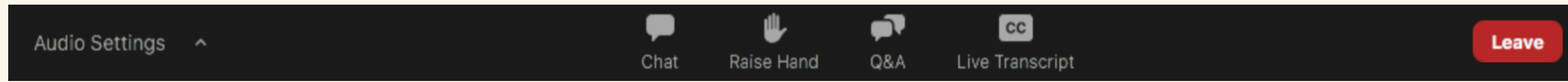


College Planning for Middle School Families

mefa[®]

How to Participate



The *Audio Settings* allow you to control the volume levels

Use the *Raise Hand* feature if you need to get the presenter's attention

Use the *Live Transcript* feature if you want to see closed captions

Click *Leave* to exit the webinar

The *Chat* feature is disabled. To communicate with the host, please use the Q&A section

Have a question during the webinar? Type it in the Q&A section

About MEFA

State authority created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1982, helping families plan, save, and pay for college



Webinar Topics

- Academic planning
- Looking ahead to college admissions
- College is an important investment
- How much might college cost for my family?
- Paying for college
- Strategies for saving
- Two Massachusetts savings options: U.Fund and U.Plan
- What can students and parents do right now to prepare?

Academic Planning

- Review the MassCore guidelines to graduate (doe.mass.edu)
- Review admissions standards for MA state colleges (mass.edu)
- Know the course options at your high school (AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, etc.)
- Follow our academic success tips at mefa.org/high-school-academics

Trends in College Admissions

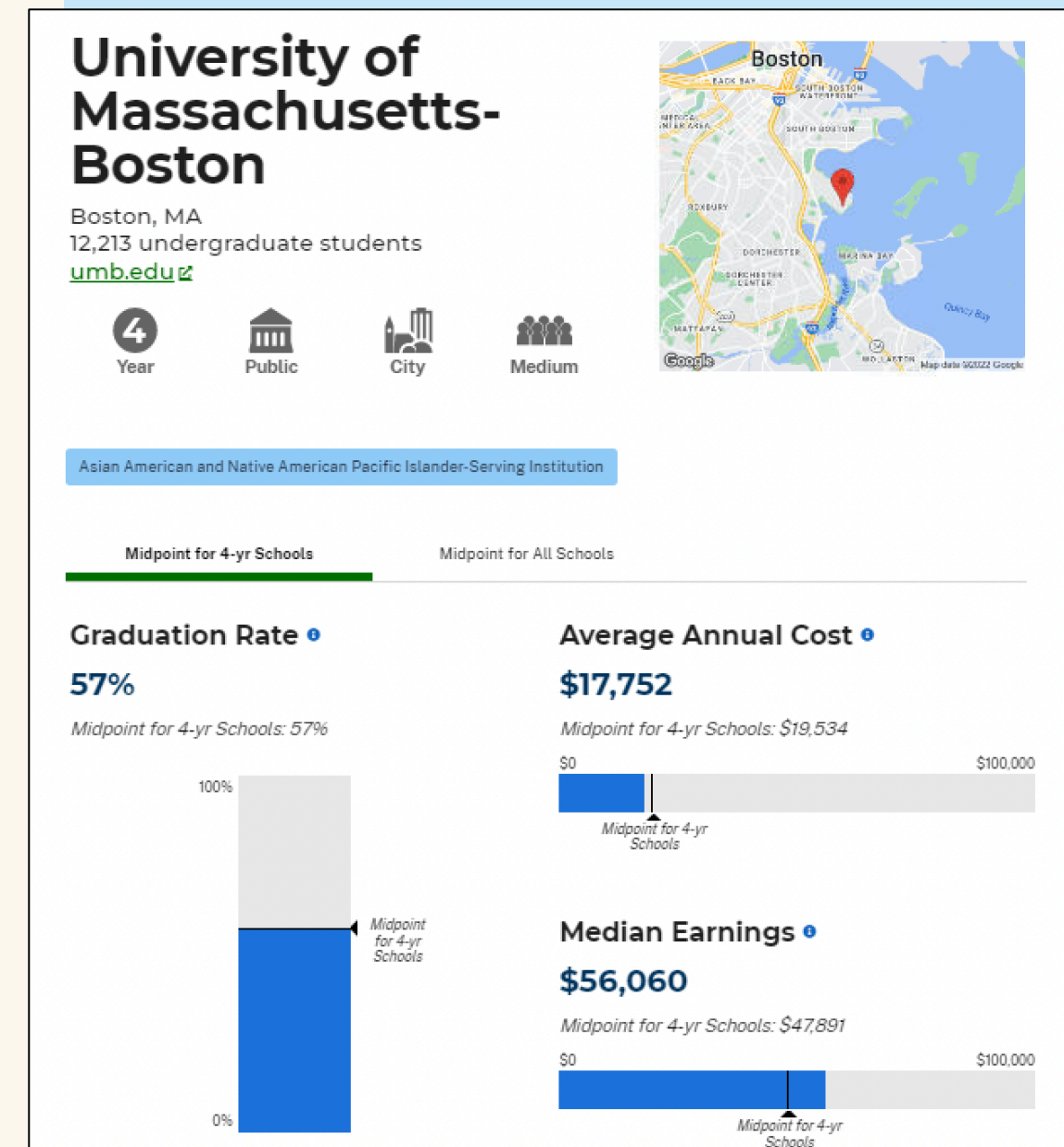
- Students applying to a greater number of schools
- Demonstrated interest a factor
- Social media
- Cost a bigger factor
- More ways to interact with colleges virtually
- More test-optional schools
- More applications at test-optional schools, resulting in more selectivity
- Longer waitlists



