



# VALUE

- **SMART CHOICE**

Affordable quality: 8 in 10 graduate debt-free, more than 66% of full-time undergraduates attend tuition-free

- **WINNERS**

Students win Fulbright, National Science Foundation and other prestigious awards

- **MENTORS**

Distinguished, award-winning faculty inspire, encourage and mentor students

- **CAMPUS**

Twenty-four, upgraded campuses offer unmatched opportunities

- **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Students serve NYC through CUNY Service Corps and other activities

- **SUPPORT**

\$960 million in scholarships and grants since 2000

- **TEAMWORK**

Vibrant campuses offer 199 intercollegiate sports teams and more

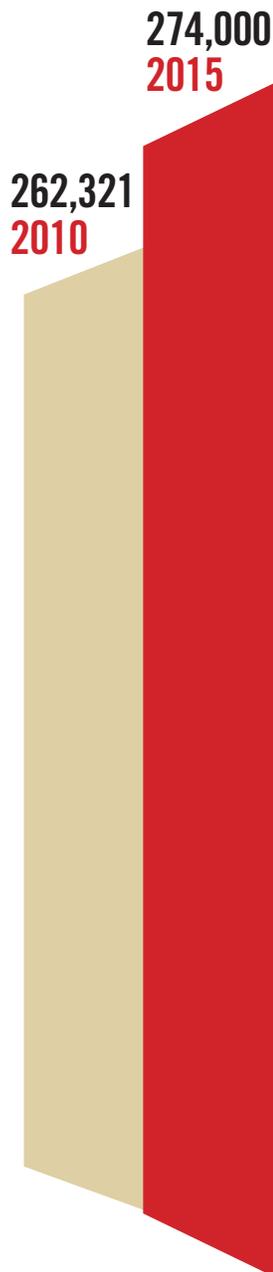
- **NEW YORK CITY**

Unmatched internship, cultural and service opportunities



# RECORD ENROLLMENT

## Enrollment 2010-2015



**CUNY enrollment has increased to **record levels** during the last five years.**



# TUITION-FREE

**More than 66%**  
**of full-time**  
**undergraduates**  
**attend CUNY**  
**colleges tuition-free.**



# DEBT-FREE

## Percentage of graduates with **Federal Student Loans**

Public and private four-year institutions

**CUNY** 19%\*

Columbia University	27%
Touro College	35%
University of California – Berkeley	42%
University of Colorado – Boulder	44%
University of Texas – Austin	49%
New York University	50%
Fordham University	60%
University of Delaware	60%
University of Connecticut	62%
Rutgers University – Newark	64%
Hofstra University	66%
SUNY – Albany	69%
Adelphi University	72%
Pace University	73%
St. John's University – Queens, NY	74%
The College of New Rochelle	84%



**More than  
8 out of 10  
CUNY  
undergraduate  
students  
graduate free  
of federal  
student  
loan debt.**

\*CUNY figure for fall 2015 is from University databases. The other institutional data, for fall 2013, is the most recent available from the Institute for College Access and Success.



