



Wisconsin

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact brings together leaders from 12 Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality.



MHEC leverages the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders to generate collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.



MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually.



MHEC research and policy initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.

About the Compact



MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. MHEC is funded by member state commitments, program income, and foundation grants. Member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Wisconsin enacted authorizing legislation in 1994 to join MHEC.

Wisconsin Commissioners + Alternates



Tammie DeVooght
Higher Educational Aids Board



Eric Fulcomer
Wisconsin Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities



André Jacque
Wisconsin State Legislature



David Murphy
Wisconsin State Legislature



Julie Underwood
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Layla Merrifield
Wisconsin Technical College System
(alternate)



Christopher Patton
University of Wisconsin System
(alternate)

How MHEC Benefits Wisconsin

Wisconsin received a 67-fold return on its MHEC membership commitment of \$115,000 in 2024-2025.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education savings	\$5,911,756
Technology savings	\$1,735,690
Capacity building support (state grants, convenings, scholarships and travel grants)	\$29,832
TOTAL	\$7,677,277

New Upcoming Savings & Financial Opportunities

Each member state is eligible for a Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant of up to \$250,000 over two years from MHEC to advance innovative ideas and solutions in higher education. In November 2025, Wisconsin, the second state to submit an application, was awarded \$250,000 to support the launch of a Wisconsin College and Career Attainment Network, focused on postsecondary education and workforce development.

Additional Savings for Wisconsin Students & Families

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) has helped students and families save millions of dollars by making it more affordable for non-resident students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. This program is currently being reviewed in response to changes in tuition reciprocity practices across the region.



Wisconsin Engagement with MHEC Policy Initiatives & Capacity-Building Opportunities

Open Educational Resources (OER)	MHEC provided a \$5,000 grant to the University of Wisconsin-Superior to create an online network for OER and a \$5,000 grant to the University of Wisconsin-Stout to support its 2026 E-affordability Summit. Five Wisconsin OER leaders participated in MHEC's OER summit in January.
Dual Enrollment	Twelve Wisconsin higher education leaders participated in MHEC's July State Policy Workshop to advance dual enrollment efforts in the state. MHEC also supported the action planning and research behind SB591, introduced in October 2025.
Access & Affordability	Leaders from numerous Wisconsin state agencies, colleges and universities, and philanthropic organizations attended MHEC's FAFSA Summit and other webinars to address issues and opportunities related to college access and affordability.
Technologies Community	Dr. Chet Strebe from Northcentral Technical College and John Dunning from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville serve on the Technologies Executive Committee. Six additional technology leaders at Wisconsin postsecondary institutions participated in MHEC's Technologies Community.

Research Requests

MHEC's policy and research team provided detailed reports in response to requests from Wisconsin legislators on the topics of:

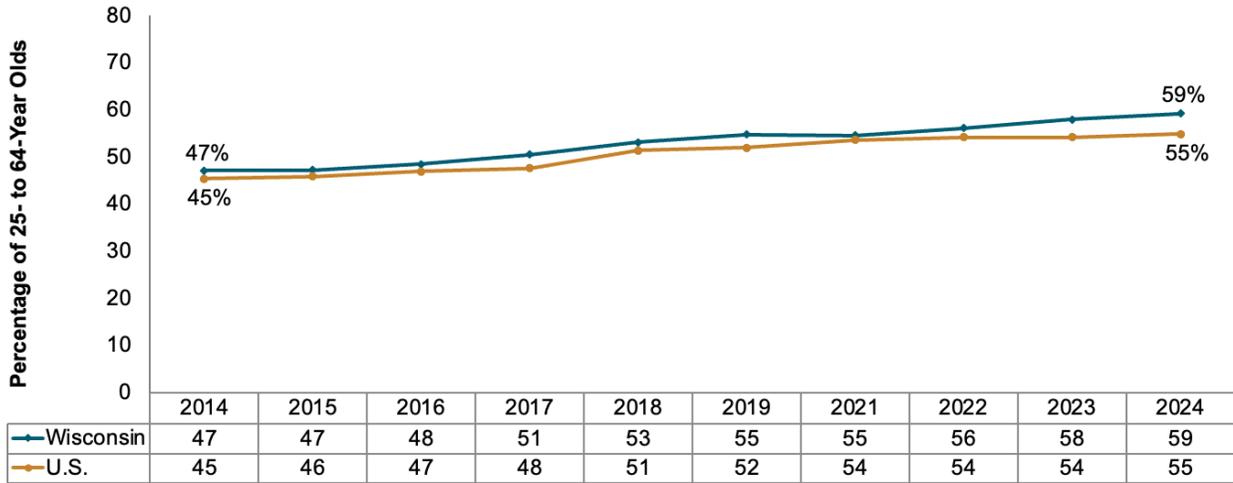
- Community and technical colleges offering baccalaureate degrees
- Legislation on dual enrollment that seeks to address the shortage of dual enrollment courses in rural areas as well as discrepancies in accepting dual credit courses for transfer with the University of Wisconsin system
- Dual enrollment costs and the HLC 18-credit requirement for eligible teachers
- Measuring basic needs insecurity among college students



Key Indicators for Higher Education in Wisconsin

ATTAINMENT: Wisconsin has remained consistently higher than the nation in attainment. About 59% of Wisconsinites have a postsecondary certificate or higher, compared to 55% nationally.

