

UC Campuses Offer the Best Value and Outcomes for Low-Income Students

The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), an independent non-profit working to make higher education more available and affordable, released a brief in February 2016 (<http://ticas.org/content/pub/what-does-college-really-cost-low-income-students-across-california>) comparing the total cost of college for very-low-income students at the three public postsecondary sectors of California: the nine UC campuses and nearby California State University (CSU) and CA community college (CCC) campuses. They discovered:

*“In most regions of the state, it costs low income students more to attend a community college than a public university”.*¹

Figure 1: Institutions by region selected by TICAS for comparison



- 1: UC Berkeley, CSU East Bay, Berkeley City College
- 2: UC Davis, CSU Sacramento, Woodland College
- 3: UC Irvine, CSU Fullerton, Irvine Valley College
- 4: UC Los Angeles, CSU Los Angeles, Santa Monica College
- 5: UC Merced, CSU Stanislaus, Merced College
- 6: UC Riverside, CSU San Bernardino, Riverside City College
- 7: UC San Diego, CSU San Diego, San Diego Miramar College
- 8: UC Santa Barbara, CSU Channel Islands, Santa Barbara City College
- 9: UC Santa Cruz, CSU Monterey Bay, Cabrillo College

UC’s affordability compares favorably to the CSU and CCC.

Figure 2: Net cost for very-low-income students²

	Region								
	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC	13,500	15,400	13,400	13,700	12,400	15,200	12,600	11,300	13,700
CSU	10,800	9,900	11,700	11,600	9,900	9,200	10,600	11,800	11,800
UC	8,000	8,500	9,300	8,700	9,000	9,800	13,000	9,700	14,300

The following data are from the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard Dataset, the National Center for Education Statistics, and UC’s own data. They show that UC does not just provide an affordable education to a select few, but enrolls a greater proportion of low-income students than the nearby CSU and CCC institutions. Students who attend UC are also far more likely to graduate, so the dollars spent on college result in a diploma. Low-income students are equally likely to graduate at UC as their peers.

After graduation, UC students enjoy strong earnings. Both median earnings for all students and mean earnings for low-income students are presented, because the College Scorecard Dataset does not have data for every institution on low-income student earnings. Finally, low-income students at UC are more likely to repay their loans, making the federal investment in them a beneficial one.

¹ http://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/media_advisory_for_2-3-16_ca_senate_hearing_0.pdf

² Based on a dependent student with family income of \$18,000 (below \$30,000 for CCC)

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Figure 3: Percentage of undergraduates who are Pell Grant recipients (income < \$40K)

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC	19%	32%	13%	25%	47%	32%	20%	22%	25%
CSU	44%	51%	41%	64%	58%	58%	40%	40%	48%
UC	32%	43%	43%	36%	60%	56%	43%	38%	45%

Figure 4: Freshman graduation rates (3-year for CCC, 6-year for CSU and UC)

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC	17%	18%	39%	30%	19%	29%	30%	33%	27%
CSU	38%	44%	56%	41%	53%	48%	66%	62%	45%
UC	91%	83%	86%	91%	64%	69%	86%	81%	77%

Figure 5: Low-Income (Pell) freshman 6-year graduation rates for UC

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
UC Low Inc	90%	83%	88%	89%	71%	74%	85%	82%	80%
UC Non Low Inc	91%	85%	87%	91%	61%	70%	88%	83%	80%

Figure 6: Median earnings after 10 years, all students (some data not available)

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC	27,100		35,200	31,800	26,100	30,000	36,900	33,900	32,100
CSU	51,300	46,500	46,500	44,900	44,900	45,500	48,700		41,500
UC	62,700	57,100	55,800	59,200		48,700	59,600	52,000	44,600

Figure 7: Mean (average) earnings after 10 years, low-income (<\$30K) students (some data not available)

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC						33,500		38,000	
CSU	52,500	48,200	48,400	45,200	45,100	44,100	50,300		43,100
UC	76,800	65,400	62,400	71,700		50,300	70,100	57,400	46,800

Figure 8: Federal loan 3-year repayment rates, low-income (<\$30K) students (some data not available)

	1 Berkeley	2 Davis	3 Irvine	4 LA	5 Merced	6 Riverside	7 San Diego	8 Santa Bar.	9 Santa Cruz
CCC	43%		54%	62%		54%	55%	49%	55%
CSU	78%	81%	83%	77%	80%	71%	84%	82%	82%
UC	86%	90%	88%	90%	80%	82%	89%	85%	86%

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Notes and Data Sources:

Figure 1: <http://ticas.org/content/pub/what-does-college-really-cost-low-income-students-across-california>

Figure 2:

Notes from TICAS: Figures are from each school's Net Price Calculator (NPC) for a dependent student from a family of four (with one child in college) with an income of \$18,000 (or under \$30,000 at the community colleges), living independently off-campus. Among dependent students attending California public colleges with family incomes between \$0 and \$30,000, \$18,000 is the median family income (from the U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2008). NPCs were accessed in January 2016; figures are rounded to the nearest \$100.

<http://ticas.org/content/pub/what-does-college-really-cost-low-income-students-across-california>

Figure 3:

U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard (IPEDS 2013 data collection year). Statistic is the percent of undergraduate students receiving Pell grant aid. <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Figure 4:

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Education Statistics. Graduation rates are for first-time, full-time freshman entering in fall 2008 for UC and CSU, and entering in fall 2011 for CCC.

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

Figure 5:

Graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen from UC Corporate Student System. Pell students are those who received Pell at any time while enrolled. Includes intercampus transfers.

<http://accountability.universityofcalifornia.edu/2015/chapters/chapter-3.html#3.1.1>

Figure 6:

U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard Dataset (Academic years 2001 and 2002 pooled cohort measured in calendar years 2011 and 2012). Includes all federally aided students who are employed but not enrolled.

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/>

Figure 7:

U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard Dataset (Academic years 2001 and 2002 pooled cohort measured in calendar years 2011 and 2012). Includes all federally aided dependent students who are employed but not enrolled with FAFSA family incomes at or below \$30,000. <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/>

Figure 8:

U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard Dataset (Fiscal years 2010 and 2011 cohort measured in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 This element depicts the fraction of borrowers at an institution who have not defaulted on their federal loans and who are making progress in paying them down (i.e. have paid down at least \$1 in the principal balance on their loans) after leaving school. <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/>