

# CPEC

## Fees at California's Public Colleges and Universities

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by Ryan Fuller

Fees at California's public colleges and universities have increased in the past two decades, but are still lower than fees at comparable institutions in other states. Fees for full-time undergraduate students at the University of California were \$8,027 in 2008–09 and fees at California State University were \$3,849. Fees are likely to rise for the 2009–10 school year. The Governor's budget proposes to raise fees at UC by 9.3% and at CSU by 10%.

### California Community Colleges

Fees in the California Community Colleges in 2008–09 were \$20 per semester unit for California residents. A student taking a full-time load of 15 units in each semester would pay \$600 for the academic year. Financially needy students may qualify for the Board of Governors fee waiver program.

California's community college fees are the lowest in the nation. The state with the next-lowest community college fees is New Mexico where fees are \$913 for 2008–09. Nationally, community college fees for full-time students averaged \$2,700.

### California State University

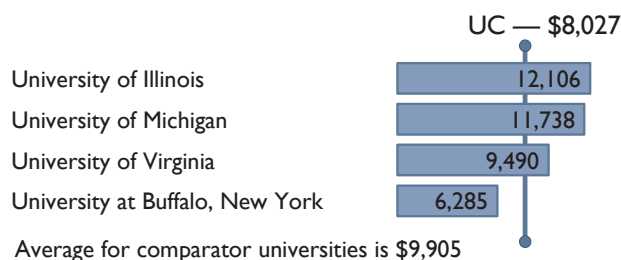
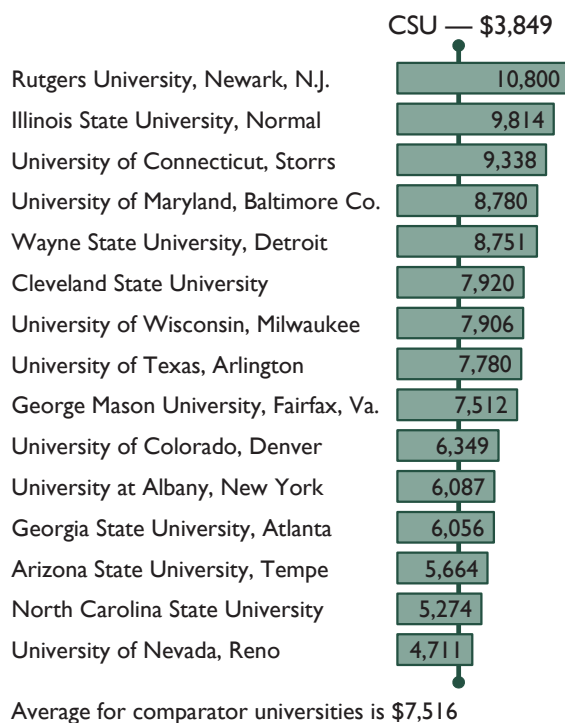
In the 2008–09 academic year, CSU's fees were \$3,849 for full-time students who are California residents. This amount consists of \$3,048 in systemwide fees plus campus fees that average \$801. The campus fees help support services such as counseling, student union activities, student government, and recreation.

CSU's fees are lower than fees at comparable institutions in other states. Fees are about half of the average for the 15 public universities that CSU compares itself to for faculty salary purposes.

Although CSU's fees are relatively low, fees are only one part of the cost of an education. Living costs, books, and other expenses are

### Undergraduate Fees: UC, CSU and Comparable Institutions

Fees for full-time students who are state residents, 2008–09.



Fee data compiled by CSU, Office of the Chancellor,  
UC Systemwide Budget Office

significant in California. A 2006 CPEC report, *Keeping College Affordable in California*, showed that fees are only about 20% of the overall cost of attendance at CSU.

## University of California

UC's fees are lower than fees at three of the four public universities that the system compares itself to regarding faculty salaries. Fees for full-time undergraduates who are California residents averaged \$8,027 in 2008–09. This consists of \$7,126 in systemwide fees, plus mandatory campus fees averaging \$901. UC requires that all students have health insurance. Students at campuses in areas that are not covered by their parents' health plans may have the additional cost of enrolling in campus plans that typically cost about \$900 annually.

## Graduate Fees at CSU and UC

Fees for graduate students at CSU and UC have risen over the last several years, but are still lower than fees at comparable universities in other states. Fees for full-time graduate students at CSU were \$4,557 in 2008–09. This amount consists of \$3,756 in systemwide fees plus mandatory campus fees for student services that average \$801.

Fees for students enrolled full time in teacher credential programs are lower, with a systemwide fee of \$3,540 annually plus the campus fees of \$801. CSU's fees are lower than fees at all of the 15 public universities that CSU compares itself to for faculty salary purposes.

