

美公立大學學費漲4.8% 私校突破43,000 Tuition at public colleges rises 4.8%

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據美國大學理事會 (College Board) 週三公布的報告，因為聯邦助學補助增長停滯和其他費用的成本增加，今年公立大學學費漲到了新高。在 2012-13 學年，就讀公立大學的本州學生的平均開支上漲了 3.8%，達到創紀錄的 22,261 美元。

學費佔開支增長的一半左右。公立大學學雜費上漲了 4.8% 到 8,655 美元。此外，宿舍、食堂、圖書及其他開支都顯著的增長。約三分之二的全職學生獲得助學補助或聯邦稅賦稅優惠，其餘都需自己設法支付。

因此，就讀公立大學的本州學生今年將支付的淨價格（扣除了獎學金、助學金和聯邦賦稅優惠後）上漲了 4.6% 達到平均 16,510 美元。

這是通貨膨脹率的兩倍以上，在過去的 12 個月中，通貨膨脹只增長了 2%。

雖然公立大學的學費上漲，但上漲幅度已比 2008 年的 9% 上漲大幅減少了。經濟學家和大學理事會報告的主要作者鮑姆說：「不要期待更多的改善，學費會保持超過通貨膨脹的上升速度。」

自 2007 年以來，州政府對州立大學的支助削減了 152 億美元，相當於 17.4% 的削減。同時，在大學就讀的學生人數上升了 12%。這意味著公立大學每位學生平均得到的政府補貼僅 6,600 美元，在五年前這數字是 9,300 美元。

雖然私立大學不需面對州政府補貼削減的問題，但是也要加價，因為費用增加了。

私立 4 年制大學的學雜費上漲 4.2%，今年平均費用是 29,056 美元，但總體費用上升了 4%，到 43,289 美元。但有 80% 以上的學生獲得獎學金或助學金，所以淨價格約 27,600 美元，比去年同期增長了 5.6%。

全國獨立學院和大學協會會長沃倫說，部份私立高校上升最快的成本是職工的健保開支、保險費和科技開支。此外校方也投資到學生心理健康輔導，和旨在提高畢業率的方案。

在過去的十年，每年公立和私立大學，都提高了宿舍和食堂的價格，高於通貨膨脹率約 2%。在一個典型的公立大學十年來一年的食宿費已上漲了 65%，平均 9,200 美元。同時，私立大學的生活成本，上漲了 54% 到平均 10,460 美元。

大學房屋事務協會主席戈爾說，校方不得不提高宿舍費用，因為需要維修和升級舊的宿舍，同時還要建立新的宿舍，以滿足當今學生對高科技設施、隱私和空間的要求。

戈爾說，學生不喜歡舊式公用浴室的宿舍。他說，在新宿舍裡通常兩個房間共享一個單獨的衛生間。新宿舍通常也會提供更多的公共區域用來烹調、學習和其他活動。以前我們認為是奢侈品的，如互聯網和有線電視，現在學生們都視為必需品或實用上的需要。

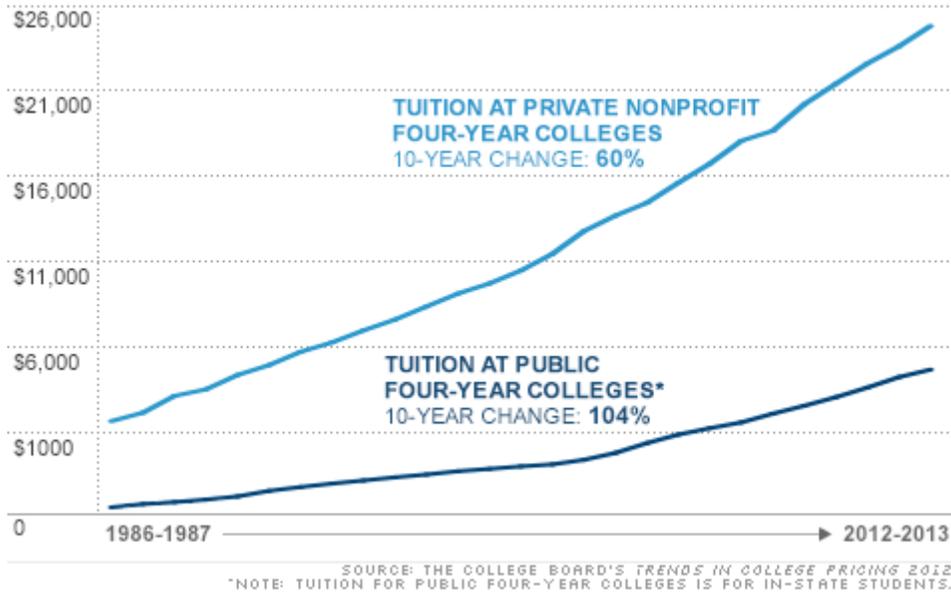
大學理事會的報告顯示，社區學院是個亮點。約 26% 的社區學院學生是全職。雖然今年社區學院的學費上漲了 168 美元（5.6%），到平均 3,131 美元，學生們似乎可以得到足夠的補助來彌補他們的開支。