Researching Colleges

Research Thoroughly

- College Navigator: CollegeNavigator.gov
 - College search with admissions, academic, & cost info
- College Scorecard: CollegeScorecard.ed.gov
 - College info including average net price, student debt, grad rate, & alumni salary
- Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
 - College search with info on academics, applying, & paying
- MEFA Pathway: mefapathway.org
 - College search and matching tool based on preferences





College Factors to Consider

- Institution size & location
- Academic fit
- Intended major
- Learning style
- Campus culture
- Activities
- Study abroad programs
- Career & internship services
- Affordability

FREE college and career planning tool
for students in grades 6-12

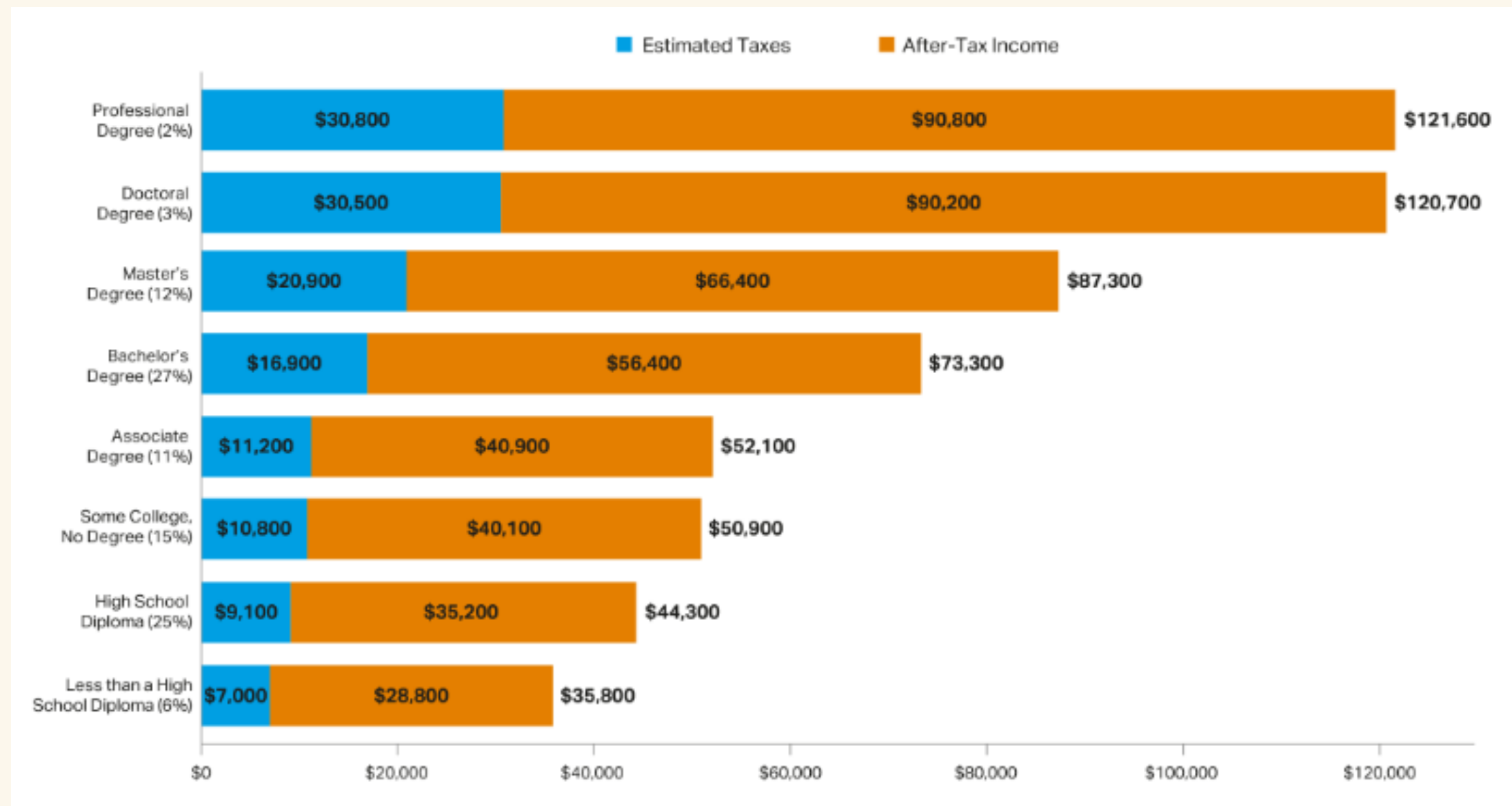
Resources include:

- Skills and interests assessments
- Career exploration
- College search
- Financial aid and scholarship information
- Personalized digital portfolio
- Visit mefapathway.org to get started



Education Pays

Median Earnings and Tax Payments of Full-Time Year-Round Workers Age 25 and Older, by Education Level, 2021