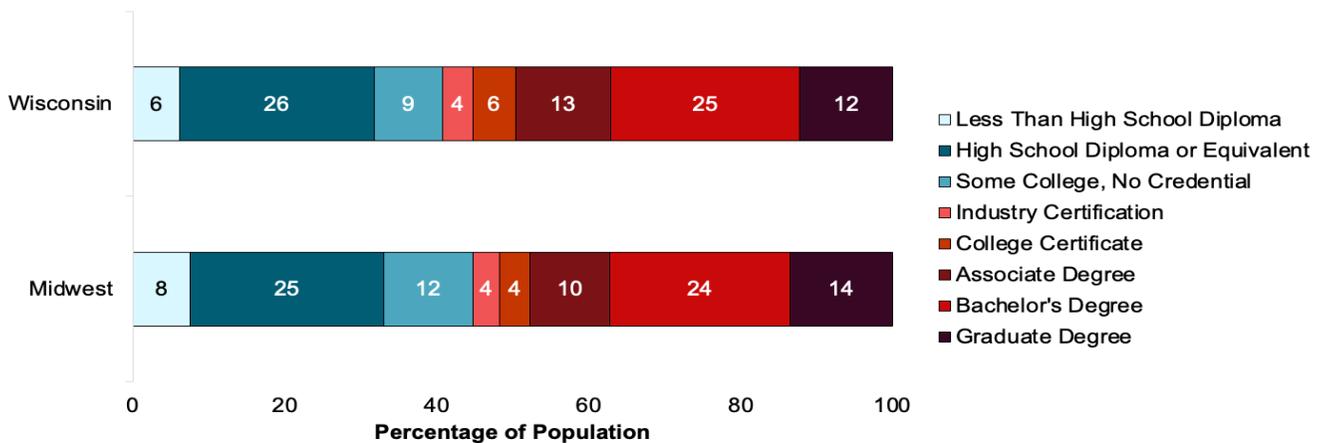
Percentage of 25- to 64-Year-Olds in Wisconsin Who Have Attained a Postsecondary Credential



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2026). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. The attainment estimates include postsecondary certificates. Since 2018, the attainment estimate includes industry-recognized certifications. 2020 estimates are not available due to sampling problems that occurred during the 2020 administration of the American Community Survey. Lumina’s methodology for short-term non-degree credentials includes only certificates and certifications that meet its value threshold of earning at least 15% above the national median annual wages of a high school graduate. The reported share of adults whose highest credential is a certificate or certification may thus be underestimated. Wisconsin’s registered apprenticeship completion certificates are not captured in Lumina’s attainment measure. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

ATTAINMENT: Wisconsin residents have attained various types of postsecondary credentials, ranging from industry certifications and college certificates to bachelor’s and graduate degrees; 41% of residents do not have a credential beyond high school.

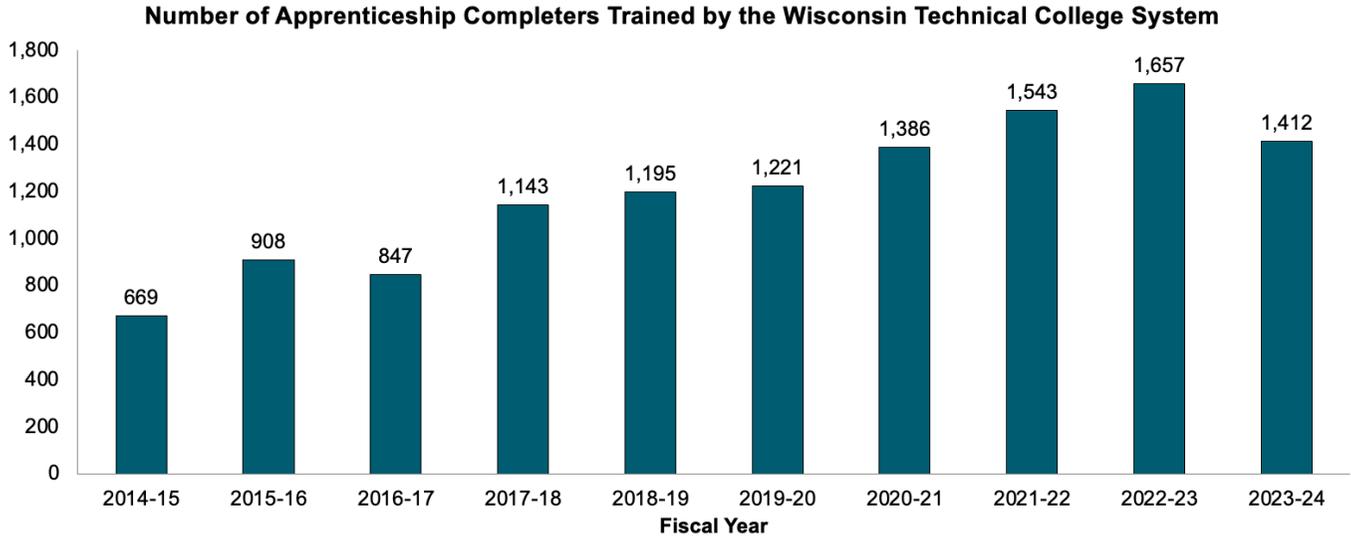
Educational Attainment Distribution of Wisconsin Residents Ages 25-64, 2024



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2026). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. Lumina’s methodology for short-term non-degree credentials includes only certificates and certifications that meet its value threshold of earning at least 15% above the national median annual wages of a high school graduate. The reported share of adults whose highest credential is a certificate or certification may thus be underestimated. Wisconsin’s registered apprenticeship completion certificates are not captured in Lumina’s attainment measure. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