# SUPPORT

**CUNY students benefited from more than \$960 million in scholarships, grants and other support since 2000.**



# AFFORDABLE TUITION

## Average Full-Time Tuition and Fees

Public Four-Year Universities and Local Private Institutions, Fiscal Year 2016



Public Universities	Cost In State	Cost Out of State
<b>CUNY*</b>	<b>\$6,782</b>	<b>\$17,252</b>
<b>SUNY*</b>	<b>\$7,803</b>	<b>\$17,897</b>
University of Vermont	\$16,738	\$39,130
University of Virginia	\$14,468	\$43,082
Rutgers New Brunswick	\$14,131	\$29,521
University of California Riverside	\$13,527	\$38,235
University of California Berkeley	\$13,431	\$38,139
University of Connecticut	\$13,364	\$34,908
University of Massachusetts Boston	\$12,682	\$29,920
Colorado State University	\$10,558	\$27,267
University of Texas Austin**	\$9,830	\$34,836
Western Connecticut State University	\$9,516	\$21,786
Binghamton University SUNY	\$9,053	\$22,173
Stony Brook University SUNY	\$8,855	\$23,935
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	\$7,437	\$15,010
California State University Long Beach	\$6,452	\$17,612
California State University Los Angeles	\$6,344	\$15,27
NYC Private Institutions	Cost	
Columbia University	\$53,000	
Pratt Institute	\$46,586	
New York University	\$47,750	
Fordham University	\$46,932	
Pace University	\$41,281	
Hofstra University	\$40,460	
St. John's University	\$38,680	
Adelphi University	\$34,034	
College of New Rochelle	\$33,600	

Source: The College Board

\*Mean tuition and fees for all institutions in the system. In some systems, tuition is not the same for all institutions.

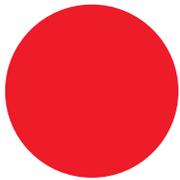
\*\*University of Texas Austin tuition was not available from the College Board. These figures are from U.S. News & World Report.



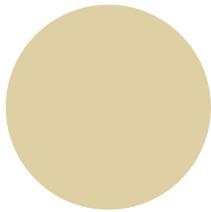
# BY THE NUMBERS

## Average U.S. Tuition and Fees

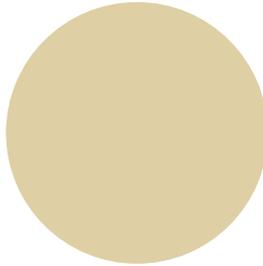
2015-2016



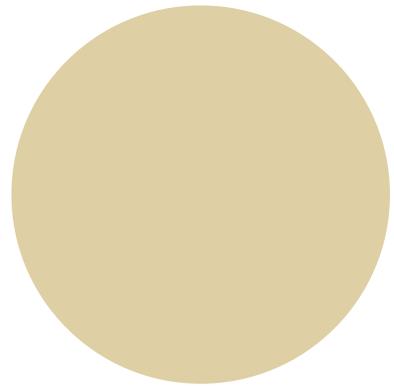
**CUNY  
4-Year Colleges**  
**\$6,782**



**Public 4-Year  
In-State Institutions**  
**\$9,410**



**For-profit  
Institutions**  
**\$15,610**



**Private Nonprofit 4-Year  
Colleges and Universities**  
**\$32,405**



# BY THE NUMBERS

•  
**199**  
INTER-  
COLLEGIATE  
**SPORTS**  
TEAMS  
•

•  
**15**  
NATIONAL  
SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION  
GRADUATE  
RESEARCH  
FELLOWS  
IN 2015  
•  
**17**  
STUDENT  
FULBRIGHT  
SCHOLARS  
IN 2015  
•

•  
**\$960**  
MILLION  
IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS,  
GRANTS  
AND  
OTHER  
SUPPORT  
SINCE  
2000  
•

•  
MORE THAN  
**66**  
percent  
FULL-TIME  
UNDERGRADUATES  
**TUITION-**  
**FREE**  
•  
**8**  
in  
**10**  
GRADUATE  
**DEBT-**  
**FREE**  
•

•  
**14**  
FACULTY  
FULBRIGHT  
SCHOLARS  
IN 2014  
•

•  
**24**  
CAMPUSES  
located  
in NYC'S  
**5**  
BOROUGHES  
ALL  
REACHED  
BY PUBLIC  
TRANS-  
PORTATION  
•





# When Tuition at CUNY Was Free, Sort of

**C**UNY was for many years associated with free tuition, so much so that people still refer to a mythical time, not so long ago, when everybody attending New York City's public colleges did so without paying a dime. The reality, however, is more complicated.

A free education for students regardless of their background or financial means underpinned the original Free Academy – and declared higher education an important societal investment – when it was established in Manhattan in 1847.