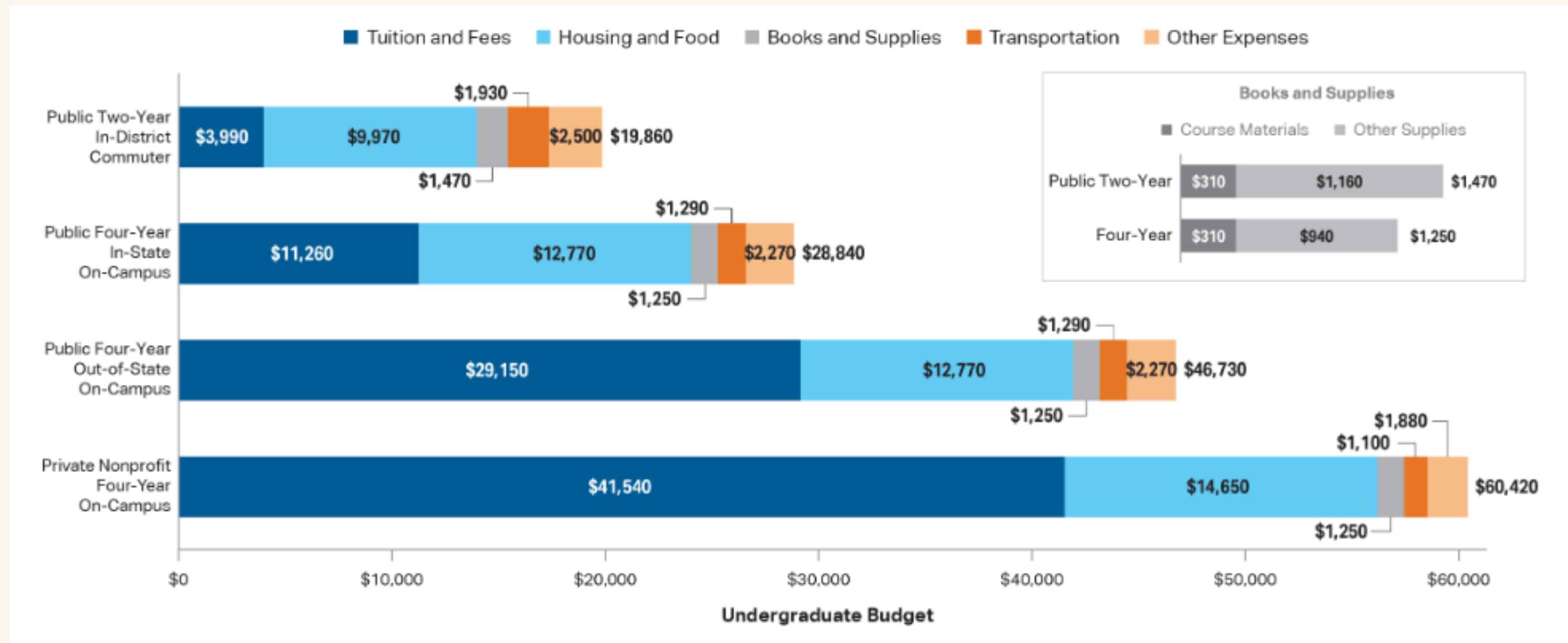


Source: *Trends in Higher Education Series, Education Pays 2023*, Figure 2.1, The College Board

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Current College Costs by Type

Average Estimated Full-Time Undergraduate Budgets (Enrollment-Weighted) by Sector, 2024-24



Source: *Trends in College Pricing, 2023*, Figure CP-1, The College Board

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What is the real cost to you as a family?

- Student Aid Index (SAI) Calculator: mefa.org
- Net Price Calculators on college websites
- College Navigator: CollegeNavigator.gov
- College Scorecard: CollegeScorecard.ed.gov
- MEFA's [*College Cost Projector*](#)

College Scorecard

Boston College

9,797 undergraduate students

bc.edu



Year



