

Topic in Brief

Pell Grant Recipients as a Peer Metric

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A higher percentage of UC Berkeley undergraduate students (30%) receive Pell Grants than the combined Ivy League (17%).

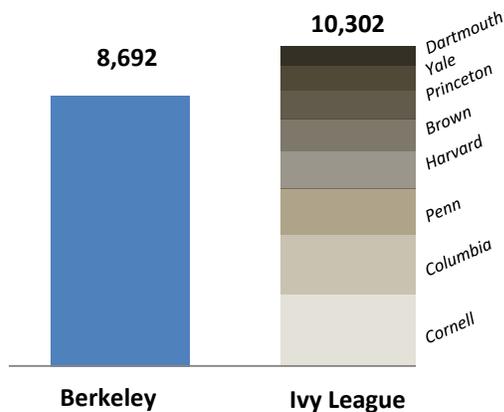
As an indicator of the University’s ongoing commitment to economic diversity in our student population, our Pell Grant recipient counts are compared to private peers using annual reporting from the U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE).

In comparing the number of Pell Grant recipients as a percentage of the undergraduate population, Berkeley’s 30% is higher than the Ivy League average of 17% and Columbia’s 22% (highest among the Ivies).

UC Berkeley declined in the number of Pell Grant recipients over the prior year. The Ivy League increased slightly.

Pell Grant Counts and % of Enrollment

2016-17 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 the student’s financial need, the cost to attend, and full or part-time attendance status.

	2015-16	2016-17	% Chg	Fall '16* Undergrads	% Pell of Undergrads
UCB	8,933	8,692	-3%	29,310	30%
Cornell	2,291	2,311	1%	14,566	16%
Columbia	1,914	1,914	0%	8,712	22%
Penn	1,568	1,495	-5%	10,019	15%
Harvard	1,210	1,217	1%	6,710	18%
Brown	1,064	1,031	-3%	6,926	15%
Princeton	825	880	7%	5,400	16%
Yale	775	812	5%	5,472	15%
Dartmouth	610	642	5%	4,310	15%
Ivy League	10,257	10,302	0%	62,115	17%

* degree-seeking population

Source: All Pell Grant data from the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Distribution of Federal Pell Grant Program Funds by Institution, U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education, and enrollment from schools’ online Common Data Sets or fact books.

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

There was a 3% decline in the Pell recipient count at Berkeley between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The Ivy League schools ranged from a 3% decline (Brown) to a 7% increase (Princeton) in Pell counts. There was less than 1% change for all Ivies combined.

Berkeley’s 30% Pell of total undergraduate population (a second year with a 2% decline) is again the lowest percentage among the UC campuses, which otherwise ranged from 63% at Merced to 35% at San Diego. All UC campuses declined from 1% to 5% in this metric except Riverside, which saw an increase from 55% to 58%.