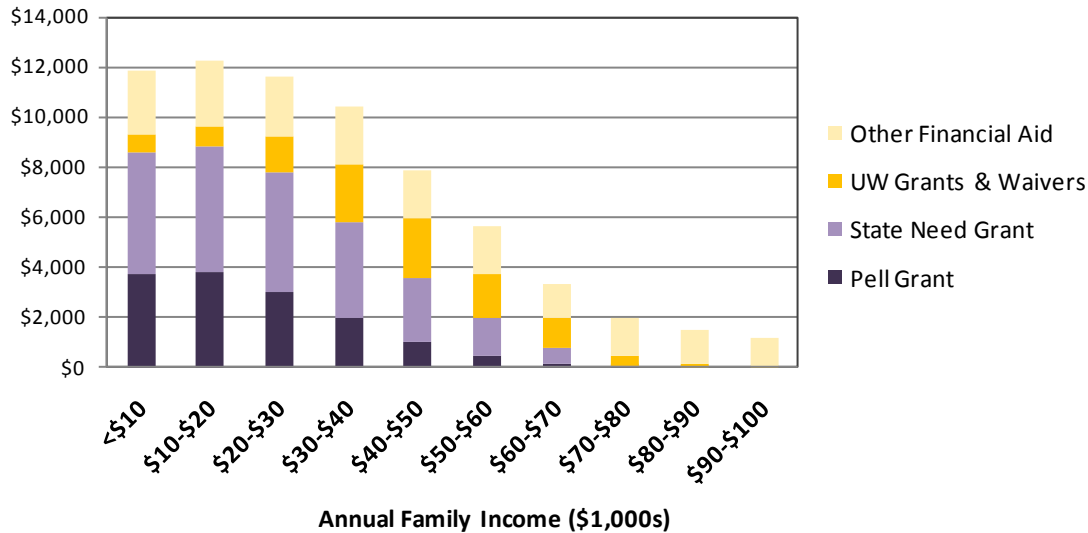


Date: December 4, 2009
Subject: The Resident Undergraduate Student Financial Landscape at the University of Washington

The University of Washington strives for academic excellence while ensuring access to students from all economic backgrounds. The distribution of aid across income levels for resident undergraduate students in the last year of available data (2008-09) demonstrates that the UW is successfully helping students across low and middle income ranges meet their demonstrated financial need.

The chart below represents the average financial aid award amount and type for dependent resident undergraduate students¹ across the family income spectrum. The chart shows how integral the federal Pell and State Need Grants are for students from lower income families, and how important institutional and private aid is for students as one moves up the income range.

**Average Financial Aid Disbursed
 2008-09 Undergraduate Dependent Resident Students
 by Family Income**



A complete income level distribution for resident undergraduate students and their families cannot be known at any institution, because verified income data are only available for students that complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). At the UW, half of current undergraduate resident students complete the FAFSA. The median family income of dependent undergraduate resident students is **\$61,000**. Of those same students, 61 percent reported family income below the Washington State median income for families of the same size.

¹ Because the economic circumstances and needs of students who are economically independent of their parents can be exceedingly complex, the information presented here includes only undergraduate resident students who are classified as dependent on their parents for financial support (using federal classification guidelines).

The UW increased student aid despite staggering budget cuts

In 2009, the University of Washington was able to contribute additional revenue towards student aid programs. In concert with increased Pell Grant award amounts and consistent funding of the State Need Grant, additional institutional aid enabled the UW to award grants to students from families of four with income levels up to approximately \$64,000 (compared to awards extended to families with income levels up to approximately \$53,000 in prior years). The UW is using grant aid to assist more middle-income students and families than ever before.

One quarter of incoming UW students pay no tuition

The Husky Promise ensures that students eligible for the program will never pay tuition and fees at the UW. In 2009, 25 percent of resident undergraduate students qualified for the Husky Promise program, and nearly half of these students were first generation college students.

The median debt of UW undergraduate students at graduation is \$0

At the UW, less than half of our undergraduates (47 percent) finished their degree with debt, compared to 62 percent at public institutions nationally². Because less than half of UW undergraduates leave campus with any debt, the median debt is \$0. For students that graduate with debt, the average loan amount for the student's complete baccalaureate career is \$17,808, which is \$2,400 less than the national average for graduates from public universities. Affordable tuition combined with robust financial aid programs means that the UW significantly trails national averages in terms of the percentage of students who graduate with debt, as well as average loan amounts for students with debt.

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² Student Debt and the Class of 2008. (2008). Report available: <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2008.pdf>