Back then, a class typically averaged about 100 or so students. But starting in the early 20th century, as enrollments grew, many accomplished students opened their wallets to study in the city's halls of public higher education.

In 1909, two years after moving to more spacious accommodations in Harlem, City College expanded its offerings to include a separate evening baccalaureate program. Over time, the system's night schools of general studies expanded throughout the city and served tens of thousands of nonmatriculants.

These students paid for their courses. Tuition, known then as instructional fees, was uniform for all nonmatriculants, who paid regardless of their financial circumstances. Financial aid for needy students was non-existent. Many hoped that one day their grades would permit transfer to the more prestigious – and free – day schools. Others attended at night because they needed to work during the day.

For many low-income students in this pre-financial aid era, tuition was a hardship. In fall 1957, for example, nearly 36,000 attended Hunter, Brooklyn, Queens and City Colleges for free, but another 24,000 paid tuition of up to \$300 a year – the equivalent of \$2,539.35 today, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' online inflation calculator.

In 1957, the colleges had \$46.8 million in revenues; 17 percent -- some \$7.74 million (a figure equivalent to \$65.5 million today) -- was from undergraduate tuition and student fees. Even with tuition, a public higher education was an extraordinary value. While students at what became CUNY paid \$300, New York University, for example, raised its tuition to \$900 that year.

Free tuition for day students lasted through much of the last century until 1970, when the University

*continued on back* ➤



*continued from front*

dropped all tuition charges and accepted any student with a high school diploma. The move ushered in a brief period of free tuition for all undergraduate students that would not survive the economic realities. In fall 1976, amid the turmoil of a dire city fiscal crisis, the free-tuition policy was discontinued under pressure from the federal government, the state, and the financial community critical to rescuing New York City from bankruptcy.

As part of the transition, New York State took over funding of CUNY's senior colleges and tuition was instituted at all CUNY colleges. CUNY students were added to the state's need-based Tuition Assistance Program, or TAP, which had been created during the early 1970s to help private colleges. Full-time students who met the income eligibility criteria were permitted to receive TAP, ensuring for the first time that financial hardship would deprive no CUNY student of a college education. Within a few years, the federal government would create its own need-based program, known as Pell Grants, providing the neediest students with a tuition-free college education.

Pell and TAP awards for CUNY students reached \$838 million – \$573 million in Pell and \$265 million in TAP – during the 2013-2014 academic year. In 2014 these programs helped to provide a tuition-free education for seven out of 10 CUNY undergraduates; since 1976 they have helped hundreds of thousands of CUNY students attend college tuition-free. Combined with CUNY's bedrock policies of academic excellence and affordable tuition, they continue to make the University one of the nation's most outstanding higher education values, in keeping with the mission of service and access that can be traced to its founding.

There are some who remain wistful for the return of traditional free tuition for all, despite CUNY's evolution, financing structure and state-funded status along with SUNY, which has always charged tuition. At stake today, however, is the challenge of providing a quality education and student support services on an unprecedented scale, to 274,000 degree-seeking students and at least 260,000 adult and continuing-education enrollments.

These 21st-century realities require year-round fundraising and resource acquisition, to provide facilities and instrumentation, services and programs of a complexity far beyond days of old, when teaching on line meant talking to students queued up during class registration.

CUNY's tuition history has tracked with the economic realities of fulfilling the University's historic mission – the principle of a free or low-cost quality public higher education that has connected many generations of immigrant New Yorkers and their children, those not born into wealth, to the ladder to social, economic and educational success.

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## AT CUNY, RECORD ENROLLMENTS DRIVEN BY VALUE, QUALITY AND SATISFACTION

As student indebtedness nationally climbs towards \$1.3 trillion, the City University of New York is providing extraordinary value, as its colleges experience continued record enrollments while more than 66 percent of full-time undergraduates attend tuition-free, 80 percent graduate debt-free, and tuition at its four-year colleges ranks among the lowest in the nation.

