



Students' and families' difficulty affording college remains the most significant barrier in their pursuit of higher education. But affordability varies among different groups of students and institutions. Through this research we show the diversity of today's student population, and apply one definition of affordability to all institutions in the state, for different groups of students.



The combination of skyrocketing college tuition, increasing financial necessity of obtaining a college degree, and decreases in funding for public benefits has meant that it is increasingly critical for policymakers to pay attention to concerns about homelessness and housing insecurity for college students. With twenty percent of young Californians currently rent burdened, focusing on options to help support students' food and housing needs is more important than ever.

### Number of Students that Face Housing Insecurity in California



Out of the 2.7 million college students in California, **540,000** experience housing insecurity.

### Affordable Institutions in California



Only **38%** of California institutions are “affordable,” with **4%** being affordable for students that face housing insecurity. Under the Rule of 10, students experiencing this should save \$21,000 to pay for college.

Lumina Foundation’s affordability benchmark, known as The Rule of 10, states that students should pay no more for college than 10% of their discretionary income for 10 years, and the earnings from working 10 hours a week while in school. Using the U.S. Census, we applied median incomes of different groups of students to test all of California’s institutions’ net prices (cost of attendance minus grant aid, drawn from IPEDS) on the Rule of 10 to determine if they are affordable. For students who were heads of household, we counted only 10% of discretionary income over 10 years, and didn’t treat student worker earnings as a separate number. For each group we took a weighted average of affordability for students who are heads of household and dependent students.

Median Net Cost  
**\$18,989**

10-Year Change in Education Appropriations  
**-\$53**

State Minimum Wage  
**\$10.50**

Least Affordable (net price)

<b>4-year public school</b> <i>California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo</i> <b>\$18,530</b>	<b>4-year private nonprofit school</b> <i>California Institute of the Arts</i> <b>\$50,472</b>
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<b>4-year public school</b> <i>California State University-Dominguez Hills</i> <b>\$3,297</b>	<b>4-year private nonprofit school</b> <i>Touro University Worldwide</i> <b>\$10,572</b>
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Most Affordable (net price)