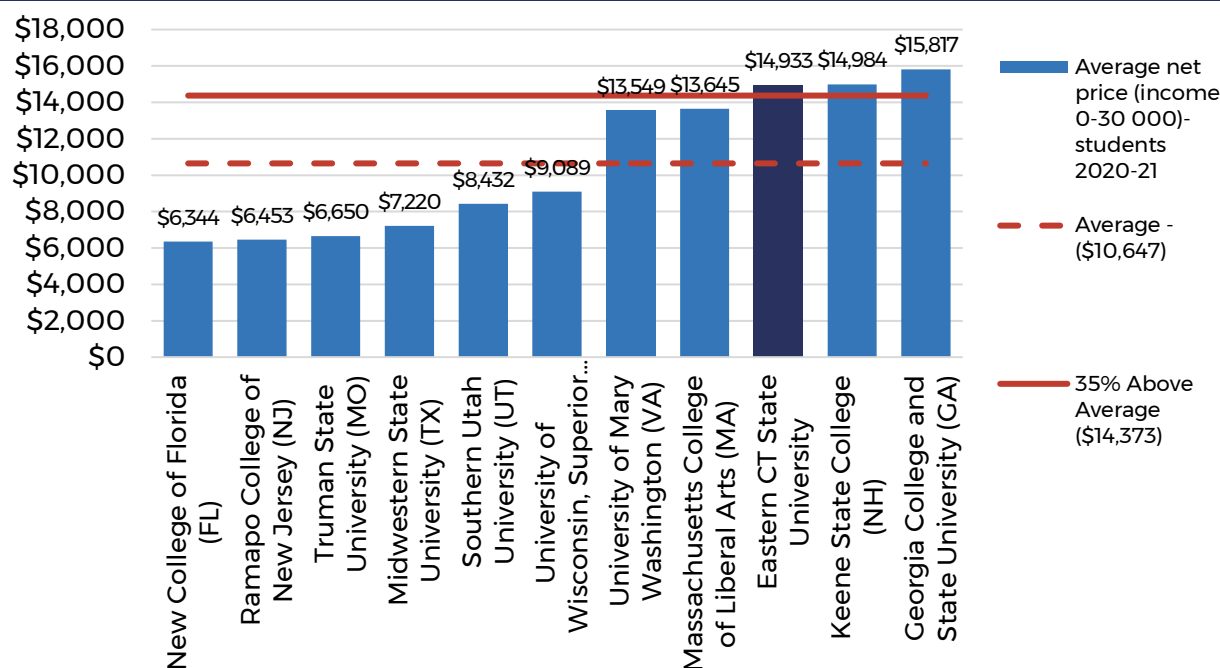
Compared to their respective peers, too many Connecticut four-year colleges charge a higher-than-average net price to students from the lowest income families, defined as those with household incomes under \$30,000. (See Appendix B for a list of these costs.)

Appendix C shows each of Connecticut's four-year colleges as compared to a cohort of its peers—similar schools serving similar students—across the country. Whenever feasible, these cohorts are made up of schools that individual colleges have identified as their own peers through their reporting to IPEDS. (See “Methodology” for a detailed explanation about how we created these cohorts of national peers.)

Only Mitchell College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University charge lower than the average in their cohorts to students from low-income families. The rest of Connecticut's four-year institutions have costs that are high compared to some or all of their peers.

As an example, Figure 1 below shows Eastern Connecticut State University charging over 35% above its cohort average to families making under \$30,000.

FIGURE 1: COHORT FOR EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
2020-21 AVERAGE NET PRICE FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (0-\$30K)



**In 2020-21, there were fifteen four-year colleges in Connecticut that charged students from low-income families a higher out-of-pocket price than the average cost in their entire cohort.** (See Appendix D.) This means that students seeking a higher education could have found comparable colleges across the country that charged less.

Relative to their national peers, the fifteen schools with higher-than-average costs are:

- Albertus Magnus College
- Central Connecticut State University
- Connecticut College
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Fairfield University
- Quinnipiac University
- Sacred Heart University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of New Haven
- University of Saint Joseph
- Western Connecticut State University
- Yale University\*

*\* Notably, Yale is incredibly affordable for students from low-income families; it is simply not as affordable as some of its national peers.*

In Connecticut, the cost of living is generally high,<sup>3</sup> which likely impacts the out-of-pocket expenses to students, especially as compared to costs in other states.

That said, five of the above-listed schools—Fairfield University, Quinnipiac University, Sacred Heart University, Southern Connecticut State University, and University of Bridgeport—were the most expensive school in their whole cohort.