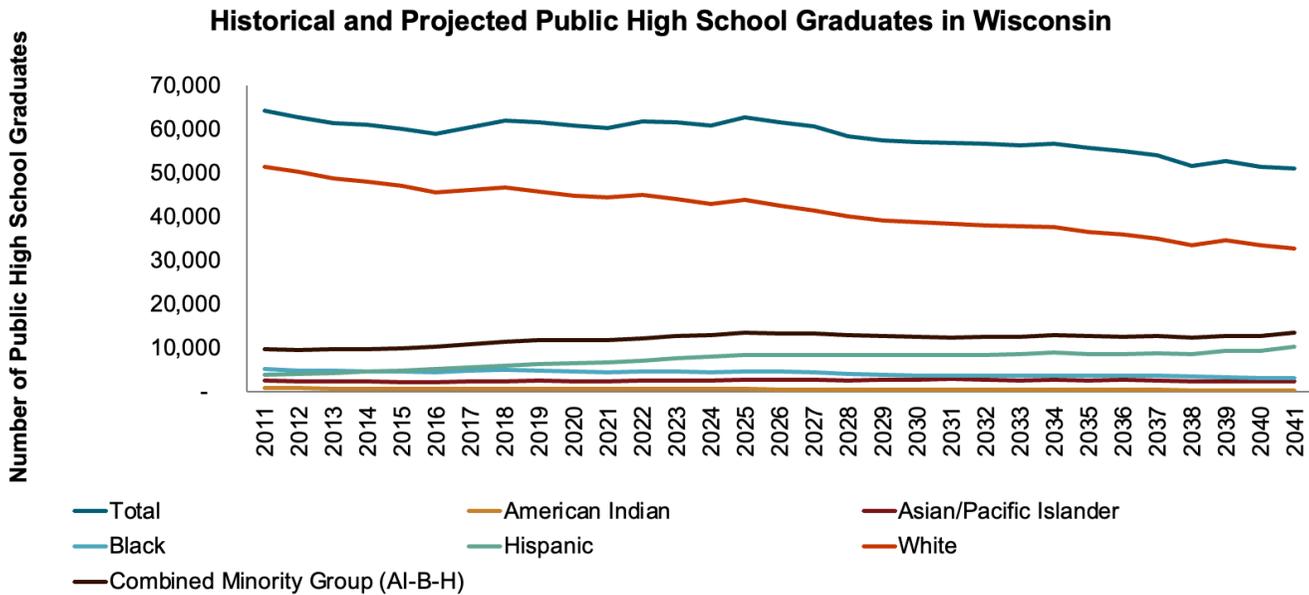


APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION: The total number of registered apprenticeship completers trained by WTCS has increased over much of the past decade.



Source. Wisconsin Technical College System. (2024). *Apprentice completers FY15-FY24*.

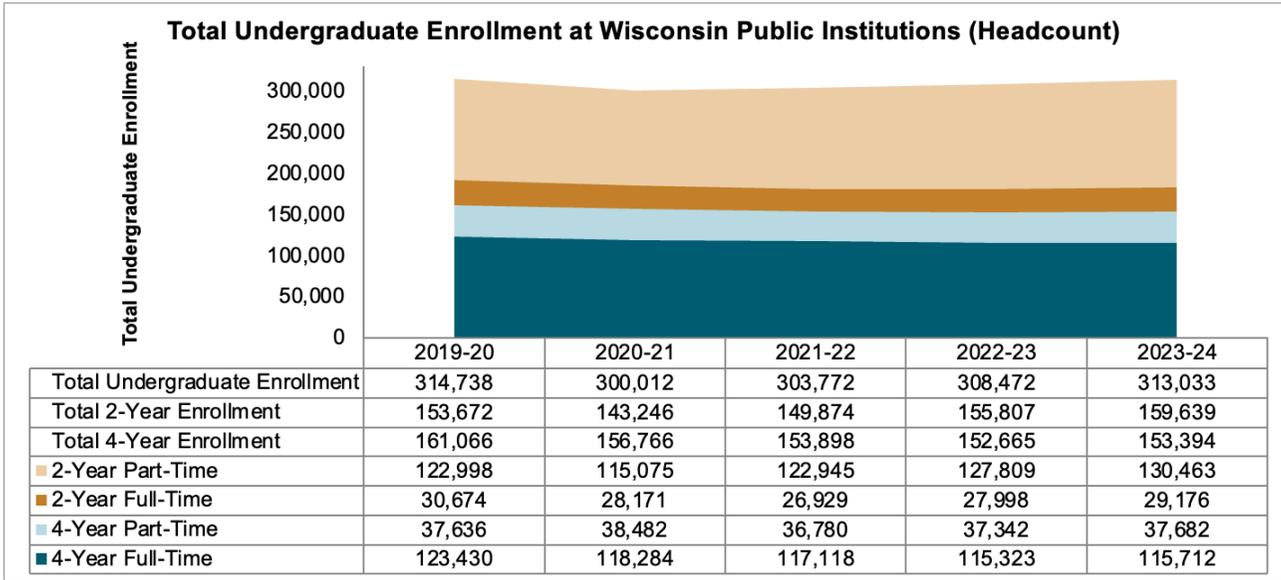
ENROLLMENT POOL: The number of high school graduates in Wisconsin is projected to decline over the next decade, driven by a decrease among White graduates, while the number of graduates in the combined minority group is expected to remain stable.