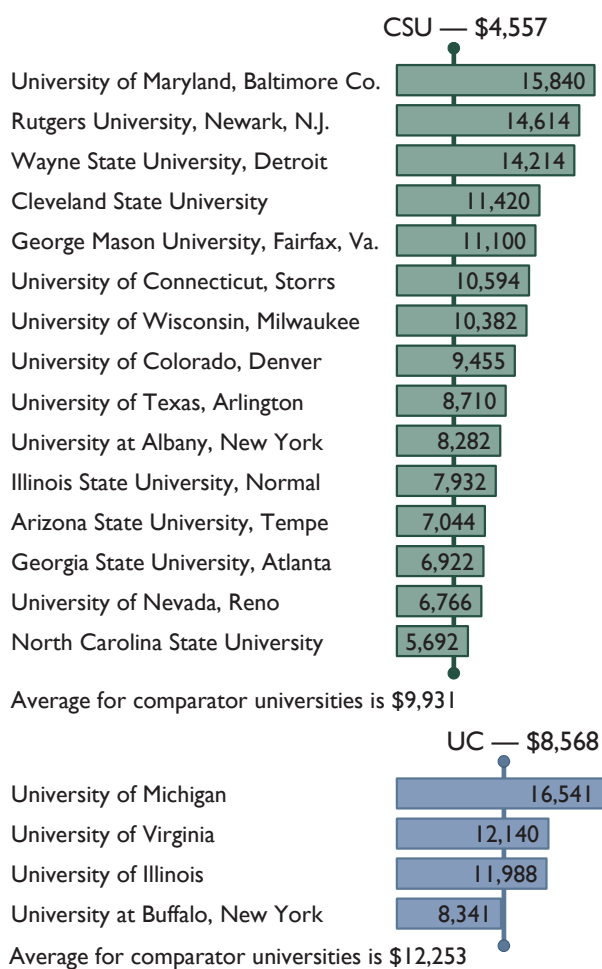
At UC, fees for full-time graduate students were \$8,568 in 2008–09. This consists of \$7,986 in systemwide fees, plus campus fees averaging \$582. All UC students are also required to have some type of health insurance. Plans at UC campuses average \$1,800 per year. UC's fees are lower than fees at three of the four public universities that UC compares itself to for faculty salary purposes.

## Professional Schools

UC's professional schools charge professional school fees in addition to the normal fees for graduate students. For example, total fees for students at UC's medical schools range from \$24,200 to \$28,100. Business school fees range from \$25,800 to \$31,900.

## Graduate Fees

Fees for full-time students who are state residents, 2008–09.



Fee data compiled by CSU, Office of the Chancellor, UC Systemwide Budget Office

Other programs, such as pharmacy, nursing, and public health, also charge professional school fees. More information on these fees is in the table.

### The Outlook for 2009–10

The Governor's proposed 2009–10 budget assumes fee increases of 10% at CSU and 9.3% at UC for undergraduates, graduates and teaching credential candidates. Fees for UC professional students are expected to increase by 5% to 24% depending on the program. The Governor's proposed budget has no changes in community college fees.

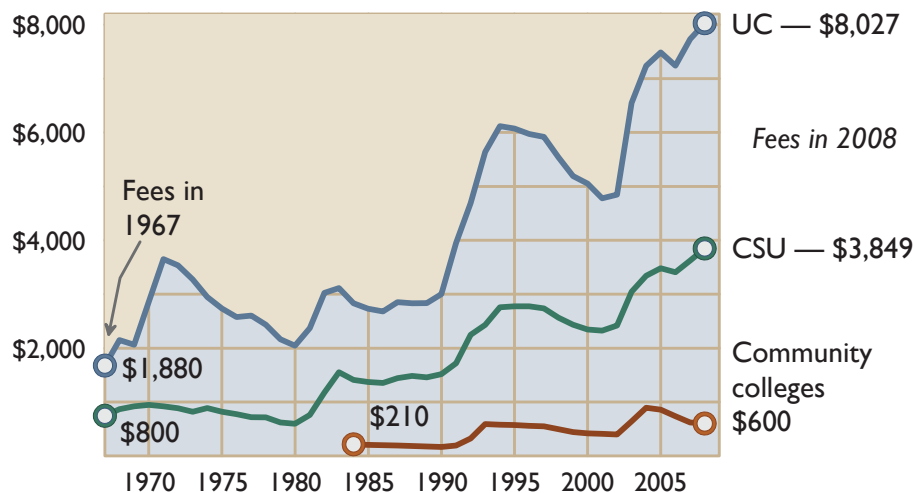
Fee increases would generate an additional \$130 million in revenue at CSU and an additional \$107 million at UC. The CSU Board of Trustees and the UC Board of Regents will hear fee increase proposals at their March or May 2009 meetings that will most likely match the Governor's proposal.