<sup>3</sup> See e.g., World Population Review (2023). "Cost Index: Cost of living in a state relative to the national average." Retrieved May 2023 at <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/cost-of-living-index-by-state>.

# LESS FOR MORE LIST

FINDING  
**3**

Connecticut continues to have a set of four-year colleges that both generate low graduation rates for students and charge a higher net price than other comparable colleges serving similar student populations across the country.

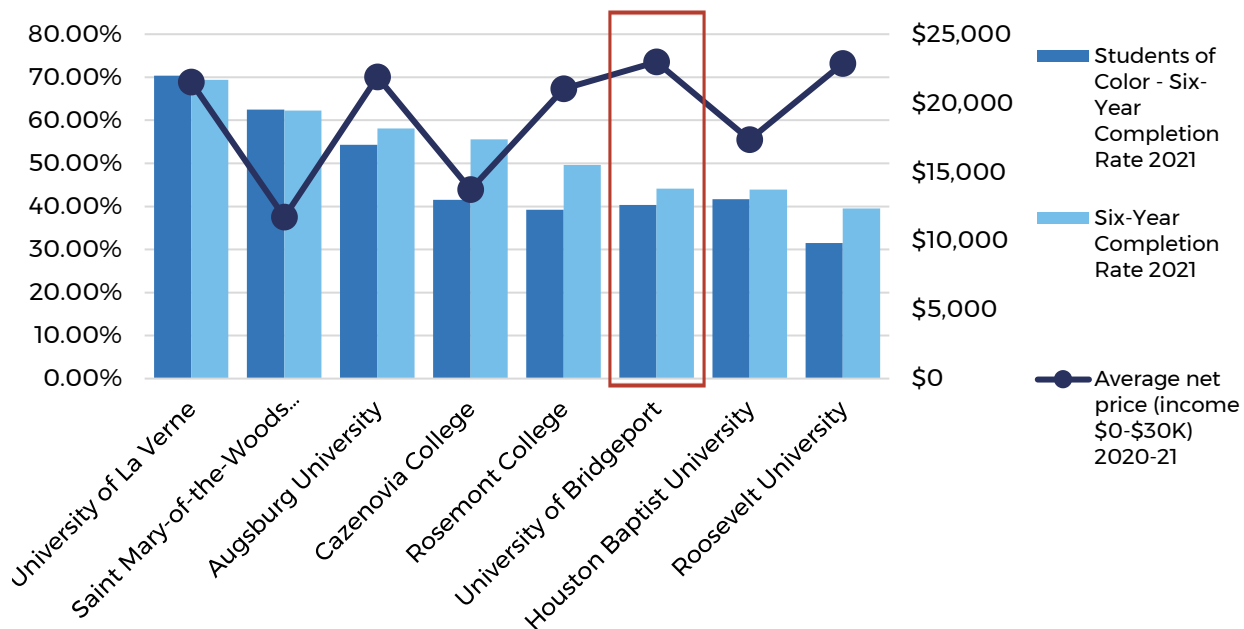
**There are three “less for more” schools in Connecticut, four-year colleges that offer low rates of completion for students at a steeper price.** They are:

- Central Connecticut State University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Bridgeport\*

*\* Notably, Goodwin University completed a \$32 million acquisition of most of the University of Bridgeport in May of 2021. Thus, one hopes to see a considerable improvement in student outcomes in future years.<sup>4</sup>*

As an example of the value proposition for students, Figure 3 below contrasts the University of Bridgeport and its peers in terms of Six-Year Completion Rates, Six-Year Completion Rates for Students of Color, and Average Net Price to Students from Low-Income Families.

FIGURE 3: COHORT COMPARISON FOR UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT



<sup>4</sup> Bamberger, C. (CT Post, 2021). "Goodwin completes acquisition of University of Bridgeport." Retrieved February 2023 at <https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Goodwin-completes-acquisition-of-UB-names-new-16198975.php>.

# SOLUTIONS

Outcomes like these—where students pay high prices, often accumulating debts, for unsatisfactory outcomes—should not be acceptable in Connecticut. It is clear that issues of both educational support and affordability are at play.

## FINANCIAL REALITIES

A 2022 report shows that, adjusted for inflation, the change in state funding of higher education per-pupil in Connecticut decreased by \$1,569.44 between 2008-2020.<sup>5</sup>

In April 2023, the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee released its response to the Governor's proposed biennial budget.<sup>6</sup> Although more generous to institutions of higher education than the Governor's original proposal had been, the \$51 billion document still creates a serious shortfall for institutions of higher education in the state. Under it, the University of Connecticut (UConn) stands to lose \$200 million over the biennium,<sup>7</sup> and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCUs) would be shorted \$335 million,<sup>8</sup> necessitating both tuition hikes and the elimination of thousands of jobs. The CSCUs encompass the four state universities—Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western—and the state's 12 community colleges.

