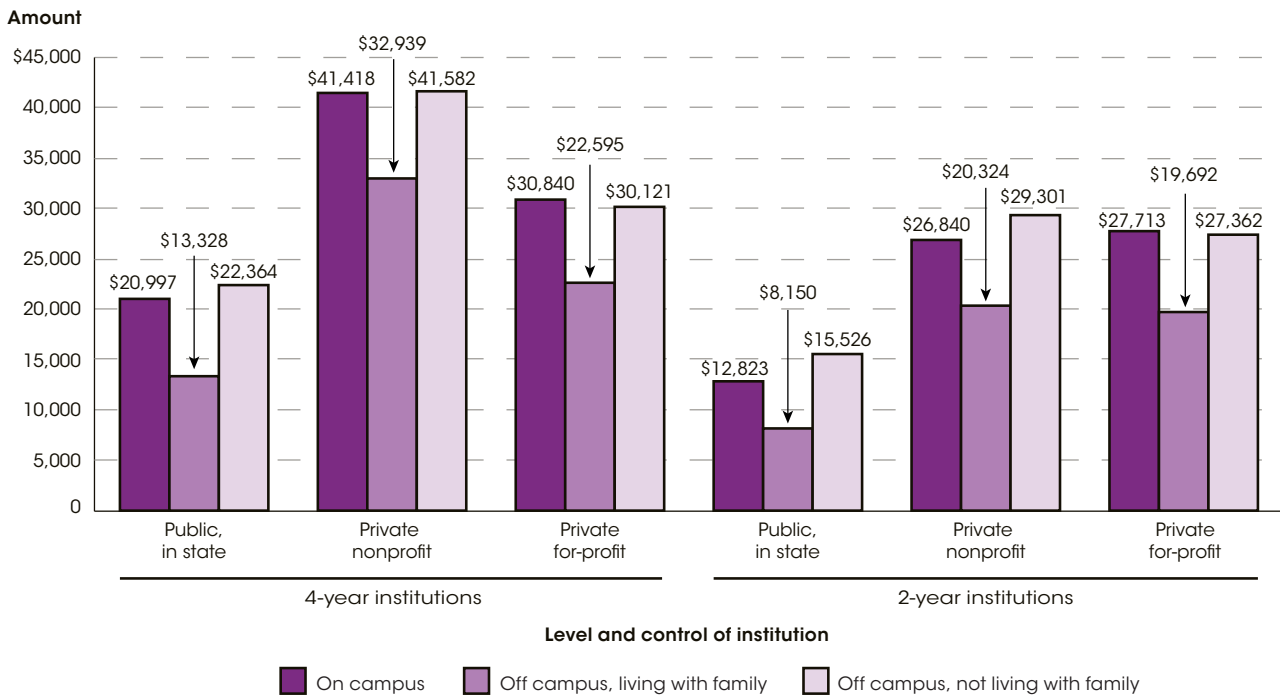


## Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution

The average total cost of attendance in 2011–12 for first-time, full-time students living on campus and paying in-state tuition was \$21,000 at public 4-year institutions, \$41,420 at private nonprofit 4-year institutions, and \$30,840 at private for-profit 4-year institutions.

**Figure 1.** Average total cost of attending degree-granting institutions for first-time, full-time students, by level and control of institution and living arrangement: Academic year 2011–12



NOTE: Excludes students who have already attended another postsecondary institution or who began their studies on a part-time basis. Data illustrating the average total cost of attendance for all students are weighted by the number of students at the institution receiving Title IV aid.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011, Institutional Characteristics component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 384.

The total cost of attending a postsecondary institution is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average for room, board, and other expenses. In 2011–12, the total cost of attendance differed by institution level and control and by student living arrangements. At 4-year institutions, the average total cost of attendance for first-time, full-time students living on campus and paying in-state tuition was \$21,000 at public institutions, \$41,420 at private nonprofit institutions, and \$30,840 at private for-profit institutions. All averages are weighted by the number of students at the institution receiving Title IV aid including grant aid, work-study aid, and loan aid. At 2-year institutions, the average total cost of attendance for first-time, full-time students living on campus and paying in-state tuition was \$12,820 at public institutions, \$26,840 at private nonprofit institutions, and \$27,710 at private for-profit institutions. Across institution levels and controls, the average total cost of attendance was lowest for students living with family. For example, the average total cost of

attendance for students paying in-state tuition at public 2-year institutions and living with family was \$8,150, compared with \$12,820 for students living on campus and \$15,530 for students living off campus but not with family.

