



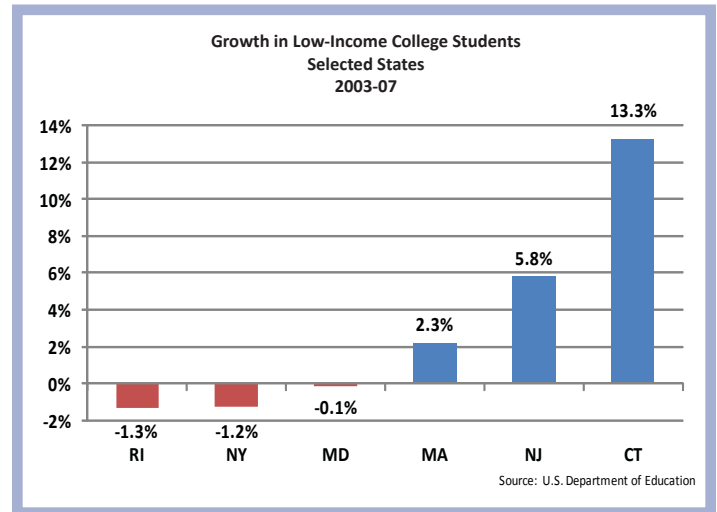
Facts

Growing Need for College Financial Aid in Connecticut

The gateway to college for low-income students starts with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive a federal Pell Grant. Using Pell Grant recipients as a proxy for low-income status, a look at Connecticut higher education's role in serving needy students reveals these findings.

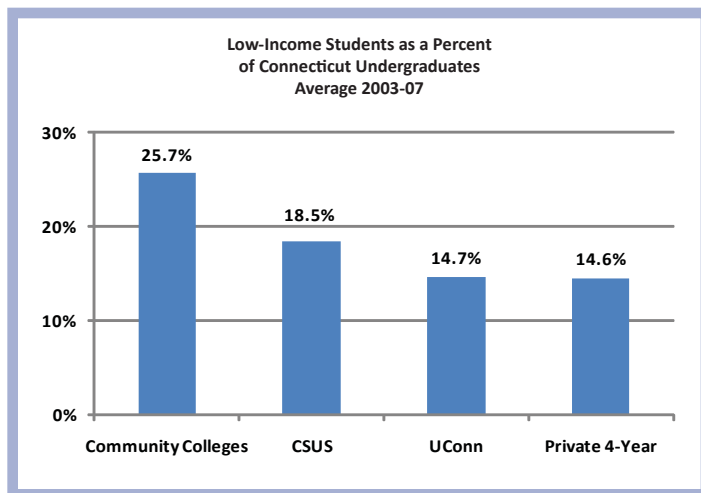
1. Low-income students make up a greater share of Connecticut undergraduate enrollment than they did five years ago – 19.8% versus 18.1%.¹

- Since 2003, the number of Pell recipients attending Connecticut colleges and universities has grown by 13.3% to 28,093. This growth is considerably higher than the 4.9% increase in undergraduate enrollment over the same period, and shows that a growing proportion of Connecticut students is exhibiting significant financial need.
- Among Connecticut colleges, the share of students showing financial need varies widely, ranging from 47% to 7%. Several colleges have experienced a shift toward serving more low-income students since 2003, including six which have increased their percentages by more than five percentage points.



2. The growth in the number of low-income students at Connecticut colleges has exceeded the national average over the last five years – 13.3% in Connecticut compared to 2.5% across the U.S.

- Connecticut's growth also has outpaced several similar states. Maryland, New York and Rhode Island actually experienced slight declines (about 1%) over this period, and Massachusetts and New Jersey had increases of only 2.2% and 5.8%, respectively.



3. Much of the growth in the number of low-income Connecticut students is found at community colleges – financially needy students account for 27% of community college enrollment compared to less than 23% five years ago.

- The actual number of low-income community college students has increased 24% since 2003, about six times the rate of growth in overall enrollment.
- The relative share of needy community college students ranges from 47% to 14% across institutions.