Source. WICHE. (2024). *Knocking at the College Door*. The combined minority group (AI-B-H) comprises American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics. The estimates exclude home-schooled students. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

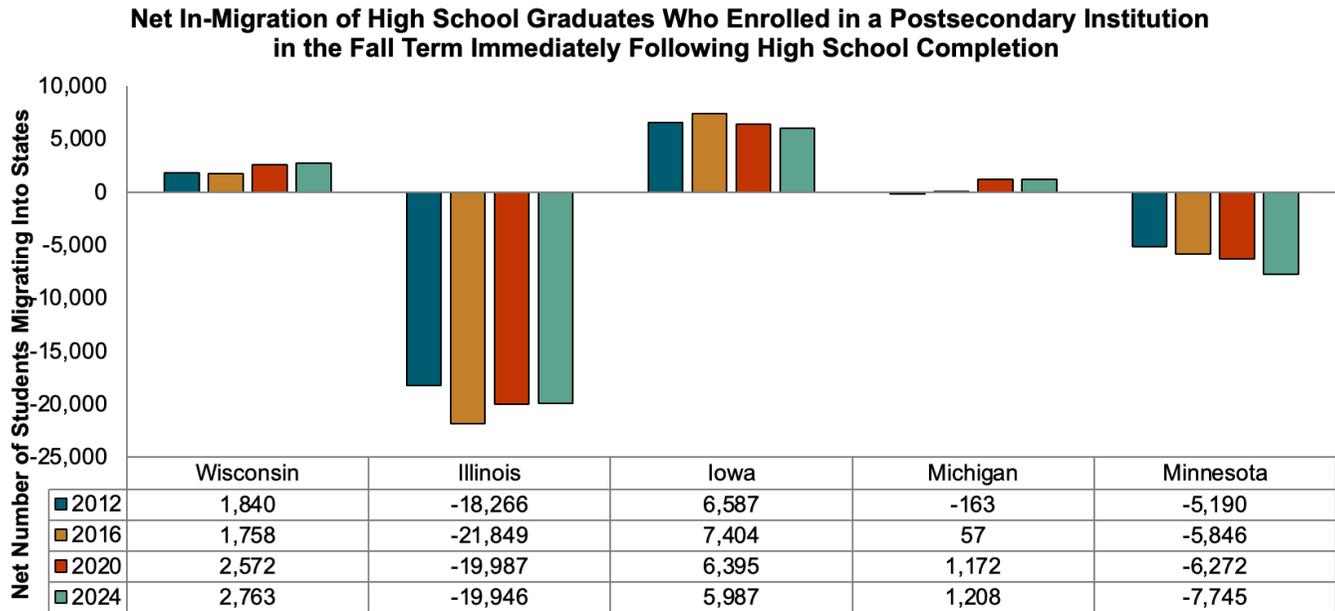


ENROLLMENT: Total undergraduate enrollment at Wisconsin public institutions has increased since 2020-21.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *12-month unduplicated undergraduate headcount*. Enrollment estimates include on- and off-campus students, dual enrollment students, and students taking distance or online courses. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Categorizations may change over time. Enrollment at public four-year institutions since 2018-19 includes the University of Wisconsin Colleges. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

MIGRATION: More students migrate into Wisconsin than migrate out.

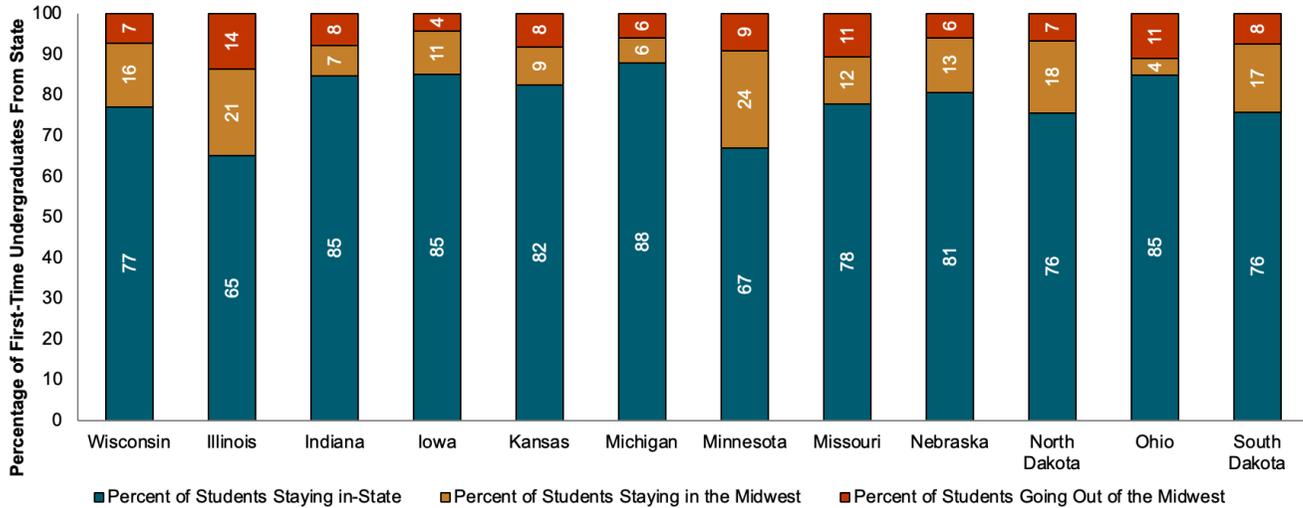


Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Fall enrollment*. Estimates include enrollment at any Title IV-participating postsecondary institution. Students with unknown residence and those entering from outlying territories and foreign countries are excluded. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



ENROLLMENT LOCATION: Of first-time college students from Wisconsin, 77 percent enrolled in state, 16 percent enrolled elsewhere in the Midwest, and 7 percent enrolled outside the Midwest.