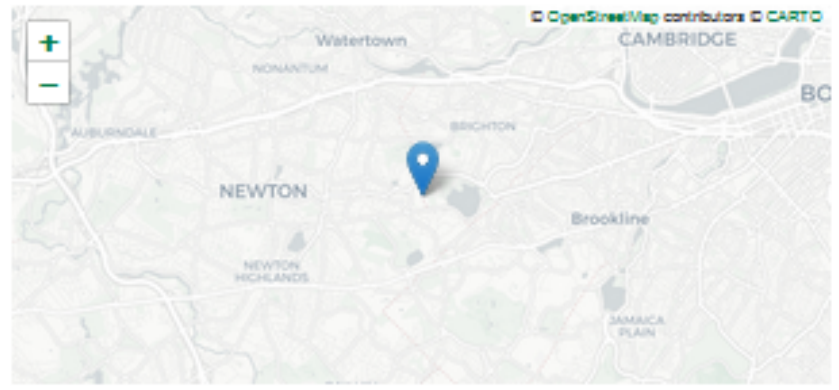
Private Nonprofit



City



Medium



Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

[View on map](#)

Special Designations:

Roman Catholic

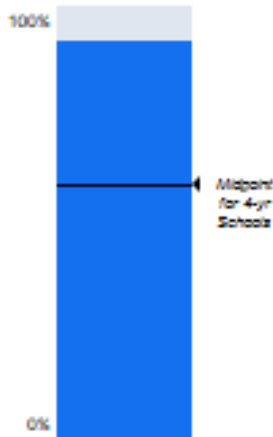
Midpoint for 4-yr Schools

Midpoint for All Schools

Graduation Rate

92%

Midpoint for 4-yr Schools: 58%



Average Annual Cost

\$38,412

Midpoint for 4-yr Schools: \$18,902



Median Earnings

\$96,325

Midpoint for 4-yr Schools: \$50,482



Net Price Calculator on Each
College's Website

Your Net Price Calculator Results Financing Your Education Data Summary

Congratulations on completing the University of Massachusetts - Boston Net Price Calculator!
Below you will find a summary of the estimated costs for the 2022-2023 academic year and your estimated eligibility for student aid.