**These financial conditions threaten to result in steep compromises or even closures within the state's public colleges—an outcome that would be devastating for the equitability of higher education in Connecticut.** Without their services, there would be even fewer affordable options for students seeking postsecondary opportunities.

Furthermore, as the data within this analysis suggest, many of the state's institutions of higher education appear to lack the requisite infrastructures to provide students with the wraparound, socio-emotional, and academic support systems they need after they have enrolled in college.

<sup>5</sup> NEA (2022). "The Higher Ed Funding Rollercoaster: State Funding of Higher Education During Financial Crises." Retrieved May 2023 at [https://www.nea.org/he\\_funding\\_report](https://www.nea.org/he_funding_report)

<sup>6</sup> CGA (2023). Senate Bill 6659: "An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor." Retrieved May 2023 at <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06659-R01-HB.PDF>.

<sup>7</sup> Phaneuf, K. (CT Mirror, 2023). "'Fiscal guardrails' steer legislators to lean budget despite surplus." Retrieved April 2023 at <https://ctmirror.org/2023/04/18/ct-budget-fiscal-guardrails-appropriations-committee-lean-cuts/>.

<sup>8</sup> Keating, C. (2023, Hartford Courant). "CT co-chair of higher ed committee: Budget cuts could 'kick-start a death spiral for' state university system." Retrieved April 2023 at <https://www.courant.com/2023/04/24/connecticut-public-colleges-warn-of-deficits-layoffs-under-proposed-budget/>.

Now is not the time to disinvest further in higher education. Rather, the state should increase its investment in public colleges so that it can ensure affordable options for students and fund institutional improvements that will boost rates of success.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The following proposed policy solutions aim to produce better results for students by increasing the affordability and quality of higher education in Connecticut— fulfilling the oft-touted goal of developing a workforce that will thrive and stay in our state.

### INVEST IN THE CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCUs) call themselves the "largest education resource for traditionally underrepresented students in Connecticut,"<sup>9</sup> and they indeed serve many students from low-income families and diverse backgrounds. Despite performing this crucial service in the state, the CSCUs have long-faced budgetary constraints.

Since 2007, the operating funds for the CSCUs have been mostly flat; at the same time, these schools are contending with pandemic recovery, high levels of inflation, and the costs of employment benefits negotiated by the current administration.<sup>10</sup> Of late, there have been continual calls for investments in "workforce development" and filling skilled jobs. These platforms ring hollow in the context of this ongoing statewide austerity campaign, and commitment to a stringent spending cap.

If we are to improve both the affordability and the effectiveness of higher education in this state, we should **increase investments in the CSCUs** so that they can better serve students in in-demand fields such as nursing and teaching; provide high-quality wraparound services; and work to improve rates of student success through interventions such as academic tutoring, supplemental instruction, professional mentoring, and mental health support.

### ADDRESS SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO COMPLETION

This year, members of Connecticut's General Assembly have been weighing an investment in the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program (RWSP), which awards need-based grants to Connecticut residents who attend public or non-profit private colleges in Connecticut.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> CSCU (2023). "A Generational Investment in Public Higher Education." Retrieved April 2023 at <https://www.ct.edu/about/2030>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> The recently released budget from the Appropriations Committee would transfer \$8.5 million in FY 24 and FY 25 from the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Fund to be spent by the CSCUs on a debt free community college program.

According to data from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, the RWSP awarded 7,056 grants amounting to \$23,182,656 in need-based funds for the 2020-21 school year.<sup>12</sup>

All told, these resources mark a generous investment by the state. Nevertheless, for an individual student, this level of investment is unlikely to dramatically change outcomes. In 2020-21, average grant sizes for need-based grants ranged from \$2,182-\$4,046, depending on the type of college (e.g. Community College, Independent College, State College).<sup>13</sup>

While scholarships for individual students are certainly admirable, they are of limited value if these same students are likely to face significant barriers to academic success after enrollment. After all, when students amass debts without ultimately earning degrees, they are often left off worse than if they had never enrolled in college at all. That is a poor investment for those individual students and for the state.

