



National Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities

Affordability Initiatives at Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

Examples of new programs to enhance affordability and lower students' out-of-pocket costs

The following examples of new affordability initiatives demonstrate the creative ways in which private, nonprofit colleges are working to keep students' and families' out-of-pocket costs as low as possible. Measures such as these are making a difference. Average net tuition and fees at private colleges has actually [dropped by 4.1 percent](#) from 2006-07 to 2011-12. Nevertheless, more must - and will - continue to be done by colleges to stay affordable and within reach of families from all backgrounds. Note: These are the examples NAICU knows of; there will be other private, nonprofit colleges introducing similar measures this fall.

New Affordability Measures for 2012-13

Tuition Cuts

- [Burlington College](#) is [discounting tuition by 25 percent](#) for the summer 2012 semester.
- [Cabrini College](#) is [cutting tuition by 12.5 percent for 2012-13](#), and will increase it no more than 3.45 percent through 2014-15. Institutional aid to students will remain as is.
- [Duquesne University](#) will [offer a 50-percent discount on tuition and fees](#) for all freshmen who enroll in the school of education in 2012. The discount is good for all four years students are in the program.
- [Lincoln College](#) is cutting tuition and fees by 24 percent at its Lincoln, Ill., campus, and by 28 percent at its Normal, Ill., campus.
- [Seton Hall University](#) is [reducing tuition and fees by two-thirds \(\\$21,000\)](#) for academically high achieving students, to match Rutgers University's in-state rate.
- [University of Charleston](#) is [cutting tuition by 22 percent](#) for entering freshmen and transfer students in 2012-13.
- [William Peace University](#) is [cutting tuition by 7.7 percent for 2012-13](#), and freezing room and board at the current rate. Institutional aid to students will remain as is.

Tuition Freezes (0-percent increases)

- [Alderson Broaddus College](#) is [freezing tuition at its current level for the 2012-13 and 2013-14](#) academic years. The college also froze tuition in 2011-12.

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- [Burlington College](#) is [freezing tuition at its current level for fall 2012](#), and guaranteeing it won't increase for four years, for current and incoming full-time students.
- [Culver-Stockton College](#) is [freezing tuition at its current level for 2012-13](#).
- [Goodwin College](#) is [freezing tuition at its current level for 2012-13](#).
- For 2012-13, [Hardin-Simmons University](#) is [freezing tuition for the entering class at the 2011-12 level](#). The incoming class also will be able to guarantee the rate for as long as students are enrolled full-time at the university.
- [Montreat College](#) is freezing tuition at its current level for the 2012-13 academic year.
- [Oak Hills Christian College](#) is freezing tuition at its current level for 2012-2013.
- [Sewanee: University of the South](#) is [freezing tuition for current students for 2012-13](#). This follows a 10-percent cut in tuition, fees, room, and board in 2011-12.
- [Tabor University](#) is [freezing tuition for 2012-13](#).
- [Urbana University](#) is [freezing tuition, room, and board](#) for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- [Westminster College \(Mo.\)](#) is [freezing tuition at its current level for 2012-13](#).

Tuition Guarantees

- [Burlington College](#) is freezing tuition at its current level for fall 2012, and [guaranteeing it won't increase for four years](#), for current and incoming full-time students.
- [Columbia College](#) has announced a [new tuition plan that will hold a freshman student's tuition constant for five years](#). It is tentatively set to begin fall 2012.
- Beginning in 2012-13, [Roosevelt University](#) and nearby community colleges will offer students a seamless educational experience for students with a guaranteed tuition rate. Students complete an associate's degree and matriculate to Roosevelt at a frozen tuition price point across four years.

Four-Year Graduation Guarantees

- [Ashland University](#) is introducing a [Four-Year Graduation Guarantee](#) for incoming students in fall 2012. If students don't finish in four years, Ashland will pay up to an additional year of tuition for the extra time it takes them to finish, as long as they adhere to their graduation plan.

- In fall 2012, [Baldwin-Wallace College](#) is introducing the "[Four-Year Graduation Guarantee](#)" program. The college will ensure that students graduate within four years or it will cover the cost for the extra time that it takes.
- Beginning fall 2012, [Jacksonville University](#) will offer a [four-year graduation guarantee](#) to traditional freshmen.
- Beginning in fall 2012, [Medaille College](#) will offer incoming freshmen a [four-year graduation guarantee](#).
- Starting in fall 2012, [Midland University](#) will offer a [four-year graduation guarantee](#).

