Low-Income Students Face Considerable Unmet Financial Need at the University of California (UC)

Average Statewide Cost of Attending UC Full-Time Compared to Financial Aid, 2018-19

- The cost of attending UC includes more than tuition and fees. Students pursuing a college degree also face student-related living costs such as books and supplies, food, housing, and transportation. The total cost of attendance can exceed $33,000 per year.

- Most financial aid is linked primarily to tuition and falls short in addressing student-related living costs. Federal, state, and campus-based aid covers roughly 65% of the annual cost of attendance, leaving low-income students to cover over $11,000 in expenses.

- Addressing students’ unmet financial need is essential to their college success. Policymakers could focus financial aid on the total cost of attendance – not just tuition – to ensure higher education remains affordable and accessible for all Californians.

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