In place of RWSP, the State of Connecticut should establish incentives for innovative, systemic solutions at the **institutional-level**. These should be targeted to help more students to graduate on-time and enter the workforce with the skills and credentials they need to succeed. Specifically, we recommend:

- A state-level **audit of the barriers** that impede student completion after enrollment at institutions of higher education.
- State-level appropriations to fund **wraparound services** at institutions of higher education—such as tutoring, mentoring, mental health, transportation, food, housing supports, and childcare.
- Increased state-level investments in the **Minority Advancement Program** (MAP), which provides competitive grants to institutions of higher education that are investing in college completion for minority students. A sub-set of MAP, the Promoting Academic Student Success Program (PASS) specifically aims to provide support and skills development for students of color who are on academic probation in college. In the 2022-23 academic year, PASS was awarded only \$715,000 for its efforts across the state's postsecondary institutions. At present levels, this effort is woefully underfunded.<sup>14</sup>

## **PROTECT STUDENTS WHO DO NOT GRADUATE FROM THE PREDATORY WITHHOLDING OF TRANSCRIPTS**

Across the country, many institutions of higher education withhold transcripts for students who have any amount of unpaid balance. This practice is a hindrance to students who have dropped out of college, or put their studies on pause, because it makes it more difficult for them to get jobs or transfer to other academic programs.

<sup>12</sup> CT Data (n.d.). "Roberta Willis Scholarship Program." Retrieved February 2023 at <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/Roberta-Willis-Scholarship-Program-Analysis/jdq3-wz68/>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> ERN CT (2023). "Expanding the Minority Advancement Program for College Completion." Retrieved April 2023 at <https://www.edreformnowct.org/post/expand-the-minority-advancement-program>.

It is also a practice that disproportionately harms students from low-income families because it targets those who must incur debts in the course of pursuing higher education.

In 2022, [our research](#) revealed that 100% of Connecticut institutions of higher education explicitly engaged in this predatory practice.<sup>15</sup>

This year, for the second year in a row, the Connecticut General Assembly's Higher Education Committee has advanced a bill that would **prohibit institutions of higher education from withholding student transcripts** from prospective employers as a means of debt collection.<sup>16</sup>

Given the considerable shortcomings in Connecticut institutions of higher education that have been revealed in this report, we strongly urge the passage of this bill. If the higher education system in Connecticut fails a student, we ought to protect that student from further harm, whenever possible.

## **INVEST IN IMPROVING THE EQUITABILITY OF THE K-12 SYSTEM**

Unfortunately, some of the completion issues identified in this report likely stem from a public education system that has inadequately prepared its K-12 students to succeed after high school graduation.

According to 2022 research by the Connecticut State Department of Education, 46.4% of the students from the 2011 graduating cohort who enrolled in one of the CSCUs participated in at least one remediation course. For Black and Hispanic students, this rate was 64.4% and 64.7%, respectively.<sup>17</sup>

High rates of remediation suggest that the K-12 education system has fallen short, and they are also costly—in terms of tuition and time to graduation.

In the long-term, those who are passionate about improving higher education should recognize the importance of first ensuring a **high-quality, public K-12 education for every Connecticut student**.

<sup>15</sup> ERN CT (2022). "End the Transcript Trap in Connecticut." Retrieved April 2023 at <https://www.edreformnowct.org/post/the-transcript-trap>.

<sup>16</sup> CGA (2023). Senate Bill 922: "An Act Prohibiting an Institution of Higher Education from Withholding Transcripts." Retrieved April 2023 at [https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB-922](https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB-922).

<sup>17</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education (2022). "Credit Attainment and Remediation: Results from P20WIN for the Graduation Cohort of 2011." Retrieved April 2023 at [https://www.ct.edu/files/pdfs/P20WIN%20Cohort%20of%202011%20Results%20Summary\\_v4.pdf](https://www.ct.edu/files/pdfs/P20WIN%20Cohort%20of%202011%20Results%20Summary_v4.pdf).

# METHODOLOGY

This analysis is based on the most recent information available from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), as of its writing. We analyzed data for each of Connecticut's four-year colleges—excluding for-profit institutions, theological institutions, community colleges, and Goodwin College. We pulled IPEDS data for the years 2017-2021 on both six-year completers and average net prices to students from families with a household income below \$30,000.

**Six-Year Completion Rates:** To calculate Six-Year Completion Rates, we divided the number of students who were categorized as "Completers within 150% of normal time" by the number who were categorized as being in the "Adjusted cohort."

**Calculating the “Students of Color” Category:** To calculate metrics for "students of color," we included IPEDs data for the following racial categories: "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Black or African American," "Hispanic," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," "Asian," and "Two or more races."