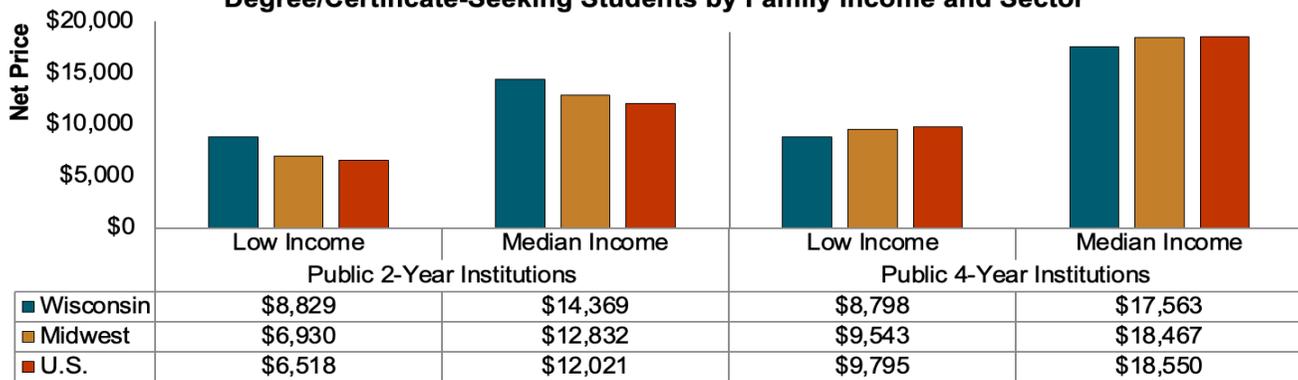
Regional Migration of High School Graduates Who Enrolled in a Postsecondary Institution In Fall 2024 Immediately Following High School Completion



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Fall enrollment*. Estimates include enrollment at any Title IV-participating postsecondary institution. Students with unknown residence and those entering from outlying territories and foreign countries are excluded. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

NET PRICE: Average net prices for low- and median income students at Wisconsin public two-year colleges are higher than the Midwest and national averages, while the average net prices for low- and median-income students at public four-year institutions are lower than the Midwest and national averages.

Average Net Price of One Year of Enrollment for First-Time, Full-Time, Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students by Family Income and Sector

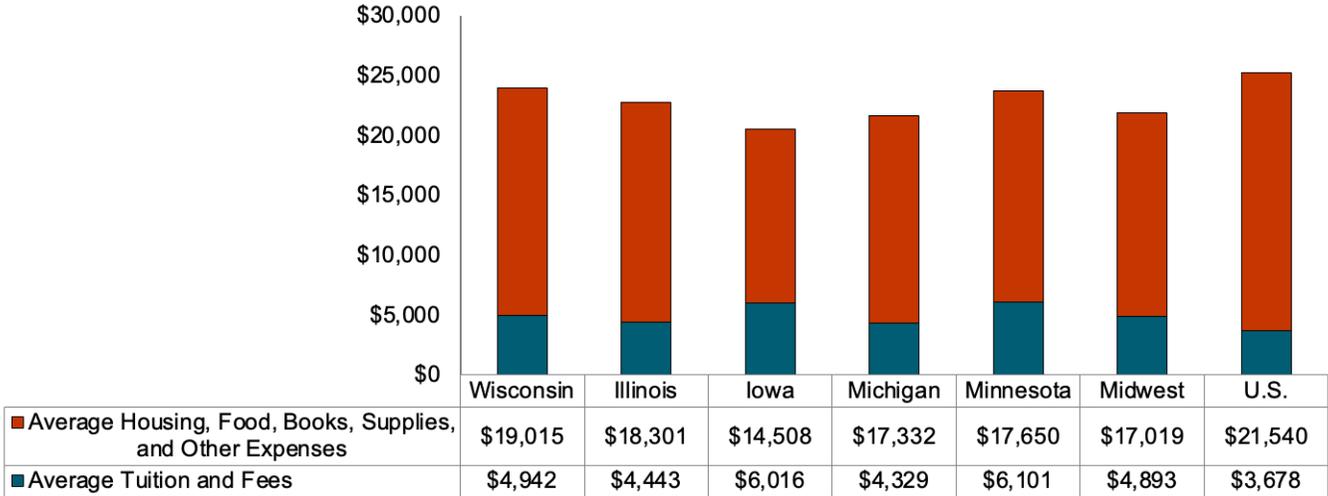


Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Net price*. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). *American Community Survey one-year estimates, Table B19125: Median family income in the past 12 months by presence of own children under 18 years*. Note. Net price is standardized to first-time, full-time, degree/certificate-seeking students for comparative analysis and should not be interpreted as the typical price paid by all students, particularly in the two-year sector, where part-time students constitute a large share of enrollment. Total cost of attendance includes in-state or in-district published tuition and required fees, books, supplies, food, on-/off-campus housing, and other expenses. The net price of attendance for a median-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$102,394 must pay for college. The net price of attendance for a low-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$30,000 or less must pay for college. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



COST OF ATTENDANCE: The average total cost of attendance – published tuition and required fees, books, supplies, food, housing, and other expenses - at Wisconsin public two-year colleges is lower than the national average but higher than the price in its border states.

