



Delaware

College Affordability Profile

September 2016

To support the work of the SREB's member states and its Commission on College Affordability, SREB commissioned the Higher Education Policy Institute to prepare a college affordability profile for each SREB state, as well as a synthesis of relevant trends in the SREB region. These profiles detail college affordability data and trends specific to the state to assist policymakers in assessing the dimensions of the affordability issue and the need for state policy initiatives or interventions.

In addition to this state profile, other affordability resources from SREB include:

- *Shared Responsibility for College Affordability*, the Commission's final report and executive summary
- *College Affordability: Trends in the SREB Region*
- *College Affordability: SREB Technical Report*
- *College Affordability Policy and Practice Review: A Statewide Framework*
- *College Affordability: Promising State Policies and Practices*
- *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*

Each of these documents is available at [SREB.org/Affordability](https://www.sreb.org/Affordability).

Delaware College Affordability Profile

What Percentage of Family Income is Required to Attend College Full Time?

Families in Delaware would need to pay 17.2 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public two-year institution in the state. This is about the same as the SREB average and lower than the national average.

Families in Delaware would need to pay 35.9 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public four-year, non-research institution in the state. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	Delaware, 2008	Delaware, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	26.1%	28.8%	29.0%	29.9%
Public Four-Year Category 2	20.2%	35.9%	27.3%	27.4%
Public Two-Year	18.7%	17.2%	17.2%	18.6%
Public Technical	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

How Much Is Spent Per-Student on Financial Aid?

In Delaware need-based aid per student is \$387. This is higher than the SREB average and lower than the national average. Aid based on criteria other than need per student is \$200 per student. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	Delaware, 2004	Delaware, 2007	Delaware, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Need Only	\$376	\$134	\$387	\$338	\$474
Other	\$13	\$296	\$200	\$480	\$210

For Families Making Less Than \$30,000, What Percentage of Income Is Required for Tuition at Lowest-Price Colleges?

Eighteen percent of families in Delaware make less than \$30,000 per year. For a student in these families, tuition at the lowest-priced public colleges would require 17 percent of income. This is higher than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	2008	2013
Percentage of Families	18%	18%
Tuition	\$2,340	\$3,018
Income	\$18,304	\$17,551
Percentage of Income	13%	17%
SREB Average	11%	16%
National Average	14%	18%

How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates from public four-year research universities in Delaware have borrowed, on average, \$29,000. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	Delaware, 2008	Delaware, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$15,085	\$29,000	\$22,959	\$20,980
Public Four-Year Category 2	NA	\$6,900	\$11,082	\$10,906
Public Two-Year	\$6,835	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Technical	\$24,126	N/A	N/A	N/A

A Closer Look at Family Ability to Pay

SREB's Commission on College Affordability defined *affordability* as the relationship of the price required to attend higher education — or the net price — relative to family income.

Net price = tuition and required fees plus room and board, minus grant aid students receive from the federal or state government or the institution.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Category 1 Institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,551	18%	\$10,643	61%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,391	15%	\$11,086	28%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,663	22%	\$13,950	23%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,078	20%	\$18,621	20%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$182,650	25%	\$21,523	12%

At public four-year category 1 institutions in Delaware, families making less than \$30,000 would need 61 percent of income to cover educational expenses a student. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 per year, 28 percent of income would be needed.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Category 2 Institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average for This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,551	18%	\$15,073	86%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,391	15%	\$15,922	40%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,663	22%	\$16,360	27%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,078	20%	\$15,993	18%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$182,650	25%	\$15,708	9%

At public four-year category 2 institutions in Delaware 86 percent of income would be needed to cover educational expenses for a student in a family making less than \$30,000. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000, 40 percent of income would be needed to attend.