大學理事會估計，平均社區學院的學生會獲得足夠的助學金和稅賦稅優惠來付學費、課本和學習用品。典型的平均費用是 1,230 美元。

資料來源：(1) 2012 年 10 月 25 日 大紀元時報 (The Epoch Times)

(2) 2012 年 10 月 24 日 CNN 財經新聞網 (CNN Money)

Tuition at public colleges rises 4.8%



Tuition hikes, stagnant growth in federal aid and increases in other expenses have pushed public college costs to new heights yet again this year, according to a College Board report out Wednesday.

To attend an in-state public college for the 2012-13 academic year, the average overall cost (or "sticker price") for students who don't receive any financial aid rose 3.8% to a record \$22,261, according to the report.

Tuition accounted for about half of that increase. Public university tuition and fees alone rose 4.8% to \$8,655. In addition, higher dorm, cafeteria, books and other expenses added significantly to the overall increase.

While about two-thirds of full-time students receive grants or federal tax breaks, many are likely to have to foot more of the bill themselves this year. The College Board's economists estimate that financial aid budgets

stayed flat, leaving students less money to cover rising college costs.

As a result, the net price (the cost after scholarships, grants and federal tax benefits) that in-state students at public colleges will pay this year rose 4.6% to an average of \$16,510.

That's more than twice the rate of inflation, which rose just 2% over the last 12 months.

While the rate of public college tuition hikes has steadily fallen from the 9% rate seen in 2008, Sandy Baum, an economist and lead author of the College Board's report, said not to expect much more of an improvement. "Tuition is going to keep rising faster than inflation," she said.

The College Board crunched the numbers to explain why college prices keep rising faster than just about everything else in the economy.

States have cut the amount of money they are giving to colleges by a total of \$15.2 billion since 2007, or 17.4%. At the same time, the number of students enrolled in college has risen 12%. That means the average public college gets a tax subsidy of only \$6,600 per student, down from \$9,300 just five years ago.

The dramatic increases in public college tuition over the years have made up only about two-thirds of those subsidy losses, the College Board said.

Private colleges haven't had to make up for state budget cuts, but have been raising prices to cover increased expenses.

Tuition and fees climbed 4.2% at four-year private schools to an average of \$29,056 this year. Overall prices were 4% higher at \$43,289. But with more than 80%

of students receiving scholarships or grants, the average private college student will pay a net price of about \$27,600 -- a 5.6% increase from last year, the College Board estimated.

Some of the fastest rising costs on private college campuses are employee health care, insurance premiums and technology, said David L. Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Colleges have also been investing in student services, like mental health counseling, and programs aimed at boosting graduation rates, he said.

In addition, both public and private universities have been raising dorm and cafeteria prices at a rate of about 2% more than inflation each year for the last decade. A year's room and board at a typical public university has risen 65% over the last 10 years to an average of \$9,200. Meanwhile, private college living costs have climbed 54% to an average of \$10,460.

Vennie Gore, assistant vice president for residential and hospitality services at Michigan State University and president of the Association of College and University Housing Officers -- International, says schools like his have to raise dorm costs to fund repairs, upgrade older dorms and build new residence halls that meet today's students' expectations for technology, privacy and space.

Gore says students don't like the old-style dorms with big shared bathrooms. In new dorms, two rooms typically share a single smaller bathroom, he says. New dorms also typically provide more common areas for cooking, studying and other activities. Finally, "things

we used to see as luxuries, such as Internet, and cable, they see as basic necessities or utilities," he said.

One bright spot in the College Board report were the findings from community colleges, which enroll 26% of full-time college students. While tuition at community colleges climbed an average of \$168, or 5.6%, this year to \$3,131, students appear to be getting enough aid to cover most of their costs.

The College Board estimated that the average community college student received enough grants and tax breaks to cover the typical tuition and all but \$10 of the average \$1,230 bill for textbooks and school supplies.

Despite rising costs and resulting student loan debt, a college education is still worth it, said the College Board's Baum. "There's a really high return" to investing in a good college education, she said.

