



## Findings from NACUBO's 2010 Tuition Discounting Study

Natalie Pullaro Manager, Research and Policy Analysis National Association of College and University Business Officers



**Tuition Discounting** 

## • What is Tuition Discounting?

 When institutions discount their tuition and fee "sticker price" through the awarding of institutional grant aid to attract and retain students.

## NACUBO's Definition

 Institutional grant dollars as a percentage of gross tuition and fee revenue

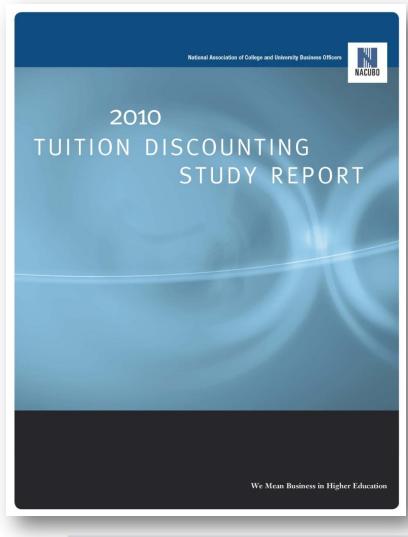


# **Tuition Discounting**

- Institutions Use Tuition Discounting to...
  Maximize Tuition Revenue
  - Fill seats
  - Meet enrollment goals
  - Shape Incoming Class
    - Attract talented students
    - Diversify the student body



# NACUBO's Tuition Discounting Study



- Annual survey since 1994
- Institutional aid practices
- 4-year, private, nonprofit colleges and universities
- Focus on first-time, full-time freshmen

Copyright © 2011 National Association of College and University Business Officers.



Methodology

- Online survey
  - Launched in early Fall 2010, collecting data from Fall 2009 and preliminary estimates for Fall 2010.
  - Sent to 1,026 member institutions
- 37% response rate
- Data reported out by NACUBO constituent group
- Limitations



## **Participating Institutions**

#### **NACUBO Constituent**

Group

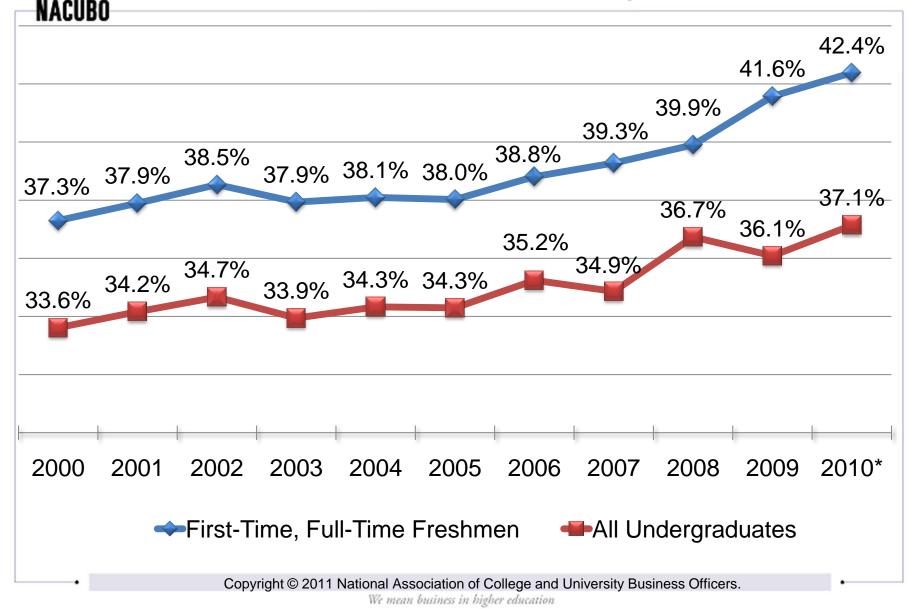
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
<b>Comprehensive/Doctoral</b>	24	26	27	35	41	49
Research	17	15	19	21	34	29
Small Institutions	113	123	156	206	293	303
All Institutions	154	164	202	262	368	381