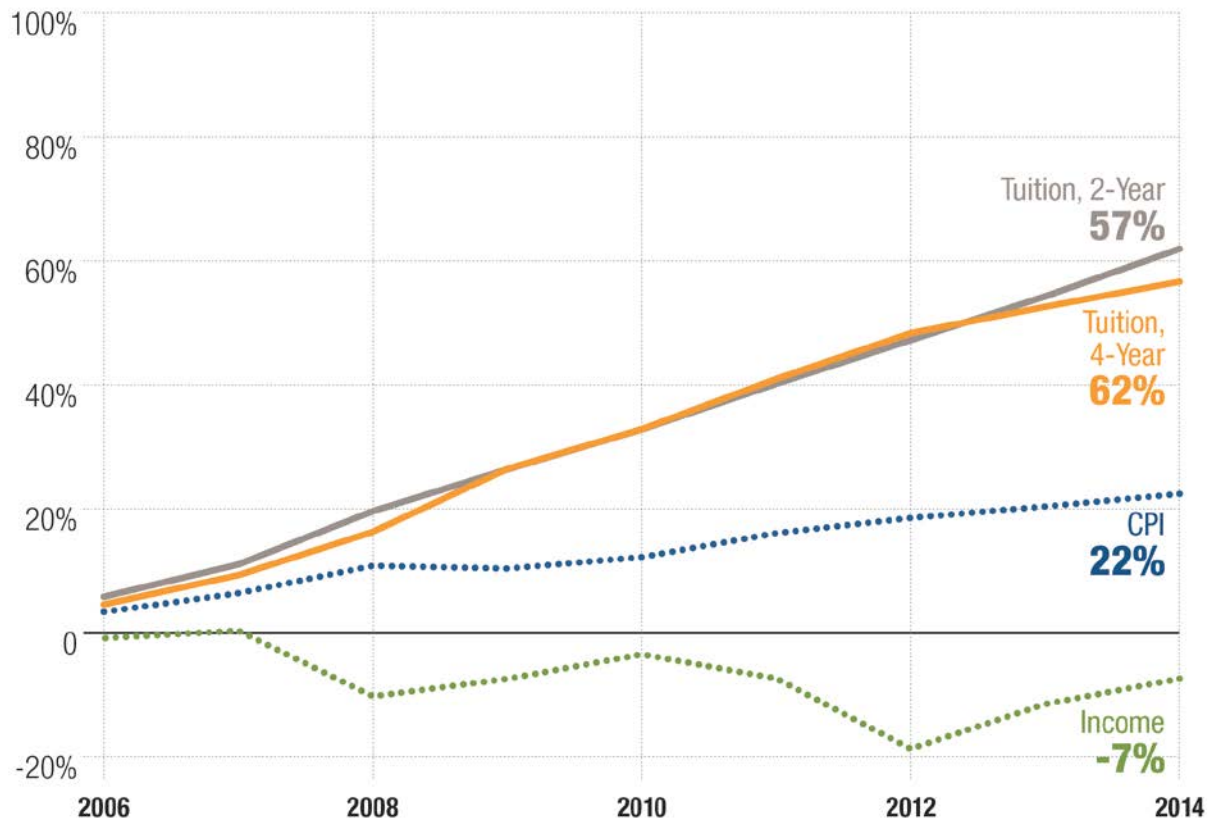
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,551	18%	\$6,320	36%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,391	15%	\$7,087	18%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,663	22%	\$8,933	15%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,078	20%	\$10,450	11%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$182,650	25%	\$10,805	6%

At public two-year institutions in Delaware 36 percent of income would be needed cover educational expenses for a student in a family making less than \$30,000. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000, 18 percent of income would be needed.

Delaware: Changes in Tuition and Family Income, 2005-2014

Since 2005, tuition at both public four-year and public two-year institutions in Delaware has been growing much more rapidly than either inflation or family income.



Notes and sources: Consumer Price Index: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area. Tuition and fees: National Center for Education Statistics *Digest of Education Statistics*; Median family income: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, Table F-6.

Other Contextual Information

- By 2020, the Georgetown Center for the Workforce predicts that 63 percent of jobs in Delaware will require a postsecondary education or above, higher than the average for the South (59 percent) and very similar to the U.S. average (65 percent).
- Fifty-five percent of students in Delaware are enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 10 percent are enrolled at category 2 four-year institutions and 35 percent are enrolled in the community colleges.
- In 2014, 18 percent of children in Delaware were living in poverty. This is up from 2004 when 12 percent were living in poverty.

Delaware Institutions by Type

Category 1 Public Four-Year Institutions

University of Delaware

Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions

Delaware State University

Community Colleges

Delaware Technical and Community College, Owens

Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry

Delaware Technical and Community College, Stanton-Wilmington

Category 1 four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.

Category 2 includes all other four-year institutions.