

PENNSTATE



Institutional Merit Grants: What Can Students Learn From College Websites?

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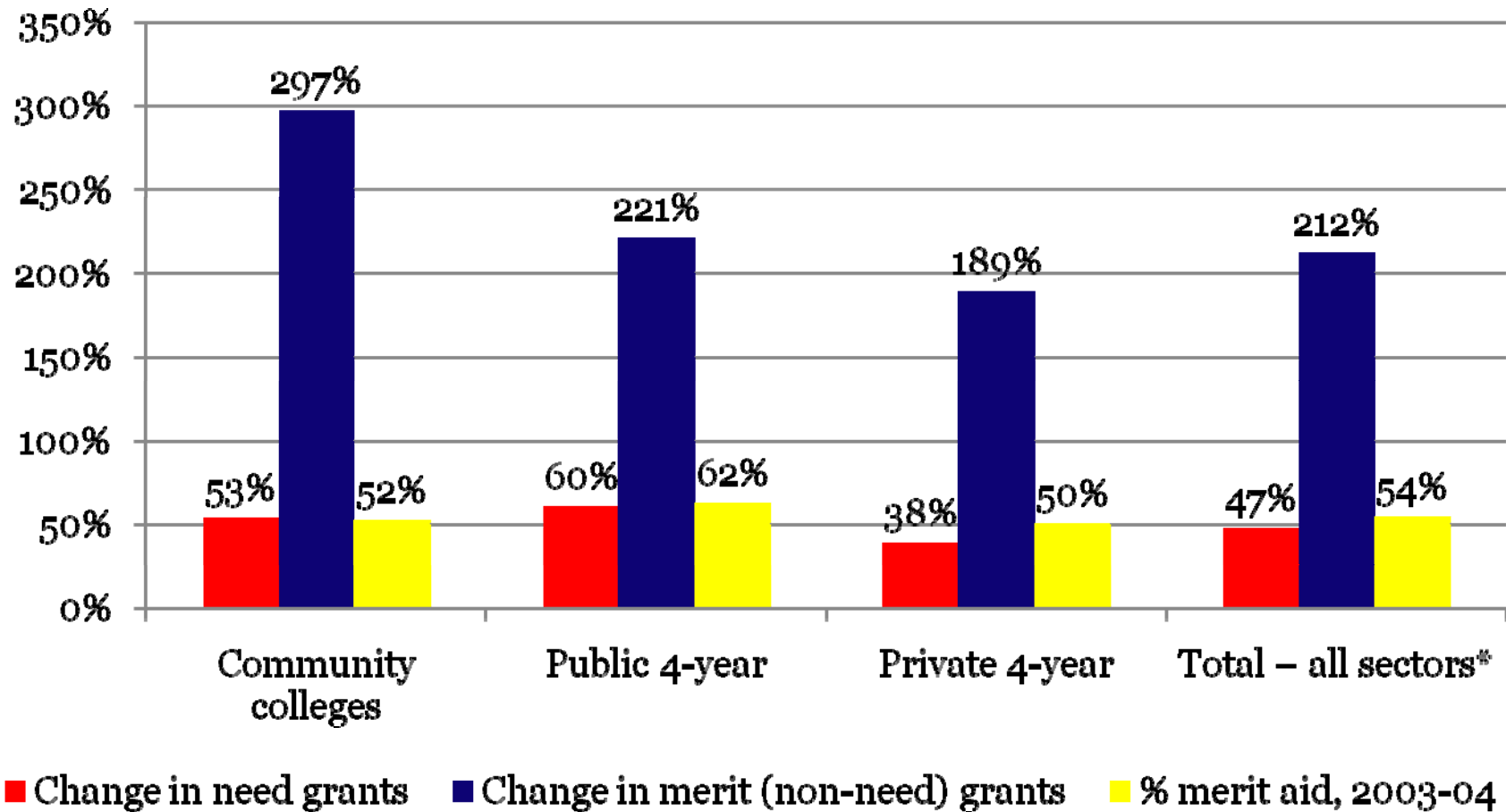
The Pennsylvania State University



