



DOUBLE THE PELL



Pell Grants are the primary way the federal government helps low-income students afford college. This vital program was started to ensure that anyone who wants to earn a college degree could do so. Most Pell Grant recipients come from households with annual family incomes of \$50,000 or less.

UW-Madison supports increasing the maximum Pell Grant each year, beginning in federal fiscal year (FY) 2021 and reaching a maximum award of \$13,000 by FY 2024.

UW-Madison Pell Grants by Congressional District

Congressional District	Number of Pell recipients	Pell amount accepted
WI-1	383	\$ 1,850,019
WI-2	1,045	\$ 5,011,657
WI-3	259	\$ 1,219,463
WI-4	368	\$ 1,890,966
WI-5	357	\$ 1,656,557
WI-6	332	\$ 1,504,093
WI-7	248	\$ 1,151,186
WI-8	268	\$ 1,211,914
Total	3,260	\$ 15,495,855

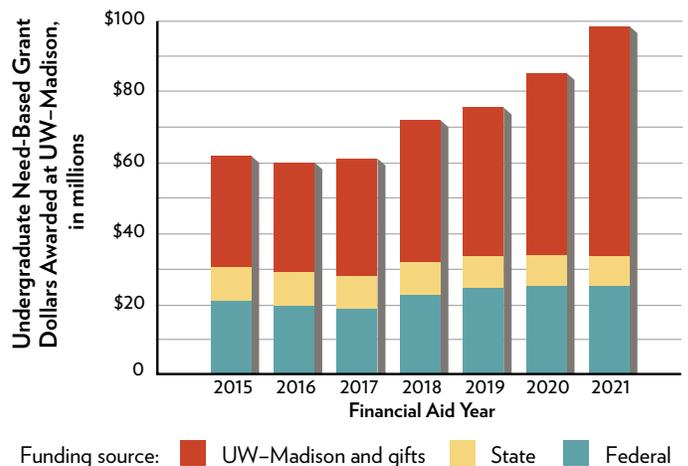
Why double the Pell Grant?

- Doubling the Pell Grant will ease student loan burden and boost the economy.** More than 7 million students receive Pell Grants nationally each year, but few of them can fully finance a 4-year degree. The resulting rise in student loan debt prevents recent graduates from buying homes, starting businesses, earning advanced degrees or launching other endeavors.
- Doubling the Pell Grant will help students meet their basic needs.** Across the country, college students are struggling with access to food, housing, health care, child care and other essentials. Higher levels of direct federal aid offered through Pell Grants will help ease this national issue.
- Doubling the Pell Grant will allow UW-Madison – and other colleges and universities – to stretch institutional financial aid further.** UW-Madison could extend more financial aid to students whose household income makes them ineligible for federal assistance, but whose families still struggle with the cost of college.

Pell Grant maximum is out of step with the cost of higher education

In 1980, Pell Grants covered more than 75 percent of the average cost to attend a 4-year public university. **Today, the maximum Pell Grant award covers just 28 percent of the average cost to attend a 4-year public university.**

UW-Madison and other higher education leaders are calling on Congress to restore the purchasing power of Pell Grants by doubling the amount of the maximum award over the next three years, and then indexing the grants to inflation.



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