**Creating Cohorts of Peers:** In some cases, we used cohorts of peers, rather than only comparing Connecticut schools to one another, to facilitate a more “apples-to-apples” comparison. Whenever possible, these peers were based upon lists that the individual schools themselves have compiled in their federal reporting. To create cohorts of similar sizes, we followed the following steps:

- (1) We used cohorts of [institutions that were identified](#) as peers by each individual school in its federal reporting for IPEDS.
- (2) We relied upon [College Results Online](#)—which uses an algorithm to identify schools that have similar characteristics and serve similar student bodies—to pare down these lists into manageable sizes of ten or fewer, prioritizing schools that appeared on both this list and item #1 above.
- (3) If cohorts remained large, we prioritized schools of similar size and geographic location, until all cohorts were of ten or fewer peers.
- (4) For Quinnipiac University and University of Bridgeport, each of which had not identified peers in federal reporting, we relied solely upon College Results Online.

To ensure that comparisons were made fairly, we created all cohorts before pulling any data sets from IPEDS on either completion rates or costs.

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# APPENDIX A

## SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATES IN CT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES, ALL STUDENTS, AND STUDENTS OF COLOR- 2021

Institution Name	Six-Year Completion Rate: All Students - 2021	Six-Year Completion Rate: Students of Color - 2021
Albertus Magnus College	59.2%	59.2%
Central Connecticut State University	54.7%	50.0%
Connecticut College	81.0%	75.7%
Eastern Connecticut State University	57.0%	48.4%
Fairfield University	83.9%	78.8%
Mitchell College	41.4%	37.5%
Quinnipiac University	80.0%	72.3%
Sacred Heart University	73.5%	66.8%
Southern Connecticut State University	52.3%	46.6%
Trinity College	85.2%	80.7%
University of Bridgeport	44.1%	40.3%
University of Connecticut	83.1%	79.5%
University of Hartford	58.6%	47.5%
University of New Haven	66.1%	55.5%
University of Saint Joseph	56.4%	43.4%
Wesleyan University	91.0%	91.0%
Western Connecticut State University	52.9%	42.4%
Yale University	96.9%	96.8%

## APPENDIX B

### CT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND THEIR COSTS TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Institution Name	Average net price (income \$0-\$30,000) - 2021
Sacred Heart University	\$35,846.00
Fairfield University	\$31,018.00
Quinnipiac University	\$30,052.00
University of New Haven	\$27,400.00
Albertus Magnus College	\$26,294.00
University of Hartford	\$25,636.00
University of Bridgeport	\$22,983.00
Mitchell College	\$22,269.00
University of Saint Joseph	\$21,094.00
Connecticut College	\$19,605.00
Southern Connecticut State University	\$15,792.00
Eastern Connecticut State University	\$14,933.00
University of Connecticut	\$13,586.00
Western Connecticut State University	\$13,374.00
Central Connecticut State University	\$10,095.00
Trinity College	\$8,252.00
Wesleyan University	\$4,449.00
Yale University	\$1,717.00

## APPENDIX C

### CT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COHORTS

Cohort for Albertus Magnus College	State	Central Connecticut State University	State
Assumption University	MA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	PA
College of Mount Saint Vincent	NY	California State University, Bakersfield	CA
Dominican University	IL	SUNY Buffalo State	NY
College of Our Lady of the Elms	MA	SUNY College, Oswego	NY
Emmanuel College	MA	University of Alaska, Anchorage	AK
Mount Saint Mary College	NY	University of Northern Iowa	IA
Ohio Dominican University	OH	University of Southern Indiana	IN
Regis College	MA	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	TN
Salve Regina University	RI	University of Tennessee, Martin	TN
University of Saint Joseph	CT	Western Illinois University	IL

Cohort for Connecticut College	State	Cohort for Eastern CT State University	State
Franklin and Marshall College	PA	Georgia College and State University	GA
Macalester College	MN	Keene State College	NH
Trinity College	CT	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	MA
Union College	NY	Midwestern State University	TX
Colgate University	NY	New College of Florida	FL
Gettysburg College	PA	Ramapo College of New Jersey	NJ
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	NY	Southern Utah University	UT
Skidmore College	NY	Truman State University	MO
Vassar College	NY	University of Mary Washington	VA
Wheaton College	MA	University of Wisconsin, Superior	WI

Cohort for Fairfield University	State
Bentley University	MA
Marist College	NY
Providence College	RI
Loyola University Maryland	MD
Saint Joseph's University	PA
Stonehill College	MA
Quinnipiac University	CT
College of New Jersey	NJ
College of the Holy Cross	MA
Fordham University	NY

Cohort for Mitchell College	State
Becker College, Worcester	MA
Colby-Sawyer College	NH
Curry College	MA
Dean College	MA
College of Our Lady of the Elms	MA
Lynn University	FL
Nichols College	MA