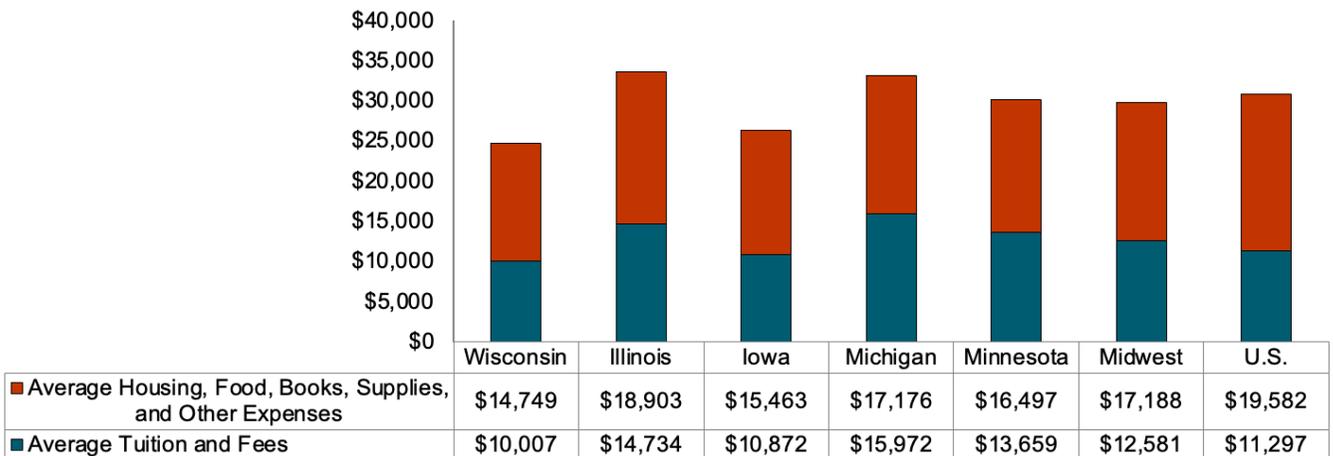
Total Cost of Attendance at Public Two-Year Institutions for First-Time, Full-Time, Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students, 2024-25



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Institutional characteristics. 12-month enrollment*. Note. Cost of attendance is for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates paying the in-district tuition rate. For institutions without on-campus housing, housing and food is estimated as the cost of living off-campus for students not living at home with their parents. Estimates are weighted by FTE enrollment. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

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Total Cost of Attendance for First-Time, Full-Time, Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students at Public Four-Year Institutions, 2024-25

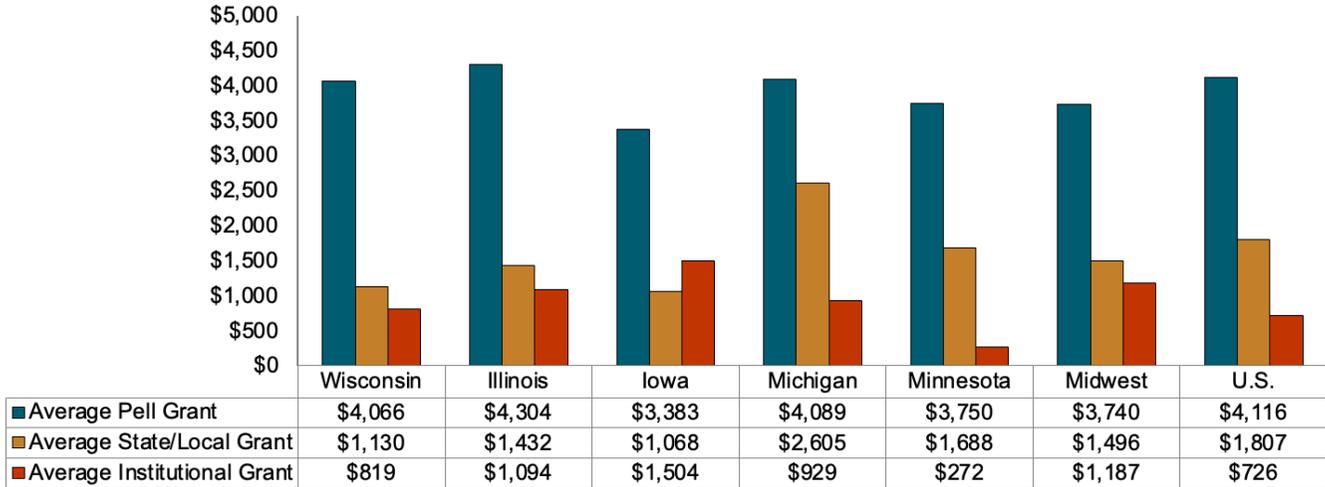


Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Institutional characteristics. 12-month enrollment*. Note. Cost of attendance is for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates paying the in-state tuition rate. For institutions without on-campus housing, housing and food is estimated as the cost of living off-campus for students not living at home with their parents. Estimates are weighted by FTE enrollment. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



GRANT AID: The average state grant aid (based on financial need or merit) at public two-year colleges was lower in Wisconsin than in most of its border states and lower than the Midwest and national averages.

