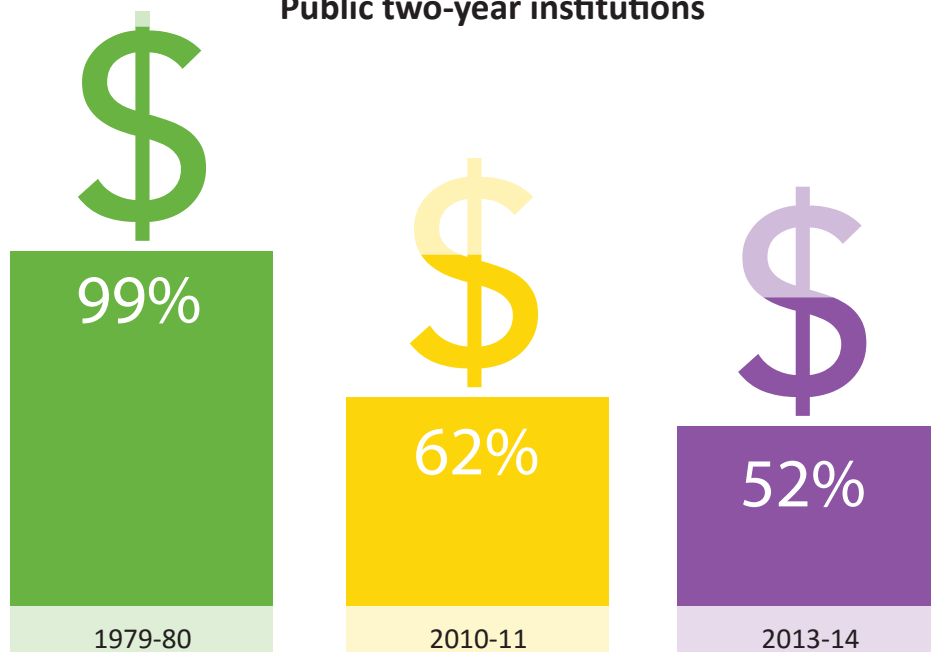


## The value of Pell

The maximum Pell Grant covers about half of the total cost of attending a public two-year institution, compared to nearly 100 percent some 35 years ago.

### Total cost of attendance covered by maximum Pell Grant: Public two-year institutions



Sources: Education Trust, "[Beyond Pell: A Next-Generation Design for Federal Financial Aid](#)," October 2014.  
 Paul Krugman, "[Building a Caste Society](#)," *New York Times*, March 12, 2012.  
 Prepared for "[American Association of Community Colleges Higher Education Act \(HEA\) Reauthorization Priorities](#)," June 2016.



In 2013-14, the maximum federal Pell Grant was \$5,645, with community college students on average receiving \$3,227. About 40 percent of community college students received Pell grants, which represented \$11 billion, or 36 percent, of the total program. Although community colleges offer lower tuition than four-year public institutions, Pell grants often don't cover other costs of attendance, such as books, supplies, transportation and housing. The maximum Pell Grant awarded at community colleges covered 52 percent of the average total cost of attendance in 2013-14, down from 62 percent three years earlier. [Learn more](#) about AACC legislative priorities for Pell grants.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or [kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu), or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or [rtekle@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:rtekle@aacc.nche.edu).