College Affordability in UTAH

Public postsecondary education is becoming less affordable. NCAN’s research shows that, between 2015-16 to 2019-20, the percentage of affordable two- and four-year public institutions have declined for the average Pell Grant recipient. When students’ financial aid, family contributions, and work earnings fail to cover the cost of attendance, NCAN defines the remaining value as an “affordability gap.”

This is the state of college affordability for Pell Grant recipients in Utah.

**PERCENTAGE OF INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE AFFORDABLE, 2019-20**

![Percentage of Institutions Graph]

**AFFORDABILITY GAPS, 2019-20**

![Affordability Gaps Graph]

**STATE GRANT AID**

State aid programs are crucial for college access and success, and can be based on financial need, merit, or a variety of factors.

**FEDERAL PELL GRANT AID**

The Pell Grant is a federal need-based award that helps millions of students annually.

**Average Undergraduate Grant Aid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Per full time equivalent student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>$251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utah**

| Total Pell Grant Recipients | 129,140 |
| Total Pell Grant Dollars    | $547,940,895 |

**Source:** National College Attainment Network, “The Growing Gap: Public Higher Education’s Declining Affordability for Pell Grant Recipients”, www.NCAN.org/Affordability

1 A “negative” affordability gap represents an average cost of attendance that is lower than the sum of average financial aid, family contributions, and student wages from work. Conversely, a “positive” gap means there is fewer financial resources than is needed to pay for college.
College Access and Completion in UTAH

**FAFSA COMPLETION**
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines eligibility for many types of aid. FAFSA completion is strongly associated with college enrollment. Nationally, 52% of high school seniors completed the FAFSA for the 2022-23 cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Rank (all states and DC)</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA Completion: High School Seniors</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENROLLMENT**
Enrollment in postsecondary education is crucial for expanding economic opportunity. The chart below reflects the percentage of adults, ages 18 - 24, enrolled in postsecondary education.

**DEGREE ATTAINMENT**
The chart below reflects the percentage of Americans, age 25 and up, with an associate degree or higher.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey

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About NCAN: With hundreds of members across the country, the National College Attainment Network is a unique and experienced resource for organizations that help underrepresented students aspire to, apply to, enroll, and succeed in college. NCAN members touch the lives of more than 2 million students and families each year and span a broad range of the education, nonprofit, government, and civic sectors.