Out of these total costs, the cost of room and board differed by institution level and control and by student living arrangements. In 2011–12, the average cost of room and board was higher for students at 4-year institutions than for students at 2-year institutions. For example, the average cost of room and board for students living on campus and paying in-state tuition at public institutions was \$8,830 at 4-year institutions, compared with \$5,550 at 2-year institutions; the average cost for students living off campus but not with family was \$9,260 at 4-year institutions, compared with \$7,470 at 2-year institutions. The average cost of room and board was also lower for students paying in-state tuition at public institutions than for students at private nonprofit and private for-profit

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

institutions. For example, the average cost of room and board for students living on campus and paying in-state tuition at 4-year public institutions was \$8,830, compared with \$9,850 at private nonprofit institutions and \$9,530 at private for-profit institutions.

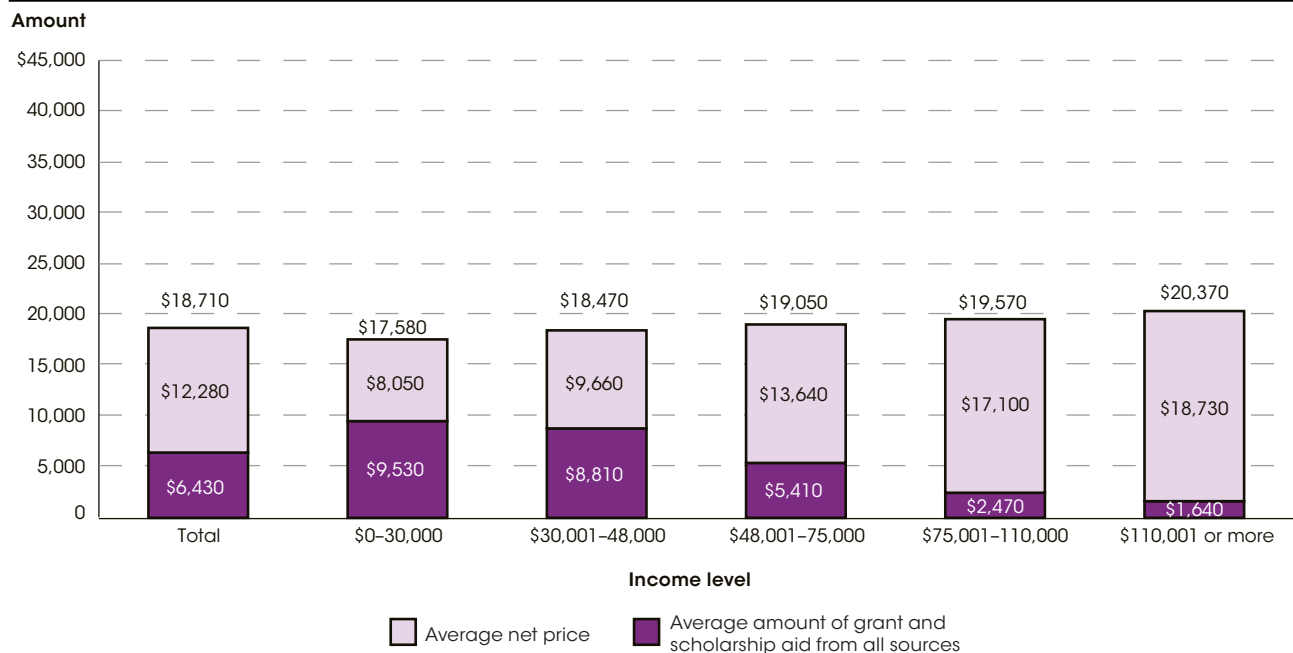
The cost of books and supplies also varied by institution level and control. The average cost of books and supplies ranged from \$1,230 for students paying in-state tuition at public 4-year institutions to \$1,420 at private for-profit 4-year institutions.

Many students and their families do not pay the full price of attendance because they receive financial aid to help cover their expenses. The primary types of financial aid are grants, which do not have to be repaid, and loans,

which must be repaid. Grants, which include scholarships, may be awarded on the basis of financial need, merit, or both and may include tuition aid from employers. In 2010–11, first-time, full-time students who received grants received an average of \$9,660 at 4-year institutions and \$4,630 at 2-year institutions.

The net price is the estimate of the actual amount of money that students and their families need to pay in a given year to cover educational expenses. Net price is calculated here as the total cost of attendance minus grants. Net price provides an indication of what the actual financial burden is upon students and their families. In 2010–11, first-time, full-time students paid an average net price of \$16,820 at 4-year institutions and \$9,370 at 2-year institutions.

