



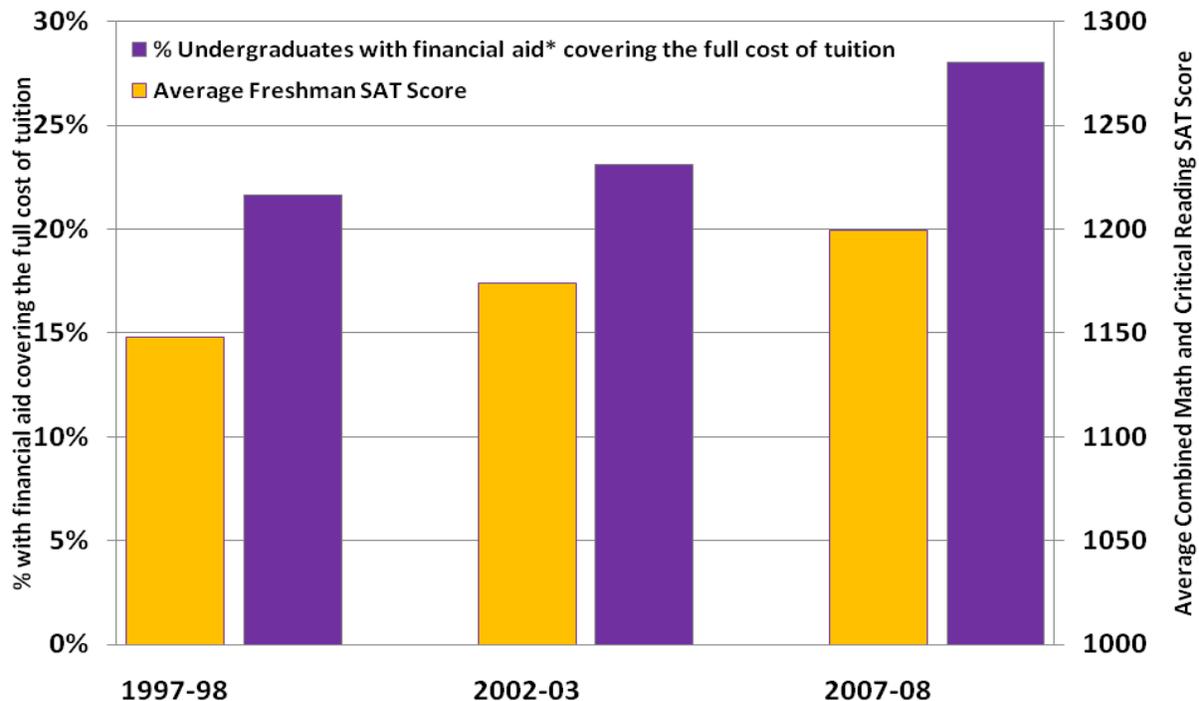
Planning and Budgeting Brief

Subject: **The UW is Academically Elite but Not Economically Selective**

Date: August 19, 2009

The University of Washington strives for academic excellence while ensuring access to students from all economic backgrounds. We are ***a university that is academically elite but not economically selective.***

**Figure 1: University of Washington Undergraduates
Average SAT Score of Incoming Freshmen and
Percentage of Undergraduates Whose Financial Aid Fully Covers Tuition**



*Excludes loans and work study.

Academically Elite

- ❖ **Last year, entering freshman at the UW score, on average, 1200 on the SAT** – the highest average score of any of the six public universities in Washington. As the SAT scores over the past decade reflect, the UW is increasingly competitive to attend academically, with SAT scores moving from an average of 1150 to 1200.
- ❖ Entering **graduate students** at the UW have competed for limited spots in order to attend some of the highest ranked programs at one of the most prestigious and successful research institutions in the nation.
- ❖ UW is one of the top public universities in the nation in the **number of students who receive premier national awards such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Fulbright and Goldwater** scholarships and fellowships.
- ❖ The University has **86 faculty members** who are members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, or the National Academy of Engineering. This is the 4th highest total of academy members among public Universities, and the 12th highest total of academy members among all Universities in the nation.





