

Date: June 13, 2014

Subject: Updated UW Per-Student Funding Comparisons

Washington law [RCW 28.B.15.068](#) articulates the state’s goal of increasing total per-student funding levels, from state appropriations plus tuition and fees, to “at least the sixtieth percentile of total per-student funding” at [Global Challenge State](#) (GCS) peer schools by the end of FY 2017. In November 2012, the Office of Financial Management’s Education Research and Data Center completed its most recent, annual report on the state’s progress toward this goal. The report’s data (which was from the 2010-11 academic year) showed that funding per UW student FTE was still \$6,014 below the 60th percentile. This brief updates this earlier report using data from the 2011-12 academic year, the latest available year of data from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Please note that this brief presents tuition revenue data from IPEDS **which includes revenue from non-state funded students** (i.e. fee-based programs and summer quarter students). Internal UW state and tuition funding [analyses](#) do not included fee-based sources in tuition revenue calculations; therefore, data presented in this brief may differ from other UW publications. It should also be noted that although the UW has more fee-based revenue than its peers (due to the UW’s expansive Educational Outreach program), we do not know the exact value of fee-based revenue at peer schools and, therefore, cannot remove fee-based revenue from peer funding comparisons.

As seen in Figure 1, the UW received significantly less funding per student (state funding plus tuition revenue) than most of its peers in 2011-12.

Figure 1: UW 2011-12 Per-Student Funding and Resident Undergraduate Tuition Levels¹

Institution	\$ per FTE	Tuition and fees
University of California-Davis	\$23,272	\$13,860
University of California-Irvine	\$20,690	\$13,122
University of California-Los Angeles	\$24,533	\$12,686
University of California-San Diego	\$21,061	\$13,202
University of Colorado - all campuses	\$15,775	\$9,152
University of Connecticut	\$27,011	\$10,660
University of Maryland - College Park + Baltimore	\$25,861	\$8,655
University of Massachusetts - Amherst + medical	\$21,358	\$12,612
Rutgers total plus medical	\$26,434	\$12,754
University of Virginia-Main Campus	\$22,064	\$11,576
University of Washington - all campuses	\$17,201	\$10,574

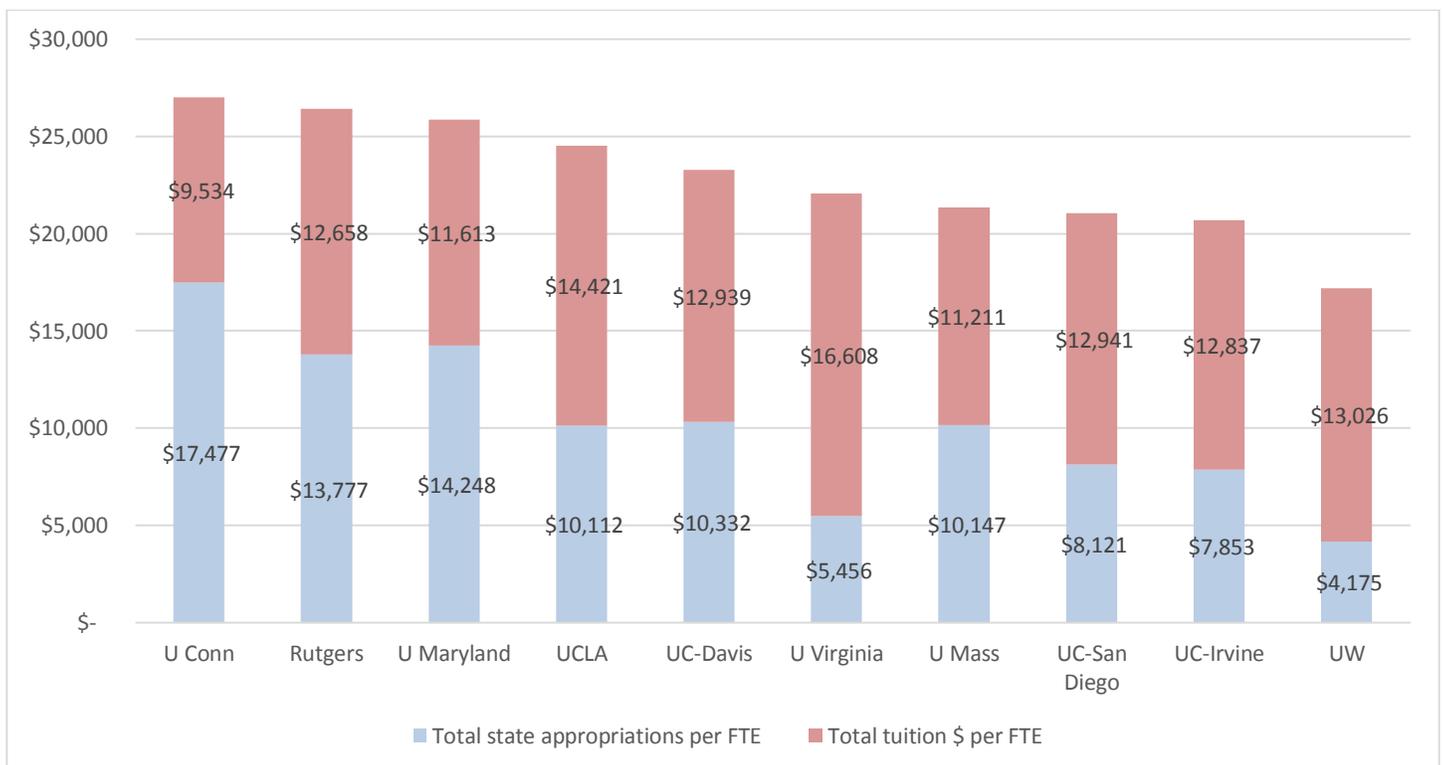
¹ Funding per FTE from IPEDS 2011-12 Finance data. Tuition and fees from peer university websites.

	\$ per FTE	Tuition and fees
University of Washington	\$17,201	\$10,574
60th percentile	\$23,776	\$12,713
Difference	\$(6,576)	\$(2,139)

According to these data, per student FTE funding would have to increase by 38 percent in order to reach the 60th percentile of comparable institutions in the GCS peer set (without adjusting for regional price level differences).

UW’s funding per student FTE is significantly below that of its peer schools for two reasons: (1) Washington State’s support for higher education is considerably less than the level of state support per student FTE that most peer schools receive and (2) many of UW’s tuition rates fall below GCS peer averages. Consistent with past years, state funding comprises a lower portion of educational funding at the UW than at any of the GCS peers (as seen in Figure 2).² Again, please note that IPEDS data includes revenue from Educational Outreach, so the total tuition revenue (shown in red) is higher than other UW publications may indicate.

Figure 2: Global Challenge State Peer Funding Per FTE, 2011-12



² This analysis excludes the University of Colorado. The state of Colorado provides funding in the form of a College Opportunity Fund (reported as tuition revenue) and a “fee for service” (reported as other operating revenue). The University of Colorado’s reported state appropriations are therefore not comparable to those of other GCS peer institutions.

The 60th percentile goal provides an important benchmark for legislators to determine whether Washington's public baccalaureates were funded adequately. However, as the recession has severely limited state funding that might have been available to higher education, appropriations are not expected to increase sufficiently to meet this benchmark in the near future.