Estimates for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Direct Costs:

Tuition & Fees	+ \$15,172
Room & Board	+ \$18,508
Total Direct Costs:	\$33,680

Are you a resident of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont?
You may be eligible to receive a discounted tuition rate to attend UMass Boston!
Through the New England Regional Student Program (RSP) residents of New England
are eligible for a tuition break when they enroll in an approved major that is not offered
by the public colleges and universities in their home-state. For more information, visit
<https://www.umb.edu/admissions/new-england-tuition-break/>.

Total Estimated Grants and Scholarships

University of Massachusetts - Boston Grants and Scholarships

Chancellor's Scholarship	- \$10,000
Boston City Scholarship	- \$1,000
Total Grants and Scholarships	\$11,000

Merit scholarships are competitive and, thus, not guaranteed. Preference is given for students who apply by the early action admissions deadline of November 1st.

The specific number and amounts of scholarships offered each year are based on available funding. Scholarship offers and award amounts will be determined by a holistic review of the application for admission including a thorough evaluation of the rigor of coursework, high school GPA, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and a demonstrated commitment to leadership, community service, and/or employment.

Your Direct Costs after Grants and Scholarships **\$22,680**

The state of Massachusetts offers a variety of tuition waiver programs to resident students attending public colleges in Massachusetts. These programs include the John & Abigail Adams Tuition Waiver for high achieving high school students, Adopted and Foster Child Tuition Waiver and many others. Please visit the Massachusetts Office of Financial Assistance website at <https://www.mass.edu/ofta/home/home.asp>. Details regarding tuition waivers and other state programs can be found under Financial Aid Programs.

Your estimated eligibility for other aid programs:

Loans

Direct Subsidized Loan	- \$3,500
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	- \$2,000

Estimated Remaining Cost after Financial Aid **\$17,180**

Additional Resources:

Federal Work-Study	- \$3,500
Parent PLUS Loan	- \$16,402



MassTransfer

- Makes transfer from community college to a 4-year public MA college more affordable
- Benefits include guaranteed credit transfer, tuition credit, & freeze on tuition
mass.edu/masstransfer

Tuition Break

- Reduction on out-of-state tuition costs at New England schools for certain programs
Nebhe.org/tuitionbreak





What is Financial Aid?

Financial Aid is money to help students pay for college|

3 main types

- Grants and scholarships (gift aid)
- Work-study
- Student loans

\$177 Billion Awarded to Students Each Year*

Merit-Based Aid

- Awarded in recognition of student achievements (academic, artistic, athletic, etc.)
- Criteria differs from school to school
- Often has requirements for renewal

Need-Based Aid

- Awarded based on family's financial eligibility
- Determined by standardized formula
- Very likely not to receive full amount of eligibility
- Includes most federal, state, and institutional (college) aid

*Source: The College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2023*

How Do Families Pay for College?