Presentation

- Background on institutional merit aid
- Methodology
- Results for 100 national universities
- Results for 100 national liberal arts colleges

Growth of institutional grants, 1995-96 to 2003-04





Methodology

- Financial Aid Examination
- Factors we were looking for
 - Availability of Merit Grants
 - Criteria
 - Award
 - Renewal Criteria

Findings for National Universities

- 10 of the top 20 offered no Merit Grants
- 11.1 % offered no Merit Grants

Program

- 38% Had no specific merit grant criteria posted

Academic Criteria

- 3.24-4.0 Range
- 1150 to 1500 + SAT (Critical Reading and Math)
- 25% Required students to rank in the top 10% or better

Findings for National Universities

- 11.1 % offered Transfer Merit Grants for G.P.A. ranging from 3.0-4.0

Award

- 13.8% Listed no amounts
- Grants ranged from \$1,000 to \$35,800 per year

Renewal Criteria

- Only 21% of the institutions published renewal criteria
- G.P.A ranged from 2.5 to 3.5 for renewal

Baylor University

<http://www.baylor.edu/admissions/index.php?id=49590>

Institution	Program	Academic Criteria	Award	Renewal
Vanderbilt University	Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship	Top 1% Rank, SAT Score of 1500 or 34 ACT	Full Tuition, plus a stipend	3.0 G.P.A.
Tulane University	Dean's Honors Scholarship	SAT R score of 1450 or ACT of 33+, Top 5 class rank	Amount not specified	3.0 GPA
University of Miami	Singer Scholarship	Top 1% class rank, 1500 SAT I or 34 ACT	Full Tuition, \$32,000 annually	No Criteria Specified
	University Scholarship	Top 5% class Rank, 1400 SAT I or 32 ACT	\$24,000 Annually	No Criteria Specified
Ohio State University	Maximus Scholarship	Top 3% rank, ACT of 32+ or 1420 SAT	\$2,700 per year	3.2 G.P.A. or higher
	Medalist Scholarship	Top 20% rank, 3.2 GPA +, ACT of 23+ or SAT of 1070	Full Tuition	3.2 GPA or Higher



Findings for Liberal Arts Universities

- 10 of the top 20 offered no Merit Grants
- 25% offered no Merit Grants

Program

- 41.7% Had no specific merit grant criteria posted

Academic Criteria

- 3.0-4.0 Range
- 1000 to 1600 + SAT (Critical Reading and Math)
- 20% Required students to rank in the top 10% or better

Findings for Liberal Arts Colleges

- None of the top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges advertised transfer Merit Grants

Award

- Grants ranged from \$750 to \$32,000 per year

Renewal Criteria

- Only 28% of the institutions published renewal criteria
- G.P.A ranged from 2.0 to 3.5 for renewal

New College of Florida

<http://www.ncf.edu/financialaid/scholarshipftic2.html>

Institution	Program	Academic Criteria	Award	Renewal
Harvey Mudd	Harvey S. Mudd Merit Award	700 or above SAT Reading and Writing, SAT Math Score of 750+, top 10% Class Rank	\$10,000 per year	Must Maintain a 2.75 G.P.A.
Bucknell University	Presidential Fellows Program	Rank in top 5%, score at least 1450 SAT	\$12,500 per year, plus a \$1,500 internship	No Criteria Specified
	Dean's Scholarship	Rank in the top 5%, score at least 1380 on the SAT	\$10,000 per year	No Criteria Specified
Lafayette College	Marquis Scholar Program	Top 3% or better, SAT at or above 1400	Full Grant to need or \$16,000 annually	Minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0
Dickinson College	John Dickinson Scholarship	Top 10% Class Rank, SAT score of 1350 or 31 ACT	\$70,000 of tuition over 8 semesters	3.0 G.P.A.