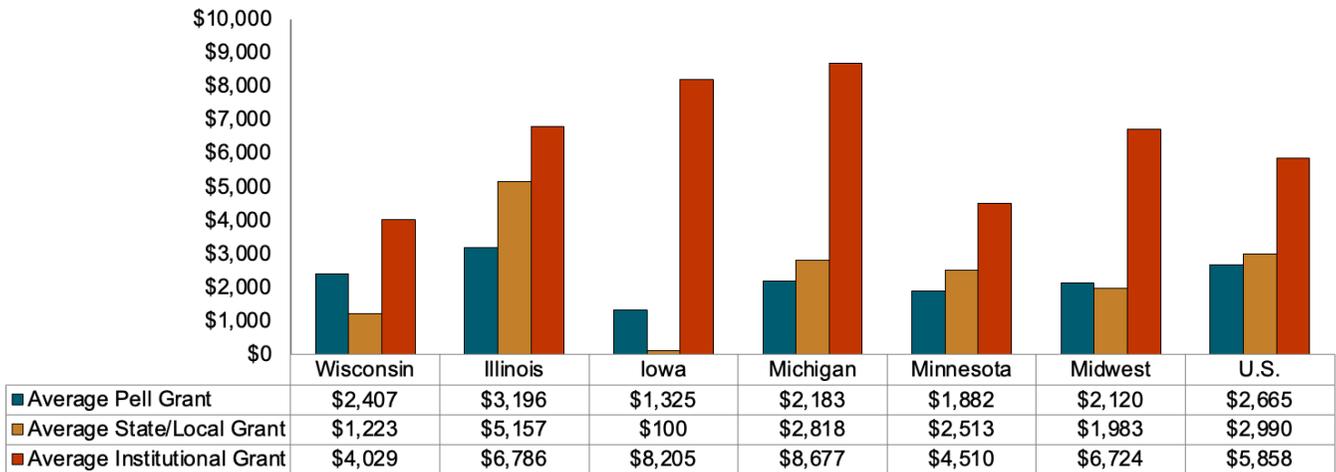
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Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Financial aid*. Estimates are weighted by full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who were awarded any grant aid. Grant aid includes need-based and merit-based aid. About 96% of state grant aid in Wisconsin is allocated based on financial need. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

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Wisconsin Technology Contract Usage



Total savings for institutions in Wisconsin = \$1,735,690

Higher Education

Beloit College
 Chippewa Valley Technical College
 Concordia University
 Madison Area Technical College
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Milwaukee Area Technical College
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Moraine Park Technical College
 Mount Mary University
 Nicolet College
 Northcentral Technical College
 Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
 Ripon College
 University of Wisconsin - Maintenance/Central Store

University of Wisconsin - Madison
 University of Wisconsin - Madison - Wisconsin Union
 Memorial Union
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee - Print Services
 University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
 University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority
 University of Wisconsin System
 University of Wisconsin System - Board of Regents
 Waukesha County Technical College
 Western Technical College
 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
 Wisconsin Technical College System

K-12

Athens School District
 Barneveld School District
 Birchwood Public Schools
 Bonduel School District
 Brodhead School District
 Cedar Grove Belgium Area Schools
 Cedarburg School District
 Central Westosha High School
 Chetek School District
 Chippewa Falls Middle School
 Chippewa Falls School District
 Colby Public Schools
 Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6
 Cooperative Educational Service Agency 9
 Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10
 Darlington Schools
 Dominican High School
 Durand School District
 Eau Claire Area School District
 Edgerton School District
 Elk Mound Area School District
 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School
 Fennimore Community Schools
 Gibraltar Area School District
 Gilman School District
 Granton Area School District
 Hacil Charter School
 Hales Corners Lutheran School
 Hartland-Lakeside Joint District 3
 Hayward Community School District
 Holmen School District
 Holy Angels School
 Independence School District
 Kansasville School
 Lodi High School
 Lodi School District
 Luck School District

Lutheran High School Association
 Madison Metropolitan School District
 Manitowoc Public School District
 Marion High School
 Marshfield School District
 Marshfield Senior High School
 McFarland Community Schools
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Menomonee Falls School District
 Milwaukee Lutheran High School
 Milwaukee Public Schools
 Mineral Point School District
 Mineral Point Unified Schools
 Mondovi School District
 Monroe School District
 Mukwonago Area School District
 Mukwonago High School
 Muskego High School
 Muskego-Norway School District
 Necedah School District
 Nekoosa School District
 New Berlin Public Schools
 Northland Pines School District
 Oconto Unified School District
 Onalaska School District
 Osceola Middle School
 Osceola School District
 Osseo-Fairchild School District
 Pardeeville Area School District
 Pecatonica Area Schools
 Pewaukee Schools
 Pius XI Catholic High School
 Plum City School District
 Plymouth Joint School District
 Prairie du Chien School District
 Prentice School District
 Randall Consolidated School



River Ridge School District
 Riverdale School District
 Rosendale-Brandon School District
 Saint Martin Lutheran School
 Saint Paul's Lutheran School
 Sauk Prairie Early Learning Center
 Sauk Prairie School District
 School District of Abbotsford
 School District of Altoona
 School District of Black River Falls
 School District of Elmwood
 School District of Fort Atkins
 School District of Loyal
 School District of New Lisbon
 School District of Omro
 Shorewood School District

Southwest-West Central Service Cooperative
 Spencer School District
 Spooner Area School District
 St. Peter Catholic School
 Stevens Point Area Public Schools
 Tomorrow River School District
 University School of Milwaukee
 Viroqua Area Schools
 Waterloo School District
 Wausau School District
 Wauzeka Public Schools
 Webster School District
 West Allis West Milwaukee School District
 West Bend School District
 Wheatland Center School
 Wisconsin Heights School District