### Fees at UC Professional Schools, 2008–09

School	Campuses	Fees
Business	6	\$25,800–31,900
Dentistry	2	\$27,900–28,00
Int'l Relations & Pacific Studies	1	\$14,700
Law	3	\$28,500–31,100
Medicine	7	\$24,200–28,100
Nursing	2	\$12,400–14,000
Optometry	1	\$20,200
Pharmacy	2	\$22,800–23,400
Public Health	3	\$14,200–16,400
Public Policy	2	\$14,200–14,800
Theater, Film & Television	1	\$15,500
Veterinary Medicine	1	\$24,300

Total fees for California residents. Fees vary by campus. Out-of-state students pay higher fees that include nonresident tuition. More information is available at [www.ucop.edu/budget/fees.html](http://www.ucop.edu/budget/fees.html)

### Fees at UC, CSU, and the Community Colleges — Constant 2008 Dollars



At all three systems, fees increased sharply in the early 1990s. Fees remained stable in the late 1990 and fell in inflation-adjusted terms. In the early 2000s fees increased sharply as state funding for higher education did not keep pace with growing enrollments. Community colleges did not charge state enrollment fees until 1984, when they introduced a fee of \$50 per semester. For a full-time student, this is equivalent to \$210 per year in today's dollars.

Fees deflated to 2008 dollars with the US Consumer Price Index

More details of current and historical fees are in the CPEC publication *Fiscal Profiles*, available at [www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2008reports/FiscalProfiles2008.asp](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2008reports/FiscalProfiles2008.asp)

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## Fees at UC, CSU, and the Community Colleges, 1965–66 through 2008–09

	Actual fees			Adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars		
	UC	CSU	Community colleges	UC	CSU	Community colleges
1965–66	\$245	\$105	—	\$1,880	\$800	—
1970–71	487	161	—	\$2,870	\$950	—
1975–76	647	194	—	\$2,730	\$820	—
1980–81	776	226	—	\$2,050	\$600	—
1985–86	1,326	666	\$100	\$2,730	\$1,370	\$210
1990–91	1,820	920	100	\$3,000	\$1,520	\$165
1991–92	2,486	1,080	120	\$3,950	\$1,720	\$191
1992–93	3,044	1,460	210	\$4,690	\$2,250	\$320
1993–94	3,727	1,604	390	\$5,640	\$2,430	\$590
1994–95	4,111	1,853	390	\$6,120	\$2,760	\$580
1995–96	4,139	1,891	390	\$6,070	\$2,780	\$570
1996–97	4,166	1,935	390	\$5,970	\$2,780	\$560
1997–98	4,212	1,946	390	\$5,920	\$2,740	\$550
1998–99	4,037	1,871	360	\$5,380	\$2,570	\$490
1999–00	3,903	1,830	330	\$5,190	\$2,430	\$440
2000–01	3,964	1,839	330	\$5,050	\$2,340	\$420
2001–02	3,859	1,876	330	\$4,780	\$2,320	\$410
2002–03	4,017	2,005	330	\$4,850	\$2,420	\$400
2003–04	5,530	2,572	540	\$6,550	\$3,050	\$640
2004–05	6,312	2,916	780	\$7,240	\$3,340	\$890
2005–06	6,802	3,164	780	\$7,490	\$3,480	\$860
2006–07	6,802	3,199	690	\$7,240	\$3,410	\$730
2007–08	7,517	3,521	600	\$7,740	\$3,620	\$620
2008–09	8,027	3,849	600	\$8,027	\$3,849	\$600

## Who is a resident student?

Fees are higher for students who are not California residents. For example, fees for full-time out-of-state undergraduate students are \$28,235 at UC and \$14,019 at CSU.

CSU and the community colleges determine residency according to state law. Resident students are defined as those who have lived in California for over a year before enrolling and intend to make California their home. A student may show intent to reside in California by obtaining a California driver's license, owning property in the state, or paying California income tax. State law allows nonresident students who have attended a California high school for three years to be considered residents for tuition purposes.

At UC, residency is determined by university policy. Students are generally considered residents if they are financially dependent on their parents, and their parents are California residents. Children whose parents are nonresidents may be exempt from nonresident fees if they have attended a California high school for three years.

UC students who have been financially independent of their parents for two years may qualify as residents if they have lived in California for more than a year and have demonstrated an intent to make California their permanent home. Graduate students can qualify as residents if they are employed by UC half-time or more or are financially independent of their parents.