Financial Aid

Past Income

- Savings
- Other Assets

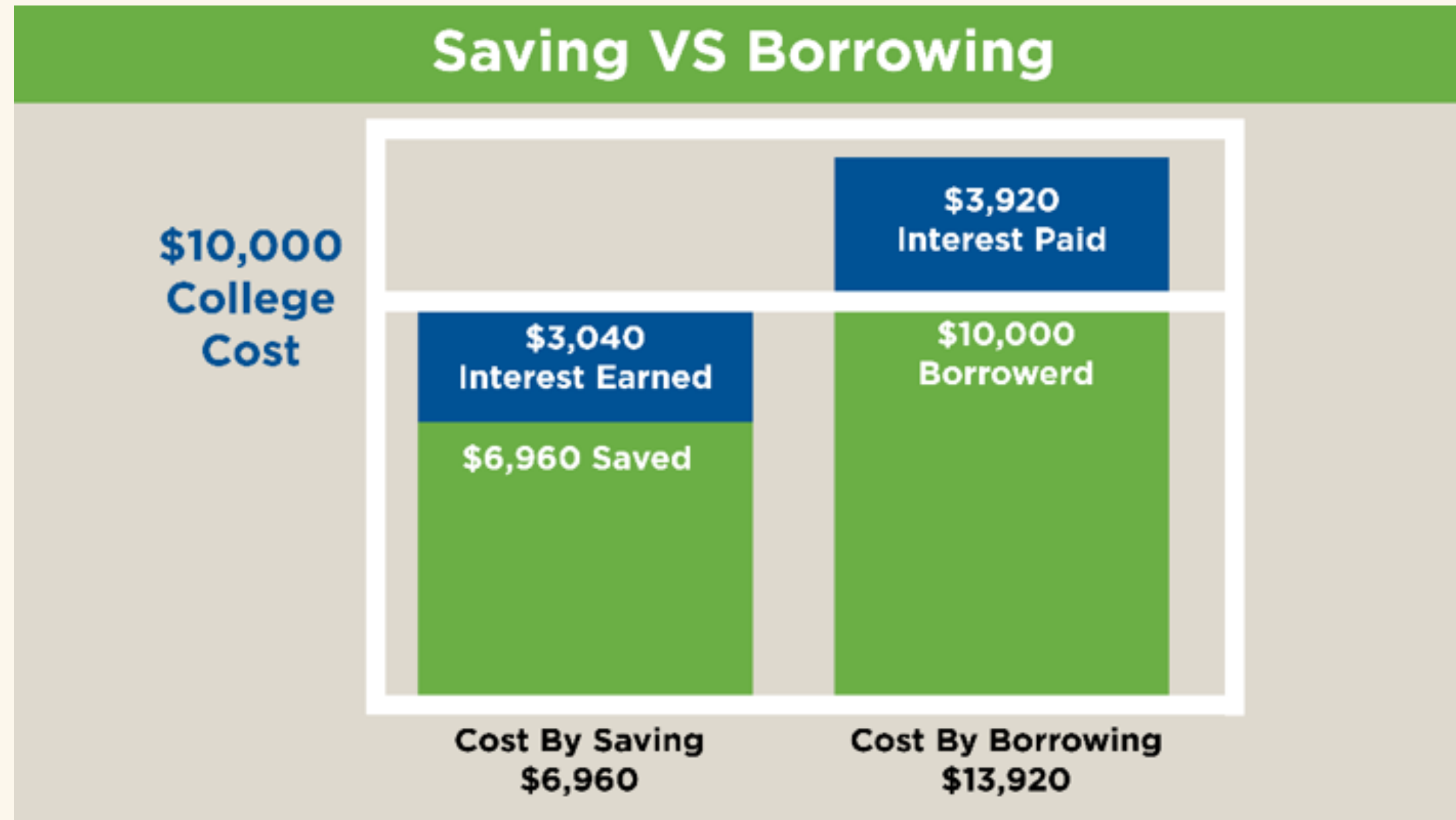
Present Income

- Salary (Payment Plans)

Future Income

- Parent Loans
- Student Loans

Saving vs. Borrowing



This hypothetical example assumes a 7% interest rate over 10 years. This example is an estimate only and market conditions may change.

Myths We've Heard About Saving for College

“My savings will hurt my financial aid.”

The Truth: Income is the biggest factor in determining financial aid eligibility, not savings. Your savings will help you when it comes time to pay for college.

“It's not worth saving for college if I can't save the entire cost.”

The Truth: Every little bit saved toward college will help. Even saving a small amount over time can add up and help cover costs such as books.



Your College Savings Will Help You

- Give you more education options
 - Different types of colleges
 - Special programs such as study abroad
- Reduce or eliminate the need to borrow loans
- Allow the student to work less and study more
- Have a minimum impact on aid eligibility
- Motivate your child

Let's Look at an Example: Case Study #1

**Kyle wants to attend a four-year public school to study business.
The full annual cost of the school is \$22,500.**

- Kyle's parent AGI is \$49,000
- No college savings

Kyle's Financial Aid Award	
Grants & Scholarships*	\$13,000
Federal Work-Study	\$2,000
Federal Loan	\$5,500
Total Aid	\$20,500

*Grants & scholarships are need-based and merit-based from federal, state, and institutional sources.

