

Student Loans vs College Tuition: Is there an association?



\$21.66K

Average Private Tuition per Academic Year

\$5.63K

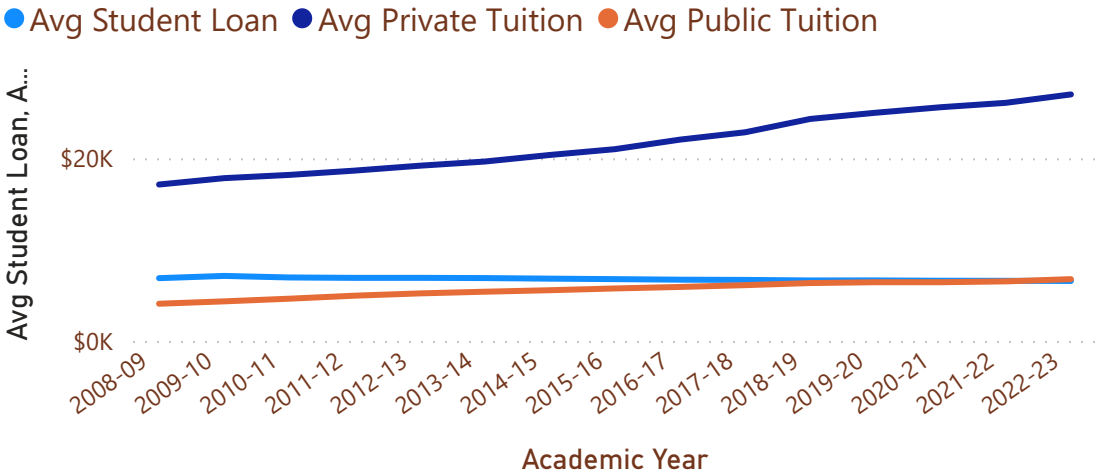
Average Public Tuition per Academic Year

\$6.78K

Average Student Loan Amount per Academic Year

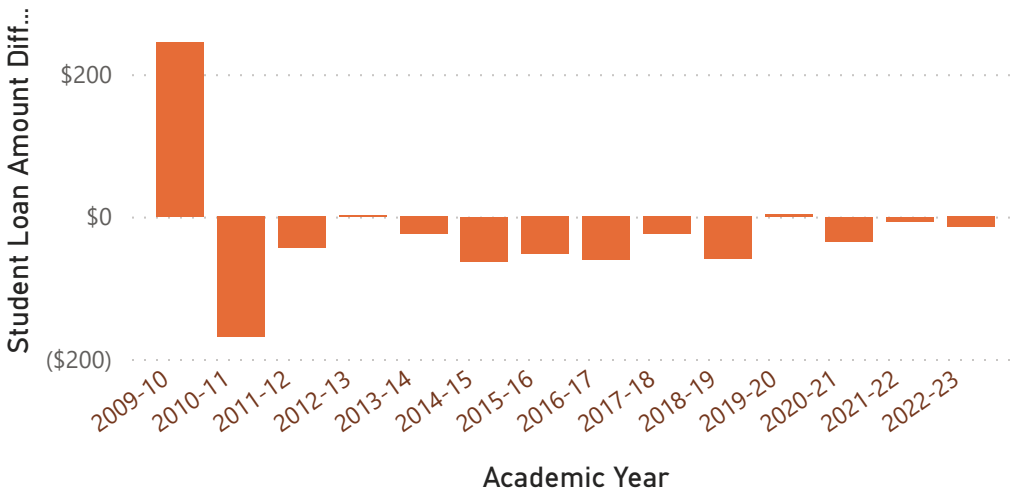
There has been a lot of discussion around student loans and college tuition rates - more specifically, if federal student loans are the reason why college tuition has gone up so much. We can find out by analyzing some data from National Center for Education Statistics.

Averages of Student Loan Amount, Private Tuition, and Public Tuition by Academic Year



Right away, we can see the private tuition cost is dramatically higher than that of the student loan amount, over the past 15 years.

Student Loan Amount Difference Year Over Year by Academic Year



And the average federal student loan amount has not increased over the past 15 years. In fact, it has fluctuated between a small increase or decrease.



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Academic Year

2008-09

2009-10

2010-11

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18

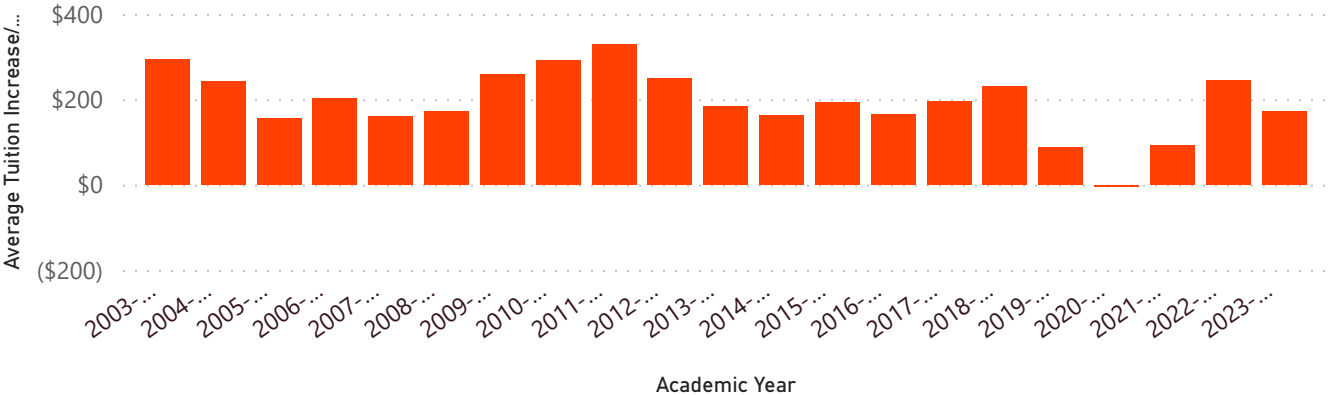
2018-19

2019-20

2020-21

2021-22

Average Tuition Increase/Decrease Year over Year for Public Colleges by Academic Year



