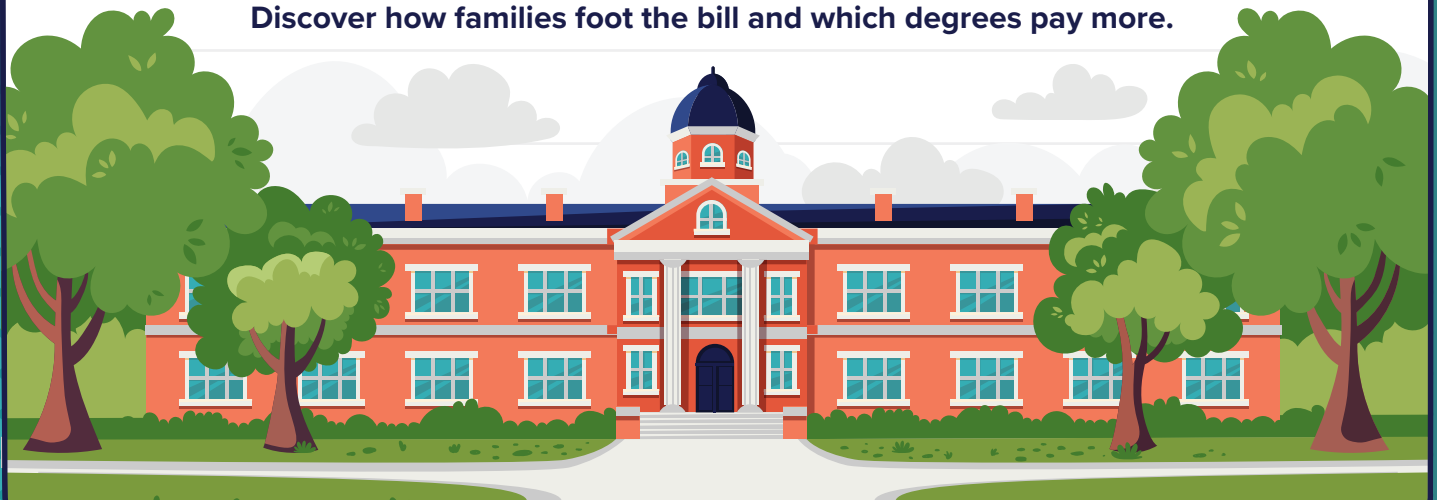


FINANCIAL FACTS

# HIGHER EDUCATION

Dive into the dollars and cents of college! The following infographic unravels the price tag of higher education, debt incurred, and the earnings potential for grads. Discover how families foot the bill and which degrees pay more.



## WHAT DOES A COLLEGE EDUCATION COST?

In the 2024-25 school year, the average published tuition, fees, and room and board for full-time undergraduate students attending a 4-year college were the following:



## WHAT IS THE AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT?

About **1 OF EVERY 5 AMERICANS** with an undergraduate degree has outstanding student debt, and the average federal student loan debt balance is **\$39,075**.

## WHAT ARE THE SALARY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATE?

Assuming these earnings, over 40 years of employment, a college grad could make **\$1.6 MILLION** more than the worker with a high school diploma.

Median annual earnings of a full-time worker with a:

**Bachelor's Degree and Higher**  
\$90K

**High School Diploma**  
\$50K

## HOW MUCH DO COLLEGE GRADS MAKE?

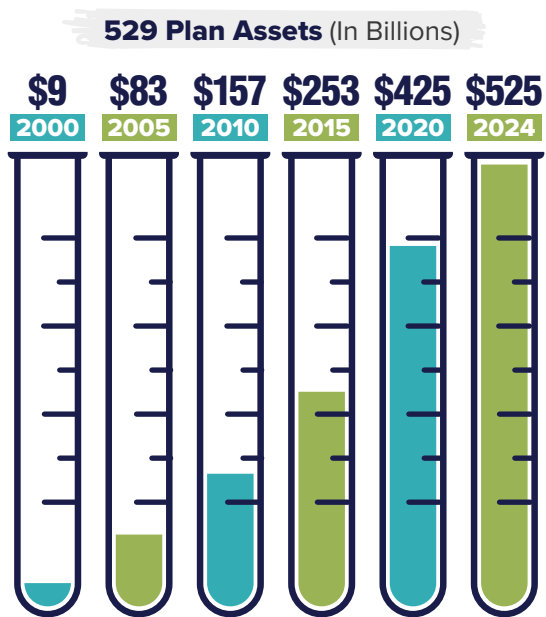
Wages can significantly vary, as you can see by comparing the median wages for full-time early-career graduates aged 22-27, based on their undergraduate major.



## HOW DO FAMILIES PAY FOR COLLEGE?

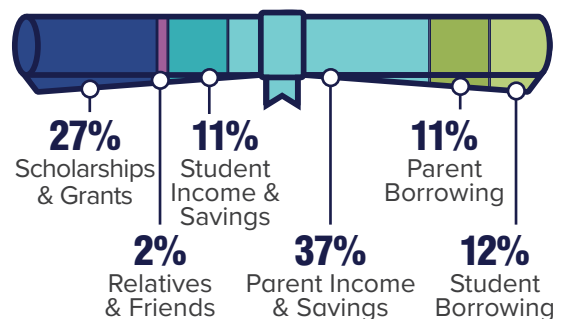
### 529 SAVINGS PLANS

As of the end of 2024, there were nearly 17 million 529 savings accounts and assets held totaled \$525 billion.



## SOURCES OF FUNDING

Contributions come from various sources to pay for college. Parents contribute the most with an average of 37%, followed by scholarships and grants.



## FINANCIAL AID

In 2023-24, undergraduate students received an average of **\$16,360** per full-time equivalent student in financial aid: **\$11,610** in grants, **\$3,900** in federal loans, **\$760** in education tax benefits, and **\$90** in Federal Work-Study.



## NEED HELP SAVING FOR A FUTURE COLLEGE STUDENT?

Consider this: For a child born this year, assuming costs rise 4% annually, the average annual in-state price of a 4-year undergraduate degree could total over \$200,000 for four years of tuition, fees, and room and board. An equivalent private 4-year education could cost over \$500,000 for four years.

**It is never too early to start saving for a child's or grandchild's education.**

**JEMMA FINANCIAL CAN HELP YOU GET STARTED.**

Give us a call at **855.662.2121** or visit [jemmafinancial.com](https://jemmafinancial.com).

Sources: Hanson, Melanie. "Student Loan Debt Statistics" EducationData.org, August 8, 2025, <https://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-statistics>; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data as of 2Q 2025; collegeboard.org; collegesavings.org; and salliemae.com.

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