Three-Year Degree Programs

- Beginning in fall 2012, [Ashland University](#) will offer [12 bachelor's degrees](#) that can be completed in three years.
- Beginning in fall 2012, [Baldwin-Wallace College](#) will offer [three-year degree options](#).
- [Thomas More College](#) is beginning a [three-year degree program in 2012-13](#), which will be available in all undergraduate programs except nursing and education. With admittance into the program comes a fixed tuition rate for all three years.
- Beginning in 2012-13, [Urbana University](#) will begin modifying degree programs and course schedules to allow motivated students to obtain degrees in three years.
- [Wentworth Institute of Technology](#) will start its first [three-year baccalaureate degree program in fall 2012](#).

Partnerships with Community Colleges

- Beginning in 2012-13, [Baylor University](#) will begin the pilot phase of the new [Baylor@MCC Co-Enrollment Program with McLennan Community College](#). Students in the program will attend the first year or two at MCC then move on seamlessly to graduate at Baylor.
- Beginning in 2012-13, [Roosevelt University](#) and nearby [community colleges will offer students a seamless educational experience](#) for students with a guaranteed tuition rate. Students complete an associate's degree and matriculate to Roosevelt at a frozen tuition price point across four years.
- In fall 2012, [University of San Francisco](#) is expanding its [2+2 partnerships with local community colleges](#) to its Sacramento campus, followed by two other USF branch campuses likely in spring 2013. Traditional undergraduate students compete two years at a community college, and then

transfer to the local USF campus for their last two years, without having to relocate. Tuition for these students is discounted by 33 percent.

Student Aid Initiatives

- For 2012-13, [University of Saint Mary](#) is significantly raising the dollar amount of academic scholarships for most students. For first-time students, individual scholarships amounts will be raised by an average of over 40 percent from current year levels. For transfer students, scholarships have been raised by an average of over 50 percent.

Special Scholarship Programs

- For 2012-13, first-year [University of Dayton](#) students can [receive up to \\$4,000 over four years for textbooks](#) if they apply, visit campus, and complete a financial aid form by March 1, 2012.

Significantly Lower Tuition Increases

- [Ashland University](#) is increasing tuition, room, and board [by 1.1 percent](#) for 2012-13, the *smallest increase on record*.
- [California Institute of the Arts](#) is proposing a 2 percent tuition increase for 2012-13, the *lowest percentage increase in three decades*.
- [Heidelberg University](#) is increasing its comprehensive fee (tuition, fees, room, and board) by 2.8 percent for 2012-13, the *second lowest increase in decades*.
- [Huntington University](#) is increasing tuition by [2.5 percent for 2012-13](#), the *lowest increase in recent memory*.
- [LaGrange College](#) expects its percentage increase in tuition for 2012-13 to be the *smallest in 20 years*.
- [Mississippi College](#) will increase tuition 2.8 percent for 2012-13, the *eighth straight year the college has held annual tuition increases between 2 and 3 percent*.
- [Ursuline College](#) is increasing tuition by 3.5 percent for 2012-2013, the *smallest increase in 13 years*.

Curricular Innovations

- Beginning in 2012-13, [Lipscomb University](#) will reduce the number of units needed for graduation, from 132 to 126 hours, lowering the total cost of tuition and time to graduation.
- Beginning in 2012-13, [Urbana University](#) will offer [online inter-session courses during December and May at a reduced rate of more than 50 percent](#), to help students who want to compress their time to degree completion, and enhance affordability.

Accelerated Joint Bachelor's-Master's Degree Programs

- Beginning in fall 2012, [Simmons College](#) is offering [3+1 programs](#) that allow students to receive both bachelor's and master's degrees in just four years.
- Beginning in fall 2012, [Wilson College](#) will offer a [3+1 program](#) for undergraduate students that allows them to graduate in four years having completed their bachelor's and master's degrees in the humanities.

New Affordability Measures for 2011-12

Tuition Cuts

- [Beis Medrash Heichal Dovid](#) rabbinical school [cut tuition by more than 20 percent](#).
- [Bluefield College](#) cut tuition by [25 percent for working adults returning to school](#) to complete a degree.
- [Brewton-Parker College](#) cut tuition by [22 percent for 2011-12](#).
- [Davis College \(N.Y.\)](#) cut tuition by [22 percent for 2011-12](#).
- [Sewanee: University of the South](#) cut tuition, fees, room and board by [10 percent for 2011-12](#).

Replacing Loans with Grants

- Beginning in fall 2011, [Northwestern University](#) is significantly increasing student aid to incoming freshmen who graduated from high schools in Evanston, Ill., and Chicago, including [eliminating loans and required work-study jobs and providing more scholarship funds](#).

Tuition Freezes (0-percent increases)

Of the institutions that responded to NAICU's 2011-12 tuition survey, 13 were freezing tuition. Of these, the following three schools self-identified when completing the survey.

