

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT DOES IT COST TO ATTEND AN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOW DOES THAT COMPARE WITH OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONS?

Community colleges deliver low cost, high quality instruction. For the current academic year (FY 2021), the average Illinois community college tuition and basic fee cost to a full-time, in-district student is \$4,480 (based on 30 semester hours). This is an increase of 1.6 percent (+\$70) from the previous year and 12.2 percent (+\$486) from 2017.

Table 1
Illinois Public Community Colleges and Public and Private University Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition & Fees (based on 30 semester hours)
Fiscal Years 2017-2021

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Community Colleges	\$3,995	\$4,206	\$4,331	\$4,410	\$4,480
Public Universities	\$13,100	\$13,239	\$13,582	\$13,942	\$14,125
<i>\$ Savings</i>	<i>-\$9,105</i>	<i>-\$9,033</i>	<i>-\$9,251</i>	<i>-\$9,532</i>	<i>-\$9,645</i>
Private Universities	\$35,471	\$36,747	\$38,019	\$39,417	\$40,380
<i>\$ Savings</i>	<i>-\$31,476</i>	<i>-\$32,541</i>	<i>-\$33,688</i>	<i>-\$35,007</i>	<i>-\$35,900</i>

SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Survey of Colleges, IBHE & ISAC Records

As depicted in **Table 1** and **Figure 1**, current average tuition and fees at Illinois community colleges are nearly **one-third** the average tuition and fees at Illinois public universities (\$14,125) and **one-ninth** the average tuition and fees at private universities (\$40,380).

Public university tuition and fees for first-year students increased 1.3 percent (+\$183) from fiscal year 2020 and 7.8 percent (+\$1,025) from fiscal year 2017. Note that entry-level tuition legislation requires that tuition charged to a first-time, under-graduate public university Illinois resident student must remain at the same level for four continuous academic years following initial enrollment or for the “normal time to complete” undergraduate programs that require over four years.

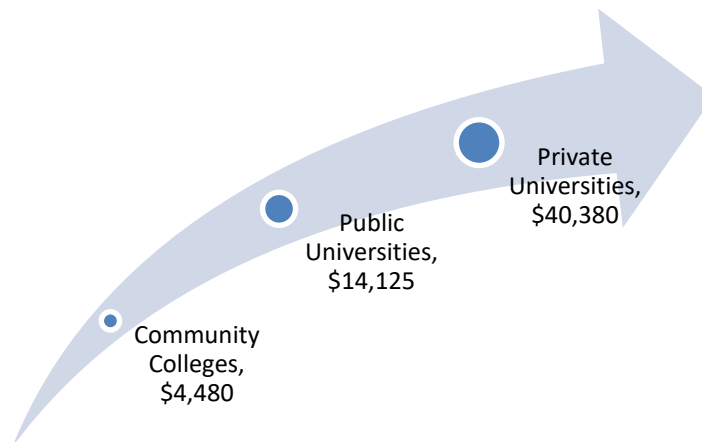


Figure 1. FY 2021 Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition and Fees



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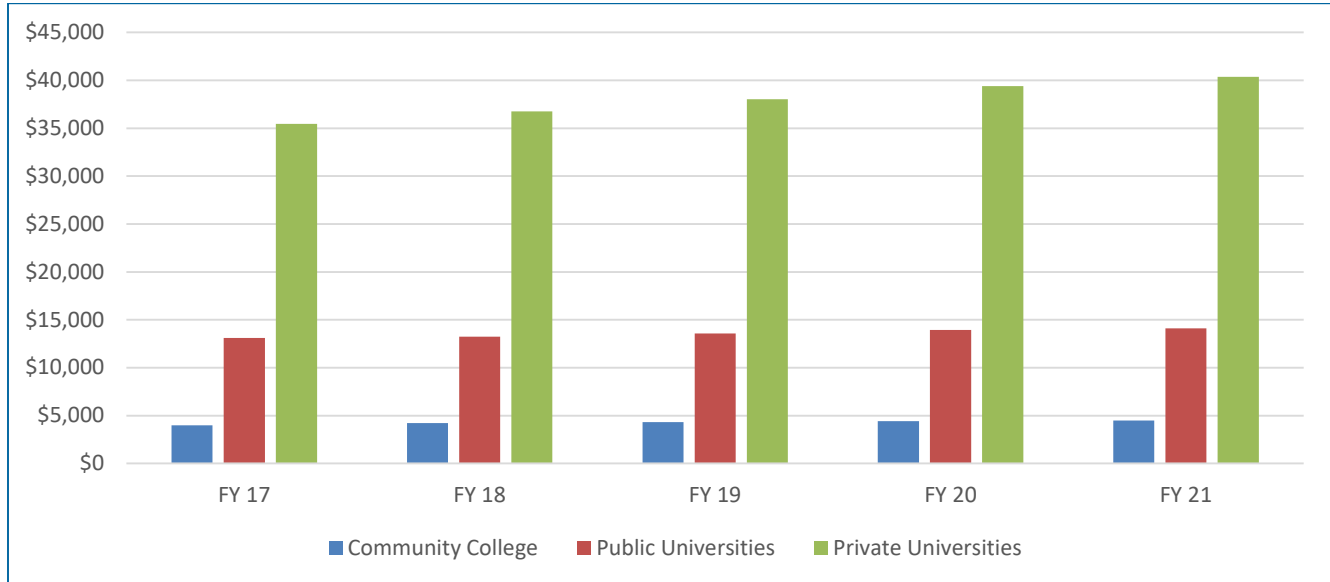


Figure 2. Community College and Public and Private University Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition and Fees, FY 2017-2021

Figure 2 illustrates the different cost for tuition and fees for community colleges versus other available in-state higher education options during 2017-2021. **Individuals interested in a bachelor's degree can significantly reduce their costs by completing the initial two years at their local community college.**

The latest available FY 2021 comparative data show that tuition and fees at Illinois Community Colleges are \$130 (2.8 percent) less than average community college tuition and fees in the Midwest (\$4,610). Tuition and fees at Illinois public universities are \$2,985 (26.8 percent) more than the Midwest average (\$11,140). The average tuition and fees at Midwestern private institutions is not available (<https://research.collegeboard.org/trends/college-pricing>).

Illinois' community college FY 2021 tuition and fees are \$710 (18.8 percent) higher than the National average of \$3,770. The National average is brought down by California, which enrolls nearly one in five of the nation's full-time community college students, where community college prices are unusually low (\$1,430). Nationally, the average tuition and fees at public universities is \$10,560 in fiscal year 2021, which is 25.2 percent lower than the Illinois average and 5.2 percent lower than the Midwest average. The entry-level tuition policy at Illinois public institutions contributes to elevated Illinois figures. At private institutions, the average tuition and fees nationally is \$37,650, which is \$2,730 (6.8 percent) less than the Illinois average (<https://research.collegeboard.org/trends/college-pricing>).

Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).

