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These charts show the soaring cost of college

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The 'sticker price' of college in the US has soared over the past 15 years

The cost of college is rising dramatically, and schools in Massachusetts tend to charge more than the national average.

The average annual "sticker price" — the total cost of college without factoring in any financial aid — for a four-year private college in the United States was \$40,656 for the 2014-15 school year, the most recent year for which data was available. In Massachusetts, four-year private colleges had a sticker price of \$52,365.

The US public four-year college sticker price was \$22,093. It was \$23,984 in Massachusetts.

For two-year public colleges, the sticker price was \$16,444 nationally, and \$17,933 in Massachusetts.

The upward trend is clearly visible in data collected by the federal government for the past 15 years.

The chart below shows the averages for schools nationwide. The rate of increase has been similar for schools in Massachusetts.

— PRIVATE 4-YEAR AVG
 — PUBLIC 4-YEAR AVG
 — PUBLIC 2-YEAR AVG

Created with Highcharts 4.0.32000-012001-022002-032003-042004-052005-062006-072007-082008-092009-102010-112011-122012-132013-142014-150k10k20k30k40k50k

The 'net price' of college has also risen in recent years

Many college students receive financial aid to help them defray costs.

Still, the average "net price" of college — what families pay per academic year after factoring in financial aid and grants — [has risen in recent years](#).

The average annual net price for a four-year private college in the United States was \$21,357 for the 2013-14 school year, the most recent year for which this set of data was available. In Massachusetts, four-year private colleges had a net price of \$27,324.

The US public four-year college net price was \$12,083. It was \$15,145 in Massachusetts.

For two-year public colleges, the net price was \$7,467 nationally, and \$8,111 in Massachusetts.

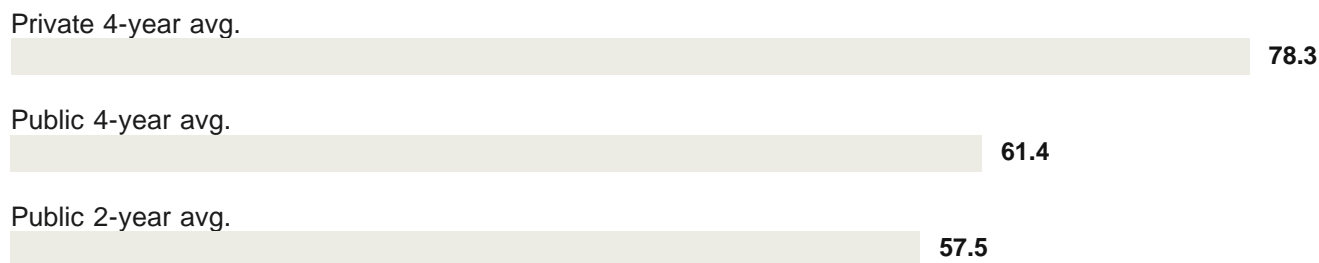
While data on net price only goes back six years and runs a year behind the sticker price data, it shows roughly the same upward trend as the sticker price data.

The chart below shows the averages for schools nationwide. The rate of increase has been similar for schools in Massachusetts.

— PRIVATE 4-YEAR AVG. — PUBLIC 4-YEAR AVG. — PUBLIC 2-YEAR AVG.
Created with Highcharts 4.0.32008-092009-102010-112011-122012-132013-140k5k10k15k20k25k

Percent of students who received financial aid

Not everyone receives financial aid, and the percentage of students who receive aid tends to vary based on which type of college they attend, with students at private four-year schools being most likely to receive some aid. The figures below are for the 2013-14 school year.




SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education

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