- [Catawba University](#) – [news release](#)
- [Lees-McRae College](#) – [news release](#)
- [The Sage Colleges](#) – [news release](#)
(Note: second consecutive year tuition has been frozen)

Tuition Guarantee

- Starting in fall 2011, [St. Mary-of-the-Woods College's "Tuition Promise"](#) program guarantees that tuition for on-campus students will remain the same for four years.

Public University Tuition Match

- Beginning in 2011-12, through the "[Access Guarantee](#)" program, new freshman students from low- and middle-income families can attend [Northland College](#) at the same or lower cost than at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Four-year Graduation Guarantee

- Starting in fall 2011, [Randolph-Macon College](#) guarantees that freshmen who meet the [Four-Year Degree Guarantee](#) requirements will graduate within four years. If not, the college will waive tuition costs for courses needed to complete the degree.

Three-Year Degree Programs

- Starting fall 2011, [Grace College](#) will offer a three-year accelerated degree in each of its 50-plus major areas of study.
- Beginning in fall 2011, [Lesley University](#) will offer three-year degree options.
- In 2011-12, [St. John's University](#) launches a three-year degree program at its Grymes Hill campus, offering students a projected savings of \$29,000.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

- Beginning in fall 2011, [Huntington University](#) will offer a [loan repayment assistance program](#) to all new freshmen students enrolling full time. If, after earning a degree, a graduate's annual salary is below \$20,000, the student will be reimbursed the entire amount of his or her loan payments. As the graduate's income grows to \$40,000 the benefit is reduced proportionally.

Special Scholarship Programs

- For fall 2011, [Benedictine University](#) has launched the "[Illinois Back to Work](#)" program for qualified applicants who have been unemployed for at least 18 months. The program covers any remaining tuition after all state and federal student aid is applied. Qualified applicants must be Illinois residents 25 or older who have been unemployed for at least 18 months and not already have a bachelor's degree.

Graduate Degree Discounts

- Starting in fall 2011 semester, [Capitol College](#) began offering a [10-percent alumni discount on all of its master's degree programs](#) and graduate certificates to new alumni applicants.
- Beginning in 2011-12, [Milwaukee School of Engineering](#) will offer new alumni the opportunity to earn a [free master's degree](#), if they begin their full-time graduate studies within one year of graduating from MSOE and satisfy a number of criteria. The MSOE Graduate Tuition Grant covers 100 percent of tuition.

Significantly Lower Tuition Increases

- [Biola University](#) increased tuition by 3.98 percent in 2011-2012, *the smallest increase in 25 years.*
- [Boston University](#) increased tuition by [3.85 percent for 2011-12](#), *one of the lowest increases in 40 years.*
- [Colorado College](#) increased tuition by [2.39 percent for 2011-12](#), *the lowest increase in 37 years.*
- [Connecticut College](#) increased tuition by [3.5 percent for 2011-12](#), *the smallest increase in a decade.*
- [Elmira College](#) increased tuition by 3 percent for 2011-12, *the smallest tuition increase in 35 years.*
- [Elon University](#) increased tuition by 3.98 for 2011-12, *the smallest increase in more than 20 years.*
- [Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University](#) increased tuition by 2 percent for 2011-12, *one the lowest increases in years.*
- [Georgetown University](#) increased tuition by 2.9 percent for 2011-12, *the smallest increase in 38 years.*
- [Goddard College](#) increased tuition by 3 percent for 2011-12, *the smallest increase in 10 years.*

- [Lehigh University](#) increased tuition by [3 percent for 2011-12](#), *one of the lowest increases in four decades.*
- [Princeton University](#) increased tuition by [1 percent for 2011-12](#), *the lowest increase in 45 years.*
- [Sacred Heart University](#) increased tuition by 3.77 percent for 2011-12, *the lowest increase in 30 years*, and froze the room charge at the prior year's level.

- [Saint Mary's College](#) increased tuition by [3.2 percent for 2011-12](#), *the lowest increase in 10 years.*
- [Syracuse University](#) increased tuition by 3.8 percent for 2011-12, *the lowest increase in 46 years.*
- [Tufts University](#) increased tuition by 3 percent in 2011-12, *the smallest increase in 48 years.*
- [University of Bridgeport](#) increased tuition by 3.7 percent in 2011-12, *the lowest increase in 10 years.*
- [University of Pennsylvania](#) increased tuition by [3.9 percent for 2011-12](#), *its second smallest tuition increase in 43 years.*
- [University of San Francisco](#) increased tuition by 2.9 percent for 2011-12, *the smallest increase in decades*, while increasing financial aid by 7.4 percent.
- [Wellesley College](#) increased tuition by 2.5 percent for 2011-2012, *the smallest increase in more than 15 years.*