We mean business in higher education

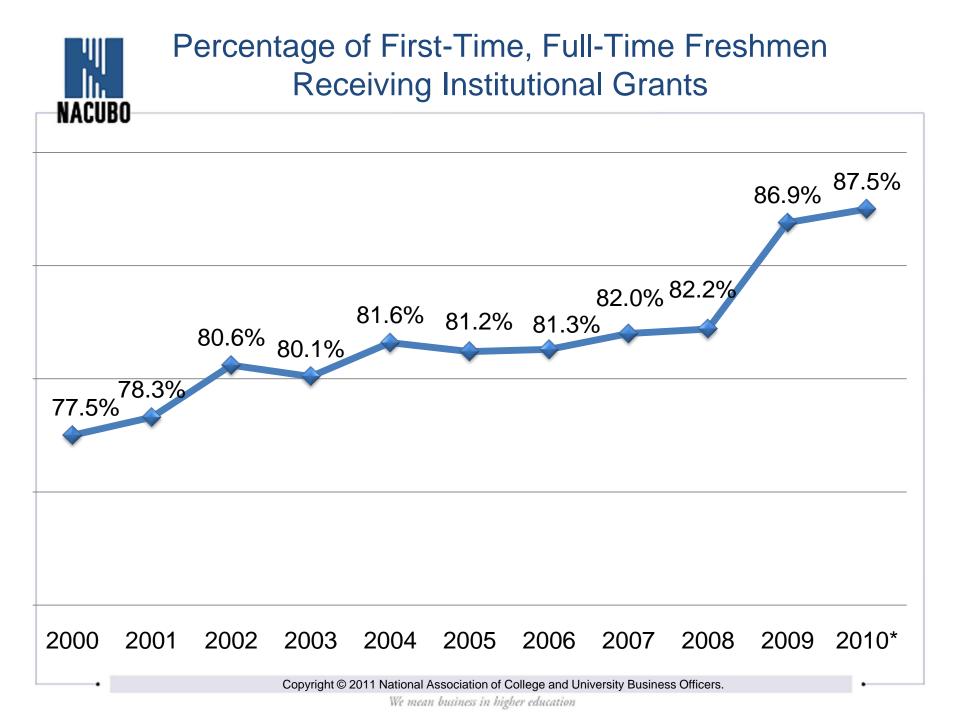


- Average Tuition Discount Rate:
  - First-time, full-time (FT) freshmen
  - All undergraduates
- Percentage of FT freshmen receiving institutional grants
- Average institutional grant for FT freshmen recipients as a percentage of tuition and fees
- Average change in net tuition revenue for FT freshmen
- Percentage of total undergraduate institutional grant aid funded by endowment
- Percentage of total undergraduate institutional grant dollars awarded to students with financial need

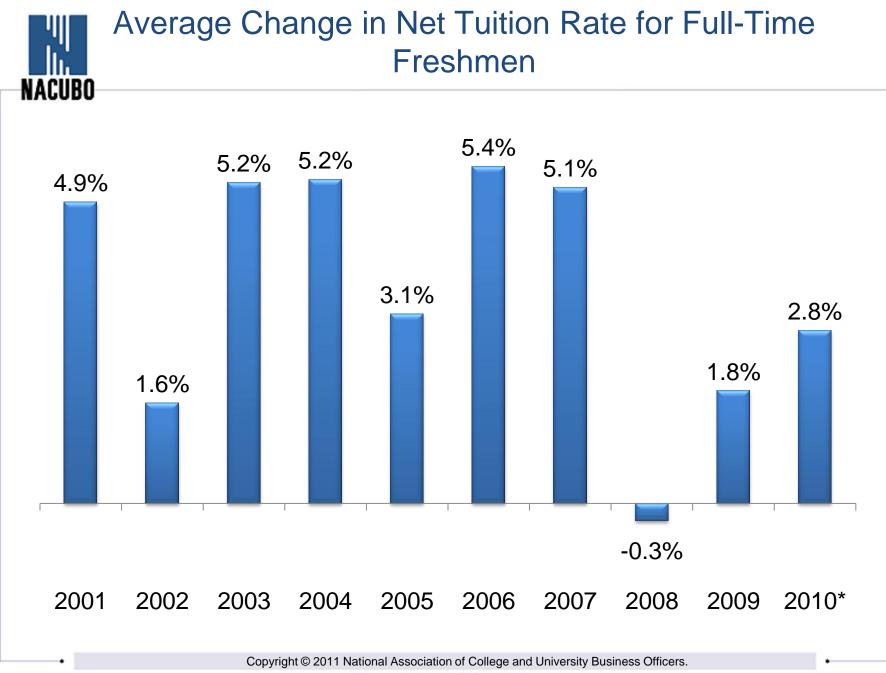
#### Average Tuition Discount Rate: First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen and All Undergraduates



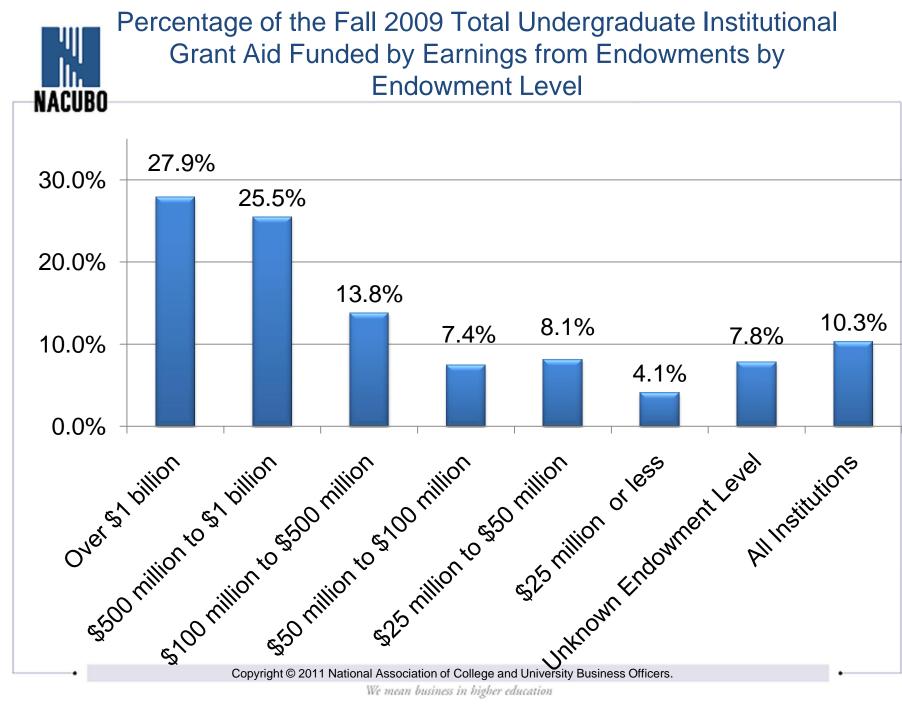
#### Average Tuition Discount Rate: First-Time, Full-**Time Freshmen by Constituent Group** NACUBO 45.0% 42.4% 41.6% 40.0% 39.9% 39.3% 35.0% 30.0% 2007 2008 2009 2010\* Comprehensive/Doctoral Research Small Institutions All Institutions Copyright © 2011 National Association of College and University Business Officers. We mean business in higher education