Kyle's family will need to pay \$2,000 out of pocket each year of college.

Another Example:
Case Study #2

Lisa wants to attend a four-year private school to study nursing.
The full annual cost of the school is \$60,000.

Lisa's Financial Aid Award	
Merit Scholarship	\$20,000
Nursing Award	\$2,000
Federal Loan	\$5,500
Total Aid	\$27,500

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is \$47,199
- Not eligible for need-based grants

Lisa's family will need to pay \$32,500 out of pocket each year of college.


Strategies for Saving

- Start saving as early as possible
 - Use time to your advantage
- Start with a goal in mind
- Take advantage of unexpected funds
- Use automatic transfers
- Get the word out
 - Ask your family and friends to contribute
- Involve your child in the process

Sample Gift Page

Kevin's College Savings Plan

Thank you for helping in his college savings



Age
2 years old

Entering College In
2041

Dream
I want to be a doctor

[Give a Gift](#)

Learn more

- [+ What is a 529 plan?](#)
- [+ Are there tax considerations for my gift?](#)
- [+ Can I open a 529 Account for someone?](#)

[View all Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Two Massachusetts Savings Options



U.Plan Prepaid Tuition Program

- Allows you to prepay up to 100% of tuition & mandatory fees at participating schools
- Large network of MA public and private colleges and universities
- Purchase Tuition Certificates to lock in today's tuition and mandatory fee rates
- U.Plan Tuition Certificates:
 - Represent interest in Commonwealth General Obligation Bonds
 - Are backed by the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth of MA
 - Are not subject to market fluctuation
 - Require \$300 minimum to get started (but can save this over one year)
 - Save all year
 - Bonds are purchased and percentages locked in July each year
 - To learn more about the U.Plan visit mefa.org/uplan

U.Fund College Investing Plan

- Save for qualified higher education expenses
- Tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, and equipment
- Savings can be used at any accredited college or university nation wide
- Combined account maximum: \$500,000
- No annual account maintenance fee or minimum investment
- Multiple investment options
- Active management, indexed portfolio, individual allocation portfolios, FDIC insured
- Enroll online at fidelity.com/ufund or by calling (800) 544-2776

Participating U.Plan Colleges & Universities

American International College
Amherst College
Anna Maria College
Assumption College
Babson College
Bay Path College
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Bentley College
Berklee College of Music
Berkshire Community College
Boston College
Boston University
Bridgewater State University
Bristol Community College
Bunker Hill Community College
Cape Cod Community College
Clark University
College of the Holy Cross
Curry College
Dean College
Eastern Nazarene College
Elms College
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fisher College

Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University
Gordon College
Greenfield Community College
Hampshire College
Hellenic College
Holyoke Community College
Laboure College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Massachusetts Bay Community College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Massasoit Community College
Merrimack College
Middlesex Community College
Montserrat College of Art
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Wachusett Community College
New England Conservatory of Music
Nichols College
North Shore Community College
Northeastern University

