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## Struggling students turn to loans for aid

- Chad Goodwin works at S during the day and tends bar at night to help pay his way at the University of Wis-consin-Milwaukee. He's tired, and he's broke most of the time.

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The 20-year-old sophomore is one of a growing number of college students caught between tuition hikes and financial aid cuts.

"Over the summer you make the money and try to stay above water until Christmas," Goodwin said. "Then you work over Christmas, get your tax return back and try to last through the spring.

Federal, state and institutional aid rose less than 8 percent last year and the maximum amount available from the federal government's principle grant program fell from \$2,400 to \$2,300, according to figures released last week by the College Board, an association of 2,800 colleges and universi-

Tuition and other costs rose an average of 10 percent at public colleges and 7 percent at private schools last year, the College Board said

To make up the difference, students and their families have been forced to turn to loans. In Goodwin's case, that means \$2,500 in loans to cover tuition, books and fees for one year going to school full time.

Living expenses are up to him.

"I have enough money to survive, but I had to borrow \$5 for gas from my roommate

'Society expects us to become professionals, and to do that we have to go to school. But actually to be a student is very hard.'

> - Giavanna Alvarez-Negretti, Emerson College student

today, and I ended up \$18 in the hole after buying groceries," he said.

Goodwin said students like him develop a - work, study, then work some routine more.

Giavanna Alvarez-Negretti transferred to Boston's Emerson College from the University of Puerto Rico, where a single Pell Grant covered her tuition, room and board. But Emerson was much more expensive.

The 21-year-old junior lives with relatives and commutes to school to cut expenses. As a day student, she pays \$17,200 a year. To live on campus would have cost \$22,550.

"I have \$1,600 in work study and \$4,000 in scholarships, but the rest is all loans," Alvarez-Negretti said.

Carrying so many loans is not uncommon. In 15 years, loans have increased from making up 17 percent of financial aid to 50 per-

ent, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

'We're in danger of having education for the wealthy, and the poor need not apply," said Joe Langis, executive director of State Student Association of Massachusetts, which represents students in public higher education.

A sluggish economy hasn't helped, he said. Students find fewer jobs available.

"Every cent counts," said Alvarez-Negretti, relaxing after class before going to her part-time job at a shoe store. "Society expects us to become profession-

als, and to do that we have to go to school," she said. "But actually to be a student is very hard."

Her friend, 19-year-old Brett Nix, had planned to pay his way at Emerson with a small inheritance. But the money dried up after one year. Now Nix works two jobs to pay for a single television production class at Emerson and two more classes at nearby Bunker Hill Community College.

"I'm trying to go back to school full time, but I'm trying to avoid loans," he said. "Unless I hit the lottery, I figure if I really push I can get a degree in six years."

Some students consider financial debt part of the education experience. Jean-Max Hogarth and Clarence Zachery Jr. took out nearly \$30,000 in loans while undergraduates at Yale University.



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