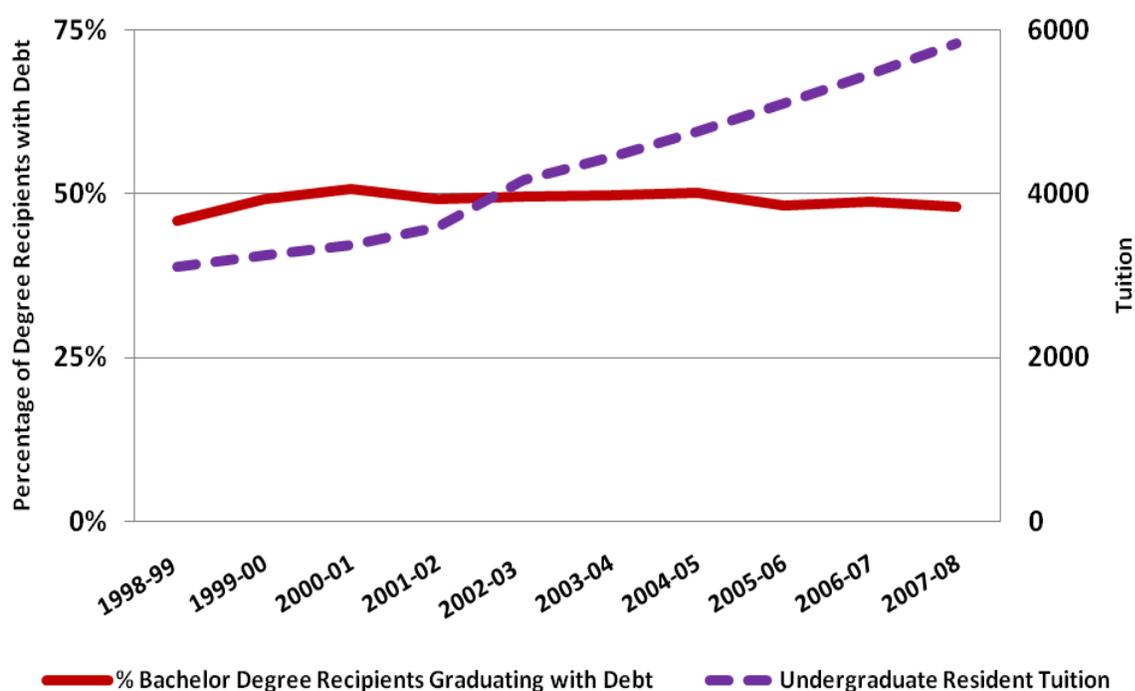
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- ❖ Six UW faculty members have won **Nobel Prizes**, and 10 UW faculty members have won “**genius grants**” from the MacArthur Foundation.
- ❖ The **UW receives more federal research dollars than any other public university** in the nation.

Economically Diverse – Even with Higher Tuition Increases

- ❖ Close to **one third of entering UW freshmen come from families whose income is below the state median** and one third of all freshmen will be the first in their families to attend college.
- ❖ **More than half of all UW undergraduates complete their degrees with zero debt.** The percentage of undergraduates who complete their degrees with no debt has remained constant over the past decade, despite higher costs in housing, tuition, and other costs of living.
- ❖ **This year, almost 7,000 UW undergraduates (25 percent of all undergraduate residents) from low and lower-middle income families will pay no tuition to attend the University of Washington as a result of the [Husky Promise](#) program.**
- ❖ The **UW has the lowest undergraduate resident tuition and fees of peer institutions in the Global Challenge states** (as defined in state law and listed in Figures 3 and 4). In 2009-10, UW tuition and fees total \$7,692 per year and are about **\$1,700 BELOW the average** of these institutions.
- ❖ Kiplinger’s consistently ranks the UW as one of the **best bargains in higher education** in the nation.
- ❖ **Smart Money magazine recently ranked the UW fifth among public schools included in the survey that provide the best payback to students.** The UW outranked the “payback ratio” of all of the liberal arts and Ivy League schools included in the rankings.

Figure 2: University of Washington Undergraduate Resident Tuition and the Percentage of Bachelor Degree Recipients Graduating with Debt