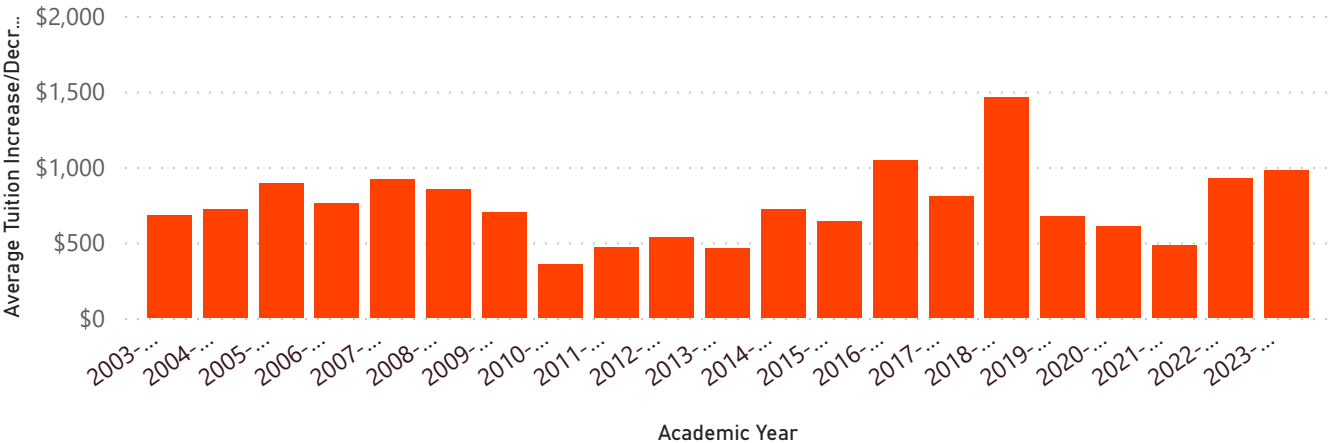
2011-12

Year of Largest Increase

\$329

Tuition Increase

Average Tuition Increase/Decrease Year over Year for Private Colleges by Academic Year



2018-19

Year of Largest Increase

\$1.46K

Tuition Increase

In comparison to the average student loan amount, the average tuition for both public and private colleges increased year over year in general, with some years having noticeable spikes.

Based on the findings, there isn't a strong association between federal student aid and college tuition. The next step would be to investigate the two outlined years above to figure out what happened that caused the average college tuition to increase.

Student Loan Table

Academic Year	Avg Student Loan	Avg Private Tuition	Avg Public Tuition
2008-09	\$6,880	\$17,132	\$4,080
2009-10	\$7,125	\$17,830	\$4,340
2010-11	\$6,956	\$18,185	\$4,632
2011-12	\$6,912	\$18,655	\$4,961
2012-13	\$6,914	\$19,191	\$5,211
2013-14	\$6,890	\$19,648	\$5,396
2014-15	\$6,827	\$20,368	\$5,560
2015-16	\$6,774	\$21,004	\$5,753
2016-17	\$6,713	\$22,050	\$5,918
2017-18	\$6,688	\$22,854	\$6,114
2018-19	\$6,629	\$24,315	\$6,346
2019-20	\$6,632	\$24,990	\$6,435
2020-21	\$6,597	\$25,595	\$6,434
2021-22	\$6,590	\$26,077	\$6,527
2022-23	\$6,575	\$26,998	\$6,771

[Link](#)

Private Tuition Table

Academic Year	Avg Current Year Private Tuition	Avg Pct Change	Avg Private Tuition Prev Year	Avg Private Tuition Difference
2003-04	\$13,000	5.51	\$12,321	\$679
2004-05	\$13,719	5.53	\$13,000	\$719
2005-06	\$14,608	6.48	\$13,719	\$889
2006-07	\$15,366	5.19	\$14,608	\$758
2007-08	\$16,280	5.95	\$15,366	\$914
2008-09	\$17,132	5.23	\$16,280	\$852
2009-10	\$17,830	4.07	\$17,132	\$698
2010-11	\$18,185	1.99	\$17,830	\$355
2011-12	\$18,655	2.58	\$18,185	\$470
2012-13	\$19,191	2.87	\$18,655	\$536
2013-14	\$19,648	2.38	\$19,191	\$457

[Link](#)

Public Tuition Table

Academic Year	Avg Public Tuition Current Year	Avg Pct Change	Avg Public Tuition Prev Year	Avg Public Tuition Difference
2011-12	\$4,961	7.10	\$4,632	\$329
2003-04	\$3,147	10.27	\$2,854	\$293
2010-11	\$4,632	6.73	\$4,340	\$292
2009-10	\$4,340	6.37	\$4,080	\$260
2012-13	\$5,211	5.04	\$4,961	\$250
2022-23	\$6,771	3.74	\$6,527	\$244
2004-05	\$3,390	7.72	\$3,147	\$243
2018-19	\$6,346	3.79	\$6,114	\$232
2006-07	\$3,748	5.73	\$3,545	\$203
2017-18	\$6,688	3.31	\$6,435	\$253

[Link](#)