Cohort for Quinnipiac University	State
Belmont University	TN
Duquesne University	PA
Marquette University	WI
Merrimack College	MA
Seattle University	WA
University of Dayton	OH
Xavier University	OH

Cohort for Sacred Heart University	State
Manhattan College	NY
Stonehill College	MA
University of Scranton	PA
Fairfield University	CT
Quinnipiac University	CT
Bryant University	RI
Seton Hall University	NJ
Fordham University	NY
Marist College	NY
Providence College	RI

Cohort for Southern CT State University	State
Bridgewater State University	MA
SUNY Buffalo State	NY
Indiana State University	IN
Kean University	NJ
Montclair State University	NJ
Rhode Island College	RI
Southeast Missouri State University	MO
University of Nebraska, Omaha	NE
University of Northern Colorado	CO
William Paterson University of New Jersey	NJ

Cohort for Trinity College	State
Connecticut College	CT
Franklin & Marshall College	PA
Macalester College	MN
Smith College	MA
College of the Holy Cross	MA
Colgate University	NY
Hamilton College	NY
Mount Holyoke College	MA
Union College	NY
Vassar College	NY

Cohort for University of Bridgeport	State
Augsburg University	MN
Cazenovia College	NY
Houston Baptist University	TX
Roosevelt University	IL
Rosemont College	PA
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College	IN
University of La Verne	CA

Cohort for University of Connecticut	State
Georgia Institute of Technology	GA
Ohio State University	OH
Purdue University, West Lafayette	IN
The Pennsylvania State University	PA
University of Georgia	GA
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	IL
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	NC
University of Texas, Austin	TX
University of Washington	WA
University of Wisconsin, Madison	WI

Cohort for University of Hartford	State
Adelphi University	NY
Rider University	NJ
Franklin Pierce University	NH
Johnson & Wales University	RI
Wentworth Institute of Technology	MA
Fairfield University	CT
Ithaca College	NY
Manhattan College	NY
Merrimack College	MA
Syracuse University	NY

Cohort for University of New Haven	State
Fairleigh Dickinson University	NJ
Manhattan College	NY
Monmouth University	NJ
Quinnipiac University	CT
Rider University	NJ
Roger Williams University	RI
Sacred Heart University	CT
Suffolk University	MA
University of Hartford	CT
Western New England University	MA

Cohort for University Saint Joseph	State
Georgian Court University	NJ
Goucher College	MD
Hood College	MD
Manhattanville College	NY
Rivier University	NH
Saint Elizabeth University	NJ
Saint Joseph's College of Maine	ME
Saint Peter's University	NJ
Trinity Washington University	DC
Wilkes University	PA

Cohort for Wesleyan University	State
Amherst College	MA
Colgate University	NY
Davidson College	NC
Grinnell College	IA
Hamilton College	NY
Haverford College	PA
Middlebury College	VT
Vassar College	NY
Wellesley College	MA
Williams College	MA

Cohort for Western CT State University	State
Christopher Newport University	VA
Fitchburg State University	MA
Framingham State University	MA
Frostburg State University	MD
Keene State College	NH
Plymouth State University	NH
Rhode Island College	RI
Rutgers University, Camden	NJ
Westfield State University	MA
Worcester State University	MA

Cohort for Yale University	State
Brown University	RI
Columbia University	NY
Cornell University	NY
Dartmouth College	NH
Harvard University	MA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	MA
Princeton University	NJ
Stanford University	CA
University of Chicago	IL
University of Pennsylvania	PA

## APPENDIX D

AVERAGE NET PRICE (INCOME \$0-\$30K) IN CT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES,  
COMPARED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COHORTS - 2020-21

