

Topic in Brief

Pell Grant Recipients as a Peer Metric

November 2017

A higher percentage of UC Berkeley undergraduate students (32%) receive Pell Grants than the combined Ivy League (17%).

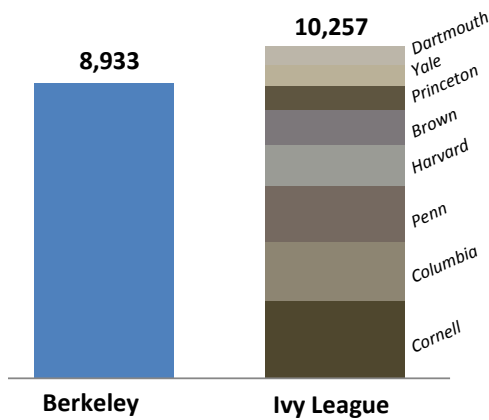
As an indicator of the University's ongoing commitment to economic diversity in our student population, our Pell Grant recipient counts are compared to peers using annual reporting from the U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE).

In comparing the number of Pell Grant recipients as a percentage of the undergraduate population, Berkeley's 32% is higher than the Ivy League average of 17% and Columbia's 22% (highest among the Ivies).

UC Berkeley and the Ivy League experienced declines in the number of Pell Grant recipients over the prior year.

Pell Grant and Enrollment Trend

2015-16 Pell Grant Recipients



Includes Summer, Fall and Spring Pell Grant recipients.

This represents the most recent data published by OPE, which is the best source for peer data due to the consistent, near-final reconciliation methodology that is employed.

Pell Grant Description: The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based financial aid for low-income undergraduates through some 5,400 participating colleges and universities. The amount of the award is determined by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) using a standard formula, and depends on student's financial need, the cost to attend, and full or part-time attendance status.

	2014-15	2015-16	% Chg	Fall '15* Undergrads	% Pell of Undergrads
UCB	9,125	8,933	-2%	27,496	32%
Cornell	2,313	2,291	-1%	14,226	16%
Columbia	1,905	1,914	0%	8,613	22%
Penn	1,636	1,568	-4%	9,726	16%
Harvard	1,236	1,210	-2%	6,634	18%
Brown	1,109	1,064	-4%	6,320	17%
Princeton	790	825	4%	5,260	16%
Yale	724	775	7%	5,528	14%
Dartmouth	595	610	3%	4,214	14%
Ivy League	10,308	10,257	0%	60,521	17%

* degree-seeking population

Source: All Pell Grant data from the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Distribution of Federal Pell Grant Program Funds by Institution, U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education, and enrollment from schools' Common Data Sets.

<http://www2.ed.gov/finaid/prof/resources/data/pell-institution.html>

There was a 2% decline in the recipient count at Berkeley between 2014-15 and 2015-16. Ivy League schools ranged from a 4% decline (Penn and Harvard) to a 7% increase (Yale). The change for all Ivies combined is a decrease of less than 1%.

Berkeley's 32% Pell of total undergraduates is again the lowest percentage among UC campuses, which range from 62% at Merced to 36% at San Diego. Merced (+7%), Santa Barbara (+3%) and Irvine (<1%) increased in recipient counts, while other campuses declined from <1% (UCLA) up to 2% (Riverside, Santa Cruz and San Diego).