**Figure 2. Average total price, net price, and grants and scholarship aid for first-time, full-time students paying in-state tuition and receiving aid at public 4-year institutions, by income level: Academic year 2010-11**



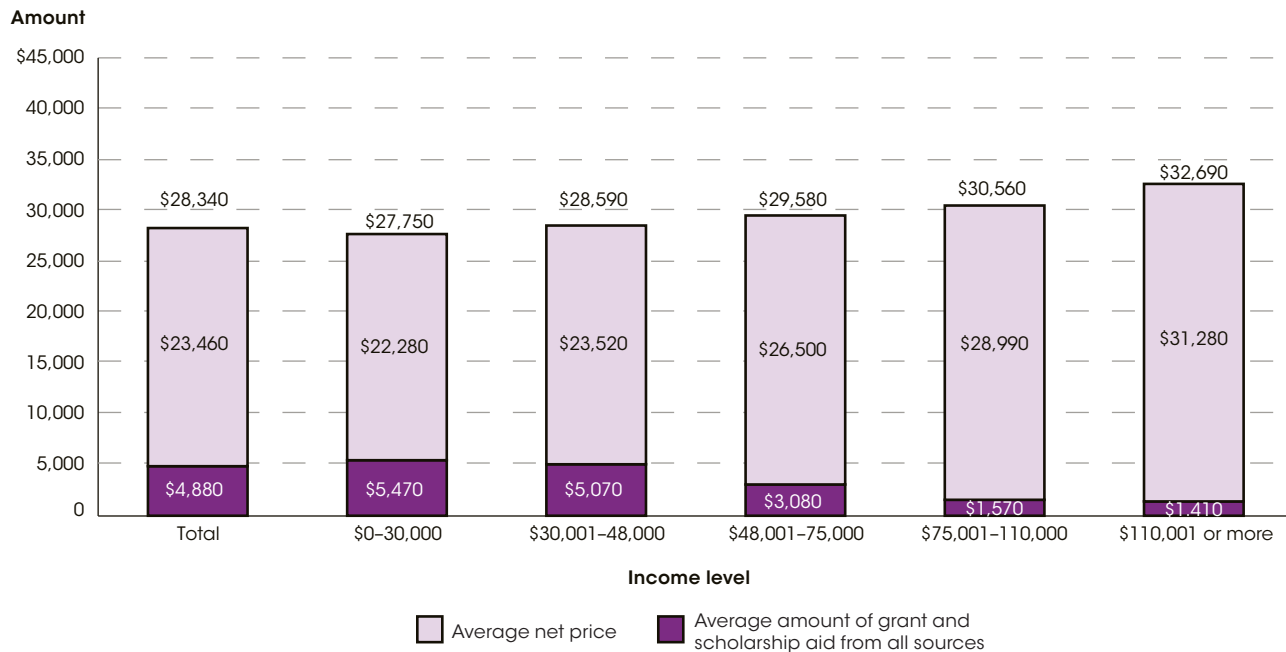
NOTE: Excludes students who previously attended another postsecondary institution or who began their studies on a part-time basis. Includes only first-time, full-time students who paid the in-state or in-district tuition rate and who received Title IV aid. Excludes the 17.7 percent of students who did not receive any Title IV aid. Title IV aid includes grant aid, work-study aid, and loan aid. Data are weighted by the number of students at the institution receiving Title IV aid. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Student Financial Aid component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 388.

The average amount of grant aid received and net price paid differed by family income level. In general, the lower the income, the greater the total amount of grant aid received. At public 4-year institutions, the average amount of grant aid received by first-time, full-time students paying in-state tuition was highest for those with incomes

of \$30,000 or less (\$9,530 in 2010–11) and lowest for those with incomes of \$110,001 or more (\$1,640). Accordingly, the lowest average net price was for those with incomes of \$30,000 or less (\$8,050), and the highest average net price was for those with incomes of \$110,001 or more (\$18,730).

For more information, see the Reader’s Guide and the Guide to Sources.

**Figure 3.** Average total price, net price, and grants and scholarship aid for first-time, full-time students receiving aid at private for-profit 4-year institutions, by income level: Academic year 2010–11