Cohort for Albertus Magnus College		\$	Cohort for Central Connecticut State University		\$
Mount Saint Mary College (NY)		\$13,789	California State University, Bakersfield (CA)		\$4,682.00
College of Our Lady of the Elms (MA)		\$15,615	SUNY Buffalo State (NY)		\$6,899.00
Dominican University (IL)		\$16,055	University of Northern Iowa (IA)		\$7,909.00
Assumption University (MA)		\$18,205	SUNY College, Oswego (NY)		\$8,660.00
Average		\$21,013	University of Tennessee, Martin (TN)		\$8,748.00
University of Saint Joseph (CT)		\$21,094	University of Alaska, Anchorage (AK)		\$8,914.00
College of Mount Saint Vincent (NY)		\$21,282	Western Illinois University (IL)		\$9,001.00
Ohio Dominican University (OH)		\$21,431	Average		\$9,010.45
Emmanuel College (MA)		\$22,836	University of Southern Indiana (IN)		\$9,450.00
Albertus Magnus College		\$26,294	Central Connecticut State University		\$10,095.00
Regis College (MA)		\$27,174	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (TN)		\$10,720.00
Salve Regina University (RI)		\$27,364	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (PA)		\$14,037.00
Cohort for Connecticut College		\$	Cohort for Eastern Connecticut State University		\$
Trinity College (CT)		\$8,252.00	New College of Florida (FL)		\$6,344.00
Union College (NY)		\$10,627.00	Ramapo College of New Jersey (NJ)		\$6,453.00
Vassar College (NY)		\$10,697.00	Truman State University (MO)		\$6,650.00
Colgate University (NY)		\$10,923.00	Midwestern State University (TX)		\$7,220.00
Macalester College (MN)		\$11,680.00	Southern Utah University (UT)		\$8,432.00
Skidmore College (NY)		\$11,889.00	University of Wisconsin, Superior (WI)		\$9,089.00
Gettysburg College (PA)		\$12,468.00	Average		\$10,646.91
Average		\$13,279.27	University of Mary Washington (VA)		\$13,549.00
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (NY)		\$14,335.00	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MA)		\$13,645.00
Franklin and Marshall College (PA)		\$14,608.00	Eastern Connecticut State University		\$14,933.00
Connecticut College		\$19,605.00	Keene State College (NH)		\$14,984.00
Wheaton College (MA)		\$20,988.00	Georgia College and State University (GA)		\$15,817.00

Cohort for Fairfield University	\$
College of New Jersey (NJ)	\$4,889.00
College of the Holy Cross (MA)	\$9,920.00
Stonehill College (MA)	\$18,716.00
Providence College (RI)	\$19,531.00
Average	\$20,496.91
Saint Joseph's University (PA)	\$20,543.00
Loyola University Maryland (MD)	\$21,444.00
Fordham University (NY)	\$22,402.00
Bentley University (MA)	\$23,462.00
Marist College (NY)	\$23,489.00
Quinnipiac University (CT)	\$30,052.00
Fairfield University	\$31,018.00

Cohort for Quinnipiac University	\$
Marquette University (WI)	\$16,410.00
University of Dayton (OH)	\$18,843.00
Belmont University (TN)	\$19,332.00
Average	\$23,770.00
Seattle University (WA)	\$25,170.00
Duquesne University (PA)	\$25,652.00
Merrimack College (MA)	\$27,332.00
Xavier University (OH)	\$27,369.00
Quinnipiac University	\$30,052.00

Cohort for Mitchell College	\$
Curry College (MA)	\$15,615.00
Colby-Sawyer College (NH)	\$16,760.00
Nichols College (MA)	\$19,068.00
Mitchell College	\$22,269.00
Average	\$23,122.86
Dean College (MA)	\$23,947.00
College of Our Lady of the Elms (MA)	\$31,170.00
Lynn University (FL)	\$33,031.00
Becker College, Worcester (MA)	-

Cohort for Sacred Heart University	\$
Stonehill College (MA)	\$18,716.00
Providence College (RI)	\$19,531.00
Seton Hall University (NJ)	\$20,352.00
Fordham University (NY)	\$22,402.00
Manhattan College (NY)	\$22,417.00
University of Scranton (PA)	\$23,350.00
Marist College (NY)	\$23,489.00
Average	\$25,686.82
Quinnipiac University (CT)	\$30,052.00
Fairfield University (CT)	\$31,018.00
Bryant University (RI)	\$35,382.00
Sacred Heart University	\$35,846.00



Cohort for Southern Connecticut State University	\$
Southeast Missouri State University (MO)	\$6,899.00
Montclair State University (NJ)	\$8,040.00
Bridgewater State University (MA)	\$8,255.00
Kean University (NJ)	\$9,028.00
Rhode Island College (RI)	\$10,684.00
SUNY Buffalo State (NY)	\$10,733.00
University of Nebraska, Omaha (NE)	\$11,037.00
Average	\$11,164.64
University of Northern Colorado (CO)	\$12,876.00
Indiana State University (IN)	\$13,938.00
William Paterson University of New Jersey (NJ)	\$15,529.00
Southern CT State University	\$15,792.00

Cohort for Trinity College	\$
Hamilton College (NY)	\$7,555.00
Mount Holyoke College (MA)	\$7,687.00
Trinity College	\$8,252.00
College of the Holy Cross (MA)	\$9,920.00
Union College (NY)	\$10,627.00
Vassar College (NY)	\$10,697.00
Colgate University (NY)	\$10,923.00
Average	\$11,202.91
Smith College (MA)	\$11,678.00
Macalester College (MN)	\$11,680.00
Franklin & Marshall College (PA)	\$14,608.00
Connecticut College (CT)	\$19,605.00