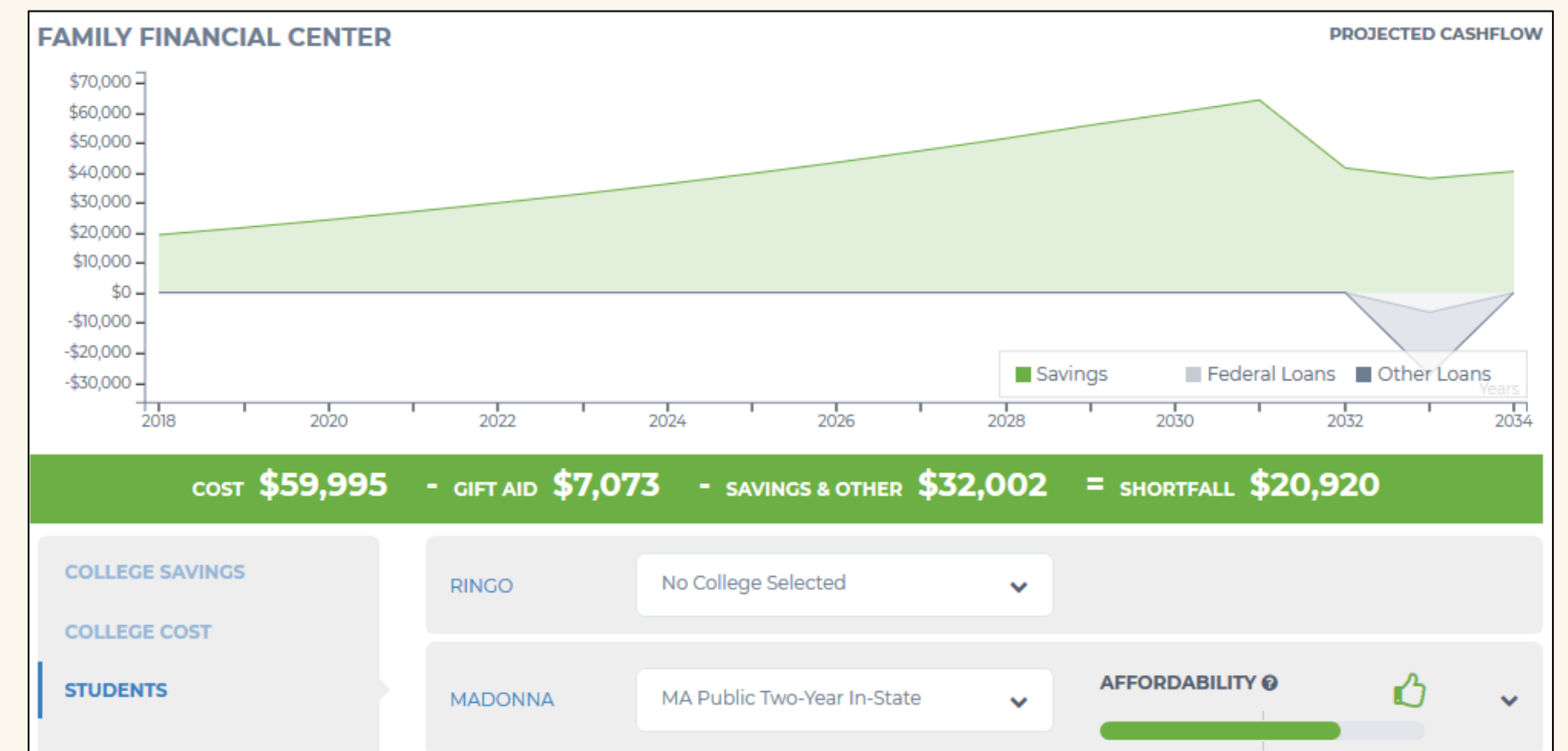
Northern Essex Community College
Quinsigamond Community College
Regis College
Roxbury Community College
Salem State University
Simmons University
Smith College
Springfield College
Springfield Technical Community College
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University
Westfield State University
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State University

- Contributions to the U.Plan and U.Fund are state tax deductible
- State tax deduction
 - Up to \$2,000 in payments for married filers
 - Up to \$1,000 in payments for individual filers
- Limits are per filer, not per account

MEFA's College Planning Tool

Create a personal strategy to pay for your child's higher education costs:

- Record your current college savings
- Project your future college expenses
- Receive guidance on meeting your shortfall



Things To Do

- Sign up for MEFA emails on mefa.org
- Start (or continue) saving for college
- Register for webinars at mefa.org/events
- Watch recorded webinars at mefa.org/videos
- Visit mefa.org/save

Connect with MEFA on Social Media



facebook.com/mefaMA



[@mefa_ma](https://instagram.com/@mefa_ma)



[@MEFAtweets](https://twitter.com/@MEFAtweets)



linkedin.com/company/mefa



youtube.com/MEFAcounselor



mefa.org/mefa-podcast

mefa[®]

Thank You

QUESTIONS?

Call (800)-449-MEFA (6332)
or email collegeplanning@mefa.org

mefa[®]