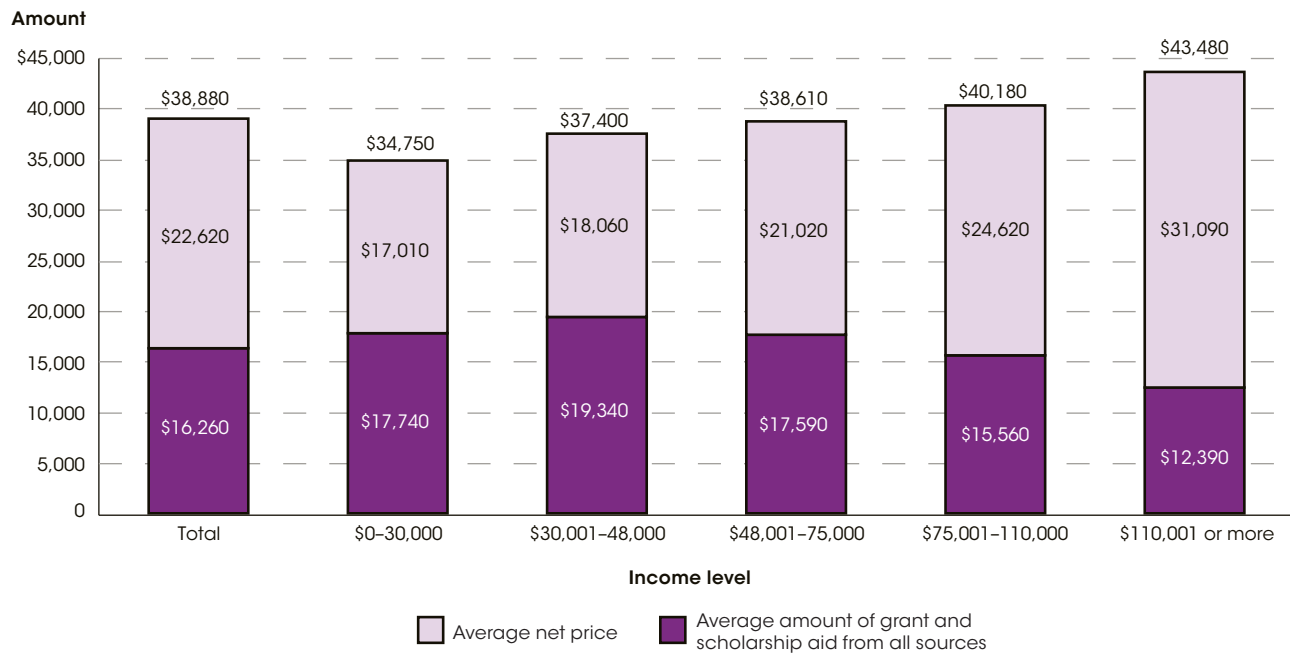


NOTE: Excludes students who previously attended another postsecondary institution or who began their studies on a part-time basis. Includes only first-time, full-time students who received Title IV aid. Excludes the 17.7 percent of students who did not receive any Title IV aid. Title IV aid includes grant aid, work-study aid, and loan aid. Data are weighted by the number of students at the institution receiving Title IV aid.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Student Financial Aid component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 388.

At private for-profit 4-year institutions, the same pattern was observed. The average amount of grant aid received by first-time, full-time students was highest for those with family incomes of \$30,000 or less (\$5,470 in 2010–11) and lowest for those with incomes of \$110,001 or more

(\$1,410). Accordingly, the lowest average net price was for those with incomes of \$30,000 or less (\$22,280), and the highest average net price was for those with incomes of \$110,001 or more (\$31,280).

**Figure 4.** Average total price, net price, and grants and scholarship aid for first-time, full-time students receiving aid at private nonprofit 4-year institutions, by income level: Academic year 2010–11



NOTE: Excludes students who previously attended another postsecondary institution or who began their studies on a part-time basis. Includes only first-time, full-time students who received Title IV aid. Excludes the 17.7 percent of students who did not receive any Title IV aid. Title IV aid includes grant aid, work-study aid, and loan aid. Data are weighted by the number of students at the institution receiving Title IV aid.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Student Financial Aid component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 388.

The pattern of average net price increasing with family income was also observed for private nonprofit 4-year institutions. However, the average amount of grant aid received was highest for those with incomes between \$30,001 and \$48,000 (\$19,340 in 2010–11), followed by those with incomes of \$30,000 or less (\$17,740), those with incomes between \$48,001 and \$75,000 (\$17,590), those with incomes between \$75,001 and \$110,000 (\$15,560), and those with incomes of \$110,001 or more (\$12,390).

The average amount of grant aid received and average net price of attendance also varied by institution control. Across family income levels, the average amount of grant

aid was generally highest for students at private nonprofit institutions and lowest for students at private for-profit institutions; the average net price was highest for students at private for-profit institutions and lowest for students paying in-state tuition at public institutions. For example, the average amount of grant aid received by students with family incomes between \$30,001 and \$48,000 at private for-profit 4-year institutions was \$5,070, compared with \$8,810 for students paying in-state tuition at public 4-year institutions; the average net price of attendance was \$23,520 for students at this income level attending private for-profit institutions, compared with \$9,660 for students paying in-state tuition at public institutions.

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 384, 388

**Glossary:** Financial aid, Private institution, Public school or institution, Tuition and fees