Government/Other

Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 Bayfield County
 Bayfield County - Information Technology
 Calvary Lutheran Church
 Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library
 Chippewa County
 City of Ashland
 City of Baraboo
 City of Bayfield
 City of Delafield
 City of Fitchburg
 City of Fitchburg - Information Technology
 City of Kenosha
 City of Manitowoc
 City of Menomonie
 City of Oconomowoc
 City of Sun Prairie
 Clark County
 Columbus Public Library
 County of Kenosha
 Dane County - Information Management
 Door County Library
 Eau Claire City - County Health Department
 Eau Claire County
 Edgerton Hospital and Health Services
 Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
 Fond Du Lac Public Library
 IFLS Library System
 Iowa County
 Jackson County
 Jackson County Courthouse
 Jane Morgan Memorial Library
 Kenosha Public Library
 Lake Shores Library System
 Lester Public Library
 Lincoln County
 Madison Public Library
 Manitowoc Calumet Library System
 Manitowoc Public Library
 Manitowoc Public Utilities
 Marion Area Transit
 Marshfield Public Library

Menasha Utilities
 Menominee County
 Mercer Public Library
 Milwaukee County Federated Library System
 Monarch Library System
 Monona Public Library
 Nicolet Federated Library System
 North Prairie Police Department
 Northern Waters Library Service
 Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utilities
 Oakfield Public Library
 Oconomowoc Public Library
 Oregon Public Library
 Outagamie-Waupaca Library System
 Paragon Development Systems
 Portage Public Library
 Ripon Public Library
 Saint Charles Youth & Family Services
 South Central Library System
 Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
 Sun Prairie Public Library
 Town of Rock
 Town of Roxbury
 Town of Wheatland
 Vernon County - Information Technology
 Village of Elm Grove
 Village of Howard
 Village of McFarland
 Village of Pleasant Prairie
 Village of Plover
 Waunakee Public Library
 Waupun Public Library
 West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
 Winding Rivers Library System
 Winnefox Library System
 Wisconsin Library Association
 Wisconsin State Legislature - Legislative Technology
 Services Bureau
 Wisconsin Valley Library Services
 YWCA of Greater Milwaukee



Wisconsin Program Participation as of 12/10/25

When members identify the need for solutions to challenges in postsecondary education, MHEC explores whether a long-term, regional approach is beneficial. Programs born from this process offer enrolling institutions opportunities to save money, improve efficiency, and better serve their stakeholders.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education

Alverno College
 Bellin College
 Blackhawk Technical College
 Carroll University
 Carthage College
 Chippewa Valley Technical College
 Concordia University Wisconsin
 Edgewood University
 Fox Valley Technical College
 Gateway Technical College
 Herzing University
 Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University
 Lakeland University
 Lakeshore Technical College
 Madison Area Technical College
 Maranatha Baptist University
 Marian University
 Marquette University
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Mid-State Technical College
 Midwest College of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine
 Milwaukee Area Technical College
 Milwaukee Institute of Art Design
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Moraine Park Technical College

Mount Mary University
 Nicolet Area Technical College
 Northcentral Technical College
 Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
 Northwood Technical College
 Ripon College
 Sacred Heart School of Theology
 Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
 University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
 University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
 University of Wisconsin - Madison
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
 University of Wisconsin - Parkside
 University of Wisconsin - Platteville
 University of Wisconsin - River Falls
 University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
 University of Wisconsin - Stout
 University of Wisconsin - Superior
 University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
 Viterbo University
 Waukesha County Technical College
 Western Technical College
 Wisconsin Lutheran College

*Approved SARA Institutions in Wisconsin per <https://www.nc-sara.org/directory>

Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)

University of Wisconsin Green Bay
 University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

*Access the most up-to-date list of participants at <https://msep.mhec.org>

Stone Arch Sponsored Cell Captive Insurance Program

Contact Breanne Hegg to learn about participating in this program, which allows higher education institutions and systems to manage risk by using cells in MHEC's wholly owned captive insurance company: breanneh@mhec.org.

Student Health Programs – UnitedHealthCare StudentResources

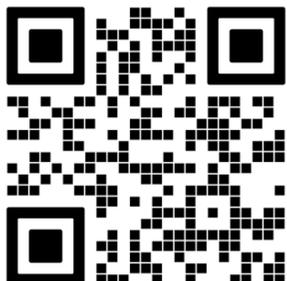
Contact Breanne Hegg, vice president of programs, contracts, and communications, to learn more about participation for your institution: breanneh@mhec.org.



MHEC Resources

Wisconsin member state page (with multiple downloadable documents)

<https://mhec.org/states/wisconsin> or scan the QR code below



MHEC website

<https://mhec.org/>

Interactive dashboard (offering key data to boost educational attainment)

<https://mhec.org/mhec-interactive-dashboard/>

MHEC contracts

<https://mhec.org/what-we-do/contracts/>

MHEC news

<https://mhec.org/news/>

MHEC strategic plan

<https://mhec.org/about/strategic-plan/>

MHEC committees

<https://mhec.org/about/committees/>

MHEC commissioners

<https://mhec.org/about/commissioners/>

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

<https://tinyurl.com/55nekm5j>

Contact

Susan G. Heegaard, President

mhec@mhec.org

(612) 677-2777