CUNY's consistently high enrollment, far surpassing a quarter-million college students, makes clear that students and families embrace the University's powerful combination of quality academics, remarkable affordability, financial support and the convenience of 24 modern campuses in the most exciting city in the world, as a welcome alternative to high college costs elsewhere and hobbling debt. CUNY's enrollment rose 6 percent during the five-year period that the University's predictable tuition policy, which has included modest tuition increases, has been in place. Enrollment was 262,321 in fall 2010 and 275,135 in fall 2014.

"CUNY is recognized nationally as one of the best values in education," said Chancellor James B. Milliken. "Tuition is relatively low, the vast majority of our students receive financial aid, and relatively few graduate with student debt. At the same time our faculty are world-class and we offer attractive programs that prepare graduates for success. The combination is hard to beat."

Students appreciate the value offered by CUNY. Sixty-four percent responding to the University's most recent Student Experience Survey said they were very satisfied or satisfied with their academic experience. Fifty-six percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their social experience on campus, and 57 percent expressed satisfaction with the value of their education, according to a 2015 report. Sixty percent of survey respondents said their current CUNY college experience had met their expectations very well or well. Negative responses to these student satisfaction questions were very low, ranging from 12 percent to 18 percent.

Academic quality is critical to CUNY's value. The University's campuses located across the city's five boroughs serve as both academic and cultural centers, while providing programs ranging from college readiness to associate and baccalaureate degrees, to graduate education up to the Ph.D., J.D. and with the 2016 opening of the CUNY School of Medicine, the M.D.

Outstanding, award-winning faculty – including winners of Fulbrights, Guggenheims, Pulitzer and Man Booker prizes and National Book Awards and two U.S. Poet Laureates – bring high credentials

[more](#) ►

and achievement and millions in research grants to CUNY campuses. Fourteen faculty won Fulbrights for teaching, research and consulting abroad, in 2014.

The University continues to attract motivated, high-achieving students who year after year receive academic honors that include some of the nation's most prestigious. In 2015 CUNY boasted 17 Fulbright Scholarships awarded to students for study and teaching abroad. CUNY students have also garnered Truman, Goldwater and Rhodes Scholarships and Math for America and National Science Foundation Graduate Research fellowships.

CUNY's success in building and maintaining value – part of its unwavering historic mission to provide a quality, accessible education to all regardless of background or means — is detailed in a new publication of The CUNY Value Plus, available online at [cuny.edu/value](http://cuny.edu/value).

CUNY's incomparable value starts with tuition. Average tuition at CUNY's four-year colleges, \$6,782 this fall, is among the lowest in the nation compared with other large public institutions including the University of Connecticut and Rutgers University, and New York metropolitan-area private institutions such as Columbia, NYU, Pace and St. John's.

Nationally, average tuition and fees at four-year colleges and universities have increased significantly over the three decades stretching from 1985-86 to 2015-16. At private four-year institutions, average published tuition and fees, adjusted for inflation, rose by 139%, to \$32,405 in 2015-16. The average published increase for in-state students at public, four-year institutions was 222%, to \$9,410, according to the College Board.

The low-income status of many CUNY students — 54 percent have household income of less than \$30,000, and 38 percent, less than \$20,000 according to a recent student survey — makes them eligible for federal Pell grants and New York State Tuition Assistance Payments (TAP) which, combined with federal tuition tax credits, enable more than 66 percent to attend tuition-free.

CUNY's affordable tuition is also offset by The New York City Council Academic Achievement Scholarships, privately raised funds, and foundations including TheDream.US Foundation, which this past year allocated more than half of its U.S. scholarships to CUNY students.

