



Georgia

College Affordability Profile

October 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).

Georgia College Affordability Profile

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

Families in Georgia would need to pay 17.6 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public two-year institution in the state. This is higher than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

Families in Georgia would need to pay 31.9 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.

	Georgia, 2008	Georgia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	22.1%	27.6%	29.0%	29.9%
Public Four-Year Category 2	24.0%	31.9%	27.3%	27.4%
Public Two-Year	14.9%	17.6%	17.2%	18.6%
Public Technical	14.8%	13.3%	18.3%	18.6%

How Much Is Spent Per Student on Financial Aid?

In Georgia need-based aid per student is \$0. Aid based on criteria other than need is \$1,528 per student, which is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	Georgia, 2004	Georgia, 2007	Georgia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Need Only	\$4	\$0	\$0	\$338	\$474
Other	\$1,390	\$1,468	\$1,528	\$480	\$210

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

Twenty-six percent of families in Georgia make less than \$30,000 a year. For a student in these families, tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public colleges would require 13 percent of income. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	2008	2013
Percentage of Families	24%	26%
Tuition and Fees	\$1,296	\$2,237
Income	\$17,169	\$16,633
Percentage of Income	8%	13%
SREB Average	11%	16%
National Average	14%	18%

How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates from public four-year research universities in Georgia have borrowed, on average, \$21,203. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	Georgia, 2008	Georgia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$14,941	\$21,203	\$22,052	\$22,018
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$16,406	\$24,047	\$22,959	\$20,980
Public Two-Year	\$8,168	\$13,110	\$11,082	\$10,906
Public Technical	\$6,896	\$7,486	\$10,267	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
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,633	26%	\$9,840	59%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,000	17%	\$11,542	30%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,945	21%	\$14,092	23%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,233	17%	\$15,918	17%
\$110,000 and above	\$188,450	19%	\$16,471	9%

At public four-year category 1 institutions in Georgia, families making less than \$30,000 would need 59 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student. For families making between \$30,000 and 48,000, 30 percent of income would be needed to attend.

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

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,633	26%	\$12,126	73%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,000	17%	\$13,018	33%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,945	21%	\$15,516	25%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,233	17%	\$17,034	19%
\$110,000 and above	\$188,450	19%	\$17,367	9%

At public four-year category 2 institutions in Georgia, 73 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, 33 percent of income would be needed.

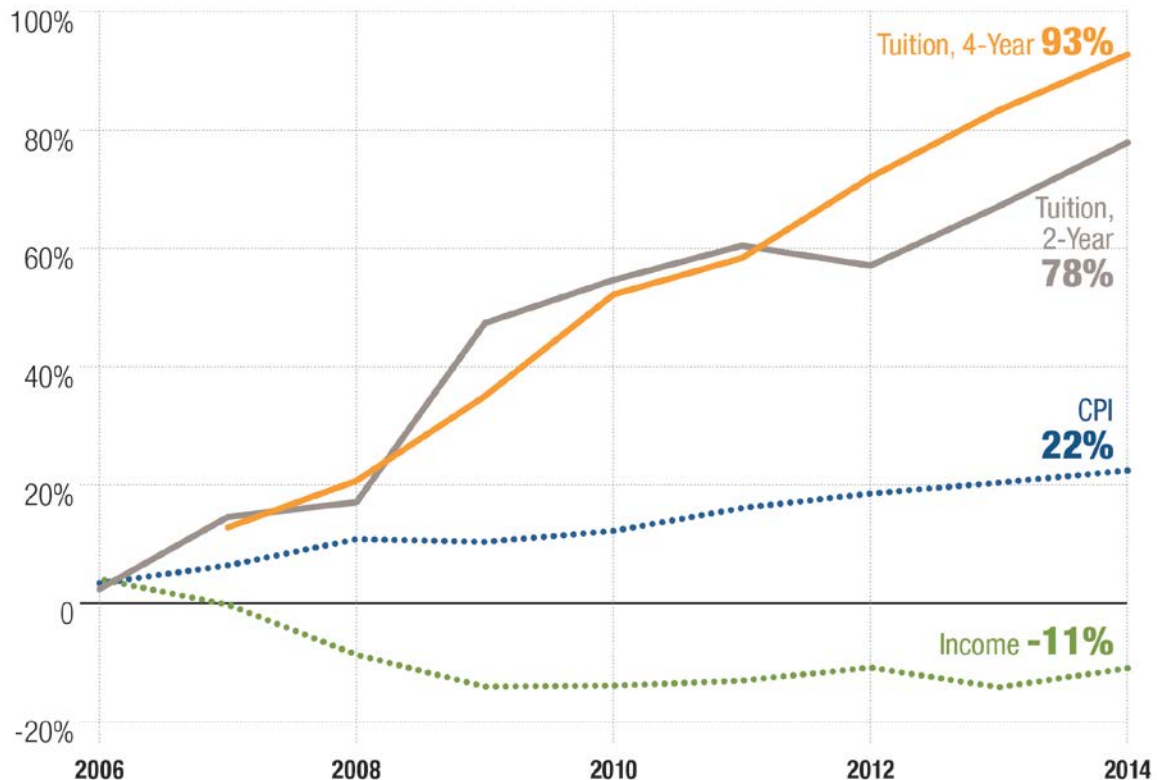
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year Institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,633	26%	\$6,226	37%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,000	17%	\$6,985	18%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,945	21%	\$9,131	15%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,233	17%	\$10,841	12%
\$110,000 and above	\$188,450	19%	\$11,060	6%

At public two-year institutions in Georgia, 37 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, 18 percent of income would be needed to attend.

Georgia: Changes in Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees at both public four-year and public two-year institutions in Georgia have 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 65 percent of jobs in Georgia will require a postsecondary education or above, higher than the average for the South (59 percent) and right at the U.S. average (also 65 percent).
- Fourteen percent of students in Georgia are enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions; 33 percent are enrolled at category 2 four-year institutions; 20 percent are enrolled in primarily associate-granting institutions; and 33 percent are enrolled in technical colleges.
- In 2014, 26 percent of children in Georgia were living in poverty. This is up from 2004 when 21 percent were living in poverty.

Georgia Institutions by Type

Category 1 Public Four-Year Institutions

Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Georgia Institute of Technology

Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions

Albany State University
Armstrong State University
Augusta University
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Kennesaw State University
Savannah State University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Primarily Associate-Granting Institutions

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Bainbridge State College
College of Coastal Georgia
Dalton State College
East Georgia State College
Georgia Highlands College

Gordon State College
South Georgia State College

Technical Colleges

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

*Category 1 four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.
Category 2 includes all other four-year institutions.*