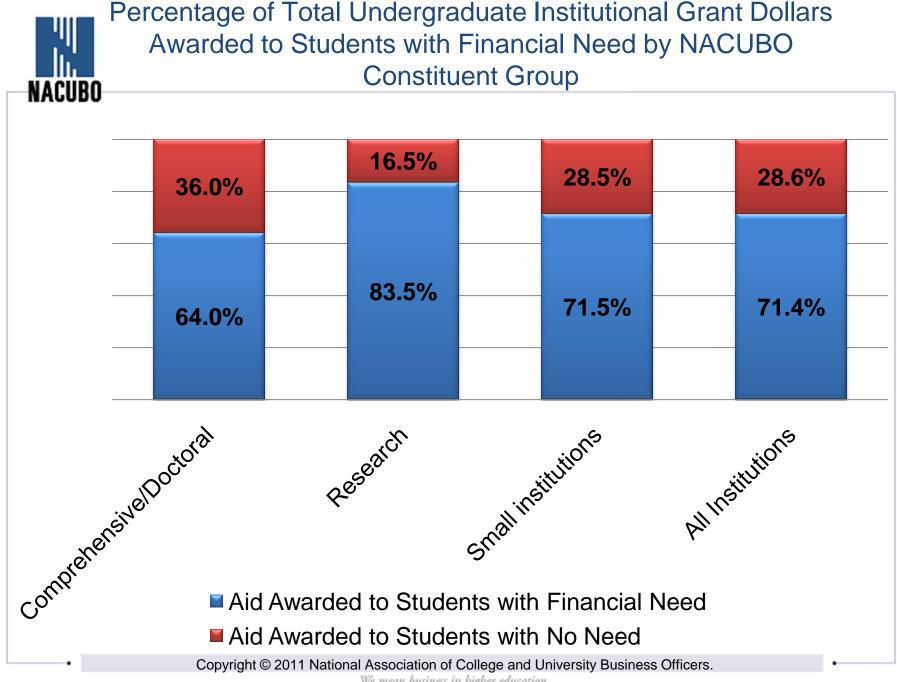
#### Average Institutional Grant for First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Recipients as a Percentage of Tuition and Fees ACUBO 52.3% 49.5% 49.2% 49.3% 49.1% 49.1% 48.5% 48.5% 47.9% 47.7% 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010\* Copyright © 2011 National Association of College and University Business Officers. We mean business in higher education



We mean business in higher education



We mean business in higher education



We mean business in higher education



Percentage of Total Undergraduate Institutional Grant Dollars Awarded to Students with Financial Need by Endowment Level

FY2009 Endowment Level	Number of Participating Institutions	Percentage of Total Institutional Grant Aid Awarded to Students with Financial Need*	Percentage of Aid Awarded to Students with No Need
Over \$1 billion	13	92.5%	7.5%
\$500 million to \$1 billion	17	75.0%	25.0%
\$100 million to \$500 million	62	77.1%	22.9%
\$50 million to \$100 million	53	69.5%	30.5%
\$25 million to \$50 million	38	67.0%	33.0%
\$25 million or less	29	67.0%	33.0%
Unknown Endowment Level	57	66.5%	33.5%
All Institutions	269	71.4%	28.6%

\*Need-based aid includes merit and other "non-need" scholarships that were awarded to students with any demonstrated financial need.



- The average discount rate for freshmen and all undergraduates is at an all time high
- Average net tuition revenue is showing signs of recovery from 2008 losses.
- Nearly 88 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen are receiving some institutional aid. On average, this aid covers almost half of tuition and fees.
- Bigger Picture: Is the discounting trend sustainable? How will it impact the financial health of the institution? What might this mean for institutions and students?

Copyright © 2011 National Association of College and University Business Officers.



## Questions?

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS OFFICERS



# RESEARCH

#### Contact

Natalie Pullaro

Manager, Research and Policy Analysis

Natalie.Pullaro@nacubo.org

202.861.2596