Since 2000, the "Invest in CUNY" campaign has raised \$2.93 billion in private donations, \$960 million of which funds scholarships, grants and other student support offered throughout the University. Recognizing that many of its students are economically vulnerable, the University also extends emergency and other help through CUNY college branches of Single Stop USA, a provider of services and benefits, and through the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Emergency Grant Fund which has given more than \$9.8 million to help more than 5,000 CUNY students stay in school in the face of hardships like job loss and eviction.

This academic year, a projected \$1.187 billion in financial aid will go to 329,500 CUNY students: \$617.7 million in federal aid, \$324.8 in state aid, \$42.2 million in CUNY institutional aid, and \$202 million in federal loans.

"I've relied on financial aid most of my academic career," said Sean DesVignes, a Brooklyn College senior and winner of a prestigious 2015 Beinecke Scholarship, which provides \$34,000 towards

more ►

graduate study. DesVignes, a nationally recognized poet, plans to eventually teach creative writing. “Writing is very important to me,” he said. “It’s taken me across the world, it’s gotten me a lot of money, and it’s going to put me through school.”

The comparatively low cost of a CUNY education also translates into low student debt for its graduates. Eight in 10 graduate from college with no federal student-loan debt, increasing their financial strength compared to debt-burdened graduates and eliminating a potential drag on post-graduate plans and aspirations. According to the latest University statistics, only 19 percent of CUNY students leave with federal loans. And those who do borrow, owe less when they graduate.

The percentage of CUNY students taking out federal loans ranges from a high of 24% at Lehman College to a low of 6% at Queensborough Community College, according to the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard website, which reports individual college-related economic data such as how much students who took federal student loans were earning 10 years after entering college.

CUNY stacks up well when it comes to such after-college earnings. According to College Scorecard, former students at the senior colleges consistently earned annual salaries that are higher than the national average, \$34,343, 10 years after entering college. Baruch’s former students had the highest average earnings at \$54,000, followed by Queens College’s at \$48,000, Hunter’s (\$44,800) and Brooklyn and City College (both \$44,500). On average, salaries of former CUNY community college students were around the national average.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, 87.6 percent of CUNY students graduating with baccalaureate and associate degrees from 2003 to 2010 were employed in the state. Of those, 88.4 percent had baccalaureate degrees and 86.3 percent, associate degrees. Among the top New York State industries employing CUNY graduates during the period were Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 14,659 graduates whose median annual earnings were \$35,080; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, which employed 8,782 CUNY graduates who had median earnings of \$46,408, and the Finance and Insurance Industry, which employed 7,984 with median earnings of \$53,400.

“The value of the CUNY system is exceptional,” said Sean Thatcher, a College of Staten Island biology major/geology minor who received a highly selective 2015 Goldwater Scholarship, which is given to encourage high-achieving students to pursue STEM careers. Thatcher, who has been quadriplegic and in a wheelchair since a devastating lake accident six years ago, extolled the encouragement he has received from his CSI professors. “Basically, without the CUNY system I would not be the person that I am today,” he said.

“A lot of the professors here encourage undergraduate research, which is hard to come by at a lot of other institutions, but here at CSI they greatly support undergraduates ... and provide them with undergraduate research opportunities, as long as they are ambitious enough,” said Thatcher, who

has researched rock formations of the Palisades Sill in North Bergen, N.J., and aspires to become a college professor. “I’m looking to break barriers.”

About The City University of New York: The City University of New York is the nation’s leading urban public university. Founded in New York City in 1847, the University comprises 24 institutions: 11 senior colleges, seven community colleges, the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the CUNY School of Law, the CUNY School of Professional Studies and the CUNY School of Public Health. The University serves more than 275,000 degree-credit students and 218,083 adult, continuing and professional education students. College Now, the University’s academic enrichment program, is offered at CUNY campuses and more than 300 high schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The University offers online baccalaureate and master’s degrees through the School of Professional Studies and an individualized baccalaureate through the CUNY Baccalaureate Degree. Nearly 3 million unique visitors and 10 million page views are served each month via [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu), the University’s website.