

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT DOES IT COST TO ATTEND AN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOW DOES THAT COMPARE WITH OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONS?

Community colleges deliver low cost, high quality instruction. For the current academic year (fiscal year 2026), the average Illinois community college tuition and basic fee cost to a full-time, in-district student is \$4,943 (based on 30 semester hours). This is an increase of 2.7 percent (+\$131) from the previous year and 9.2 percent (+\$417) from 2022.

Table 1
**Illinois Public Community Colleges and Public and Private University
Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition & Fees
(based on 30 semester hours)
Fiscal Years 2022-2026**

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Community Colleges	\$4,526	\$4,604	\$4,710	\$4,813	\$4,943
Public Universities	\$14,264	\$14,662	\$15,313	\$15,497	\$16,264
<i>\$ Savings</i>	<i>-\$9,738</i>	<i>-\$10,058</i>	<i>-\$10,603</i>	<i>-\$10,684</i>	<i>-\$11,321</i>
Private Universities	\$41,423	\$42,897	\$44,287	\$45,586	\$47,240
<i>\$ Savings</i>	<i>-\$36,897</i>	<i>-\$38,293</i>	<i>-\$39,577</i>	<i>-\$40,773</i>	<i>-\$42,297</i>

SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Survey of Colleges, IBHE & ISAC Records

As depicted in **Table 1** and **Figure 1**, current average tuition and fees at Illinois community colleges are nearly **one-third** the average tuition and fees at Illinois public universities (\$16,264) and **one-ninth** the average tuition and fees at private universities (\$47,240).

Public university tuition and fees for first-year, in-state students increased 5.0 percent (+\$767) from fiscal year 2025 and 14.0 percent (+\$2,000) from fiscal year 2022. Note that entry-level tuition legislation requires that tuition charged to a first-time, under-graduate public university Illinois resident student must remain at the same level for four continuous academic years following initial enrollment or for the “normal time to complete” undergraduate programs that require over four years.

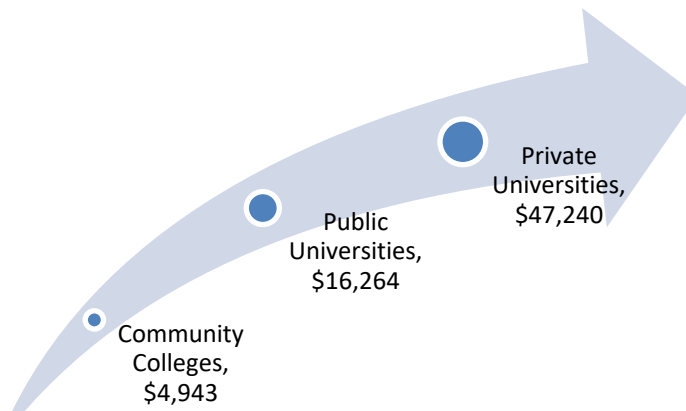


Figure 1. FY 2026 Illinois Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition and Fees



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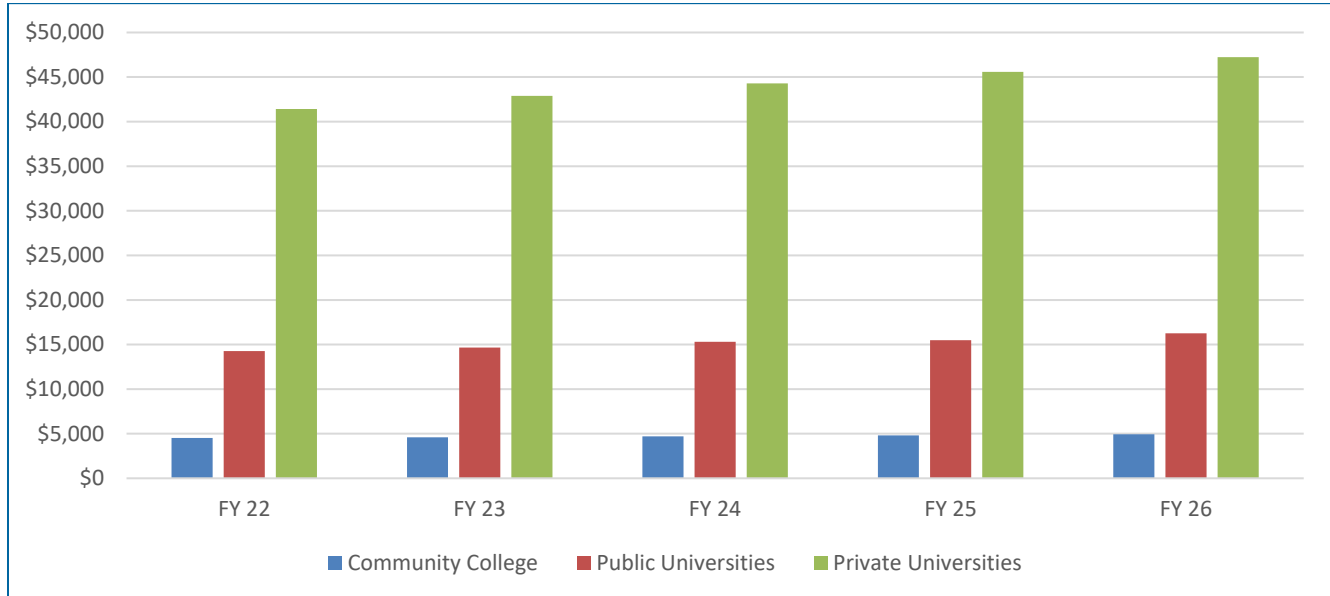


Figure 2. Illinois Community College and Public and Private University Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition and Fees, FY 2022-2026

Figure 2 illustrates the different cost for tuition and fees for community colleges versus other available in-state higher education options during 2022-2026. **Individuals interested in a bachelor's degree can significantly reduce their costs by completing the initial two years at their local community college.**

The latest available **FY 2026** comparative data show that tuition and fees at Illinois Community Colleges are **\$327 (6.2 percent) less than average community college tuition and fees in the Midwest (\$5,270)**. Tuition and fees at Illinois public universities are **\$3,204 (24.5 percent) more** than the Midwest average (\$13,060). The average tuition and fees at Midwestern private institutions is not available ([College Board](#)).

Illinois' community college **FY 2026** tuition and fees are **\$793 (19.1 percent) higher** than the National average of \$4,150. The National average is brought down by California, which enrolls one in five of the nation's full-time community college students, where community college prices are unusually low (\$1,440). Nationally, the average tuition and fees at public universities is \$11,950 in fiscal year 2026, which is **26.5 percent lower** than the Illinois average and **8.5 percent lower** than the Midwest average. The entry-level tuition policy at Illinois public institutions contributes to elevated Illinois figures. At private institutions, the average tuition and fees nationally is \$45,000, which is **\$2,240 (4.7 percent) less than** the Illinois average ([College Board](#) and [IPEDS Trend Generator](#)).

Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).