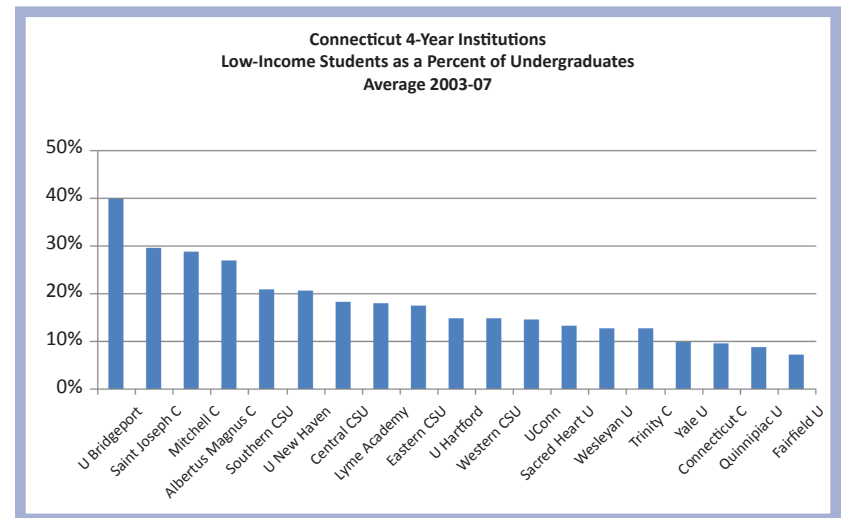
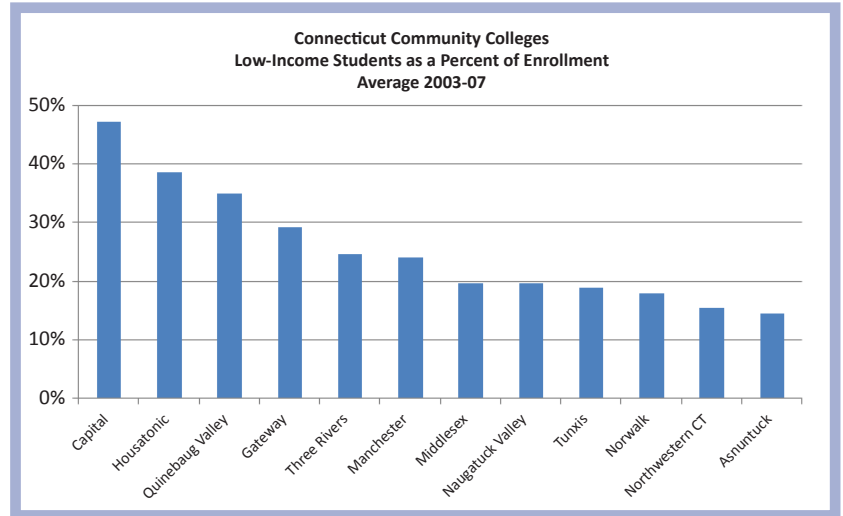
- Other types of colleges in Connecticut had more modest shifts in shares, with Connecticut State University increasing by one percentage point (17.8% to 18.7%), and the University of Connecticut and the other four-year colleges remaining about the same or declining slightly.

4. Applications for student aid in Connecticut are rising faster than enrollment – the number of Connecticut residents completing FAFSAs has grown by 40% from 2001 to 2007 compared to a 10% rise in undergraduate enrollment.²

- Connecticut’s increase outpaced the national rate of 35% over this same time.

5. Both the number of applicants found eligible for federal aid and the severity of their need is growing.

- The number of Connecticut applicants determined to be eligible for a federal Pell Grant has risen by 50% since 2001, much higher than the overall increase of 40% in the applicant pool. It also is greater than the national rate which experienced a slight decline (-1%) over this period.
- Over the last decade, the number of applicants who cannot afford to contribute anything toward their college education (\$0 Expected Family Contribution or EFC) has increased by 218% from 9,225 to almost 30,000. Almost half of all applicants cannot afford to contribute even \$5,000 per year toward their college expenses.



Notes:

¹Excludes proprietary schools and seminaries. Goodwin College is not included because of significant data anomalies. Charter Oak State College, Bais Binyomin Academy and the Hartford School of Music are not included because of lack of comparable enrollment numbers.

²Data for the analysis of FAFSA filers comes from the U.S. Department of Education and includes students who may attend colleges and universities, proprietary schools and other federally-approved post-secondary institutions. Data on the number of Pell Grant recipients by institution is from Postsecondary Education Opportunity (www.postsecondary.org).