Cohort for University of Bridgeport	\$
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (IN)	\$11,721.00
Cazenovia College (NY)	\$13,722.00
Houston Baptist University (TX)	\$17,354.00
Average	\$19,139.63
Rosemont College (PA)	\$21,034.00
University of La Verne (CA)	\$21,532.00
Augsburg University (MN)	\$21,892.00
Roosevelt University (IL)	\$22,879.00
University of Bridgeport	\$22,983.00

Cohort for University of Connecticut	\$
Purdue University Global (IN)	-\$4,855.00
University of Wisconsin, Madison (WI)	\$3,753.00
University of Washington (WA)	\$4,516.00
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (NC)	\$4,908.00
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (IL)	\$5,651.00
Average	\$7,745.27
Ohio State University (OH)	\$7,759.00
Georgia Institute of Technology (GA)	\$8,447.00
University of Georgia (GA)	\$9,820.00
The University of Texas at Austin (TX)	\$11,559.00
University of Connecticut	\$13,586.00
The Pennsylvania State University (PA)	\$20,054.00

Cohort for University of Hartford	\$	Cohort for University of New Haven	\$
Rider University (NJ)	\$16,071.00	Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ)	\$6,667.00
Syracuse University (NY)	\$17,000.00	Monmouth University (NJ)	\$15,419.00
Ithaca College (NY)	\$19,771.00	Rider University (NJ)	\$16,071.00
Manhattan College (NY)	\$22,417.00	Manhattan College (NY)	\$22,417.00
Average	\$23,731.27	Suffolk University (MA)	\$22,545.00
Franklin Pierce University (NH)	\$24,089.00	Average	\$23,748.82
Adelphi University (NY)	\$24,830.00	Western New England University (MA)	\$24,018.00
Wentworth Institute of Technology (MA)	\$25,447.00	University of Hartford (CT)	\$25,636.00
University of Hartford	\$25,636.00	University of New Haven	\$27,400.00
Merrimack College (MA)	\$27,332.00	Quinnipiac University (CT)	\$30,052.00
Johnson & Wales University (RI)	\$27,433.00	Roger Williams University (RI)	\$35,166.00
Fairfield University (CT)	\$31,018.00	Sacred Heart University (CT)	\$35,846.00
Cohort for University of Saint Joseph	\$	Cohort for Wesleyan University	\$
Saint Peter's University (NJ)	\$8,629.00	Williams College (MA)	\$718.00
Trinity Washington University (DC)	\$10,548.00	Wesleyan University	\$4,449.00
Goucher College (MD)	\$11,523.00	Amherst College (MA)	\$4,625.00
Hood College (MD)	\$13,920.00	Middlebury College (VT)	\$5,105.00
Manhattanville College (NY)	\$14,540.00	Wellesley College (MA)	\$5,206.00
Georgian Court University (NJ)	\$15,654.00	Haverford College (PA)	\$6,923.00
Average	\$16,902.45	Average	\$6,984.91
Rivier University (NH)	\$17,936.00	Davidson College (NC)	\$7,163.00
Saint Elizabeth University (NJ)	\$19,775.00	Hamilton College (NY)	\$7,555.00
University of Saint Joseph	\$21,094.00	Vassar College (NY)	\$10,697.00
Wilkes University (PA)	\$26,032.00	Colgate University (NY)	\$10,923.00
Saint Joseph's College of Maine (ME)	\$26,276.00	Grinnell College (IA)	\$13,470.00

Cohort for Western Connecticut State University	\$
Rhode Island College (RI)	\$8,040.00
Worcester State University (MA)	\$8,445.00
Rutgers University, Camden (NJ)	\$8,832.00
Frostburg State University (MD)	\$9,502.00
Fitchburg State University (MA)	\$11,886.00
Framingham State University (MA)	\$11,944.00
Westfield State University (MA)	\$12,032.00
Average	\$12,362.27
Western CT State University	\$13,374.00
Keene State College (NH)	\$14,984.00
Plymouth State University (NH)	\$15,786.00
Christopher Newport University (VA)	\$21,160.00

Cohort for Yale University	\$
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)	-\$6,711.00
University of Pennsylvania (PA)	-\$6,500.00
Columbia University (NY)	-\$3,429.00
Stanford University (CA)	-\$1,975.00
Average	\$608.82
Yale University	\$1,717.00
Harvard University (MA)	\$1,754.00
Cornell University (NY)	\$1,862.00
University of Chicago (IL)	\$2,993.00
Brown University (RI)	\$4,849.00
Princeton University (NJ)	\$5,761.00
Dartmouth College (NH)	\$6,376.00