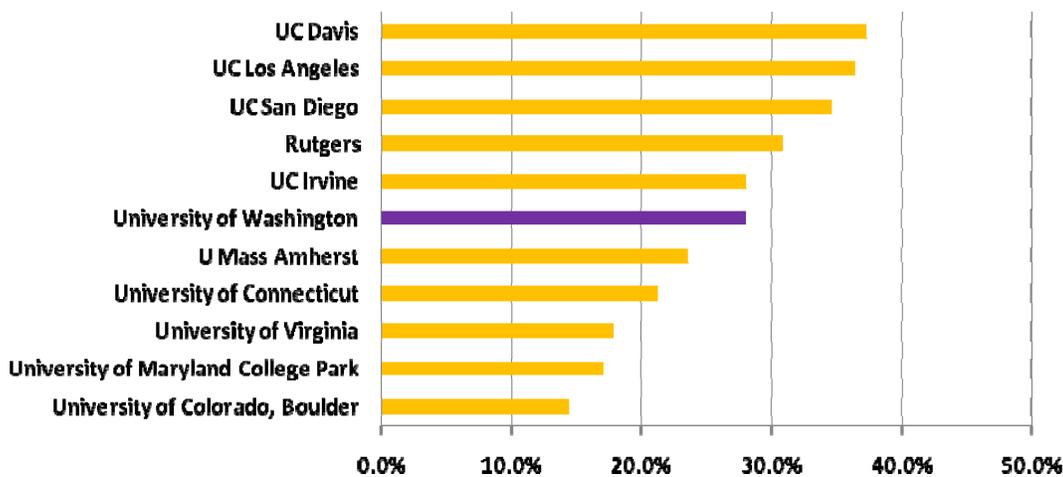
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Peer Comparison Finding – Economic Access & Quality is Unrelated to Tuition

The UW has the lowest tuition of any of its Global Challenge State Peers.

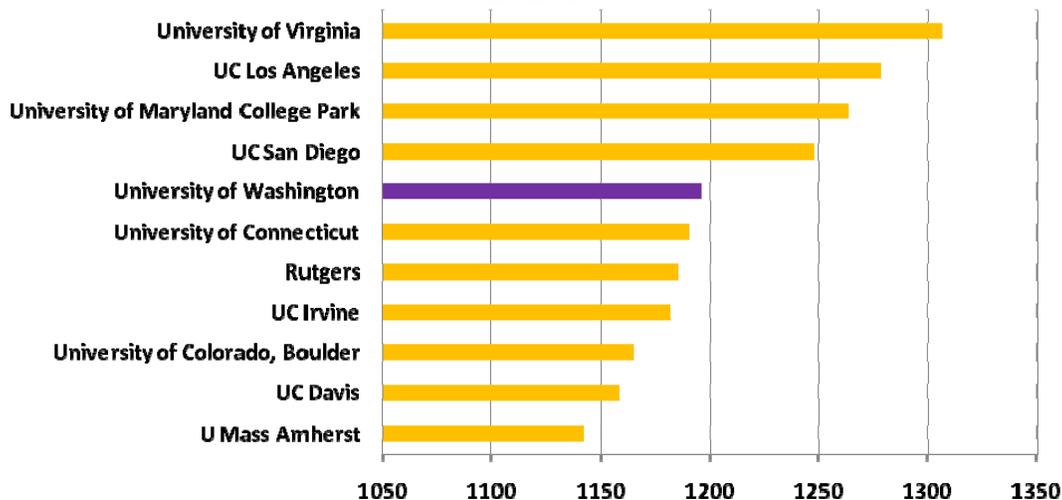
One of the few measures of economic access that is comparable across institutions is the percentage of undergraduates receiving a Pell Grant. Figure 3 demonstrates that the UW is in the middle of Global Challenge States on that measureⁱ.

**FIGURE 3: Percentage of Undergraduates Receiving a Pell Grant
2007-08**



- ❖ Over the past 15 years, however, the UW has increased the proportion of undergraduates receiving Pell Grants at a faster rate than its Global Challenge Peers. The percentage of undergraduates with Pell Grants has increased 35 percent at the University of Washington, while the Global Challenge Peer average has increased only 15 percent.
- ❖ A measure of the academic quality of incoming students that is comparable across institutions is provided by the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen. As shown in Figure 4, the average SAT score of incoming freshmen at the University of Washington is in the middle of the range of average SAT scores at the Global Challenge Peersⁱⁱ. Additionally, as noted above, the UW has improved on this measure over the past decade.

**FIGURE 4: Average SAT Scores of Incoming Freshmen
Fall 2007**





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ⁱData about enrollment and the number of Pell Grants awarded in 2007-08 were obtained from “Pell Grant Recipients at America’s ‘Best’ Universities and Colleges” spreadsheet published by *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*. The peer averages are weighted averages from peer institutions.

ⁱⁱ Average SAT data were obtained from the Annual Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) Retention Report. SAT data were not available for all Global Challenge Peers in 1993, but for the eight peers for which SAT data were available in both 1993 and 2007, the average SAT scores (a weighted average across these eight peers) decreased slightly, while the UW average SAT score increased 13 percent.