



# Tennessee

## 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).

# Tennessee College Affordability Profile

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

Families in Tennessee would need to pay 17 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public two-year institution in the state. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

Families in Tennessee would need to pay 25.1 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public four-year, non-research institution in the state. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	<b>Tennessee, 2008</b>	<b>Tennessee, 2013</b>	<b>SREB Average, 2013</b>	<b>U.S. Average, 2013</b>
Public Four-Year Category 1	22.9%	28.2%	29.0%	29.9%
Public Four-year Category 2	19.3%	25.1%	27.3%	27.4%
Public Two-Year	17.9%	17.0%	17.2%	18.6%
Public Technical	17.7%	18.9%	18.3%	18.6%

## How Much Is Spent Per Student on Financial Aid?

In Tennessee, need-based aid per student is \$211. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average. Aid based on criteria other than need is \$1,479 per student. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	<b>Tennessee, 2004</b>	<b>Tennessee, 2007</b>	<b>Tennessee, 2013</b>	<b>SREB Average, 2013</b>	<b>U.S. Average, 2013</b>
Need Only	\$157	\$149	\$211	\$338	\$474
Other	\$2	\$77	\$1,479	\$480	\$210

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

Twenty-seven percent of families in Tennessee make less than \$30,000 per year. For a student in these families, tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public colleges would require 19 percent of income. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2013</b>
Percentage of Families	27%	27%
Tuition and Fees	\$2,506	\$3,336
Income	\$17,233	\$17,118
Percentage of Income	15%	19%
SREB Average	11%	16%
National Average	14%	18%

**How Much Do Graduates Borrow?**

Graduates from public four-year research universities in Tennessee have borrowed, on average, \$23,636. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	<b>Tennessee, 2008</b>	<b>Tennessee, 2013</b>	<b>SREB Average, 2013</b>	<b>U.S. Average, 2013</b>
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$17,931	\$23,636	\$22,052	\$22,018
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$15,896	\$21,139	\$22,959	\$20,980
Public Two-Year	\$8,460	\$9,890	\$11,082	\$10,906
Public Technical	\$8,953	\$11,815	\$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**

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Average in This Income Level</b>	<b>Percentage of Families in This Income Level</b>	<b>Net Price</b>	<b>Percentage of Income Needed</b>
\$0 - \$30,000	\$17,118	27%	\$9,162	54%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,056	18%	\$11,461	29%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,839	22%	\$16,860	28%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,603	16%	\$18,526	20%
\$110,000 and above	\$189,174	16%	\$18,812	10%

At public four-year Category 1 institutions in Tennessee, families making less than \$30,000 would need 54 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 per year, 29 percent of income would be needed.

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

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Average in This Income Level</b>	<b>Percentage of Families in This Income Level</b>	<b>Net Price</b>	<b>Percentage of Income Needed</b>
\$0 - \$30,000	\$17,118	27%	\$8,535	50%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,056	18%	\$10,321	26%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,839	22%	\$14,253	23%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,603	16%	\$15,637	17%
\$110,000 and above	\$189,174	16%	\$15,793	8%

At public four-year Category 2 institutions in Tennessee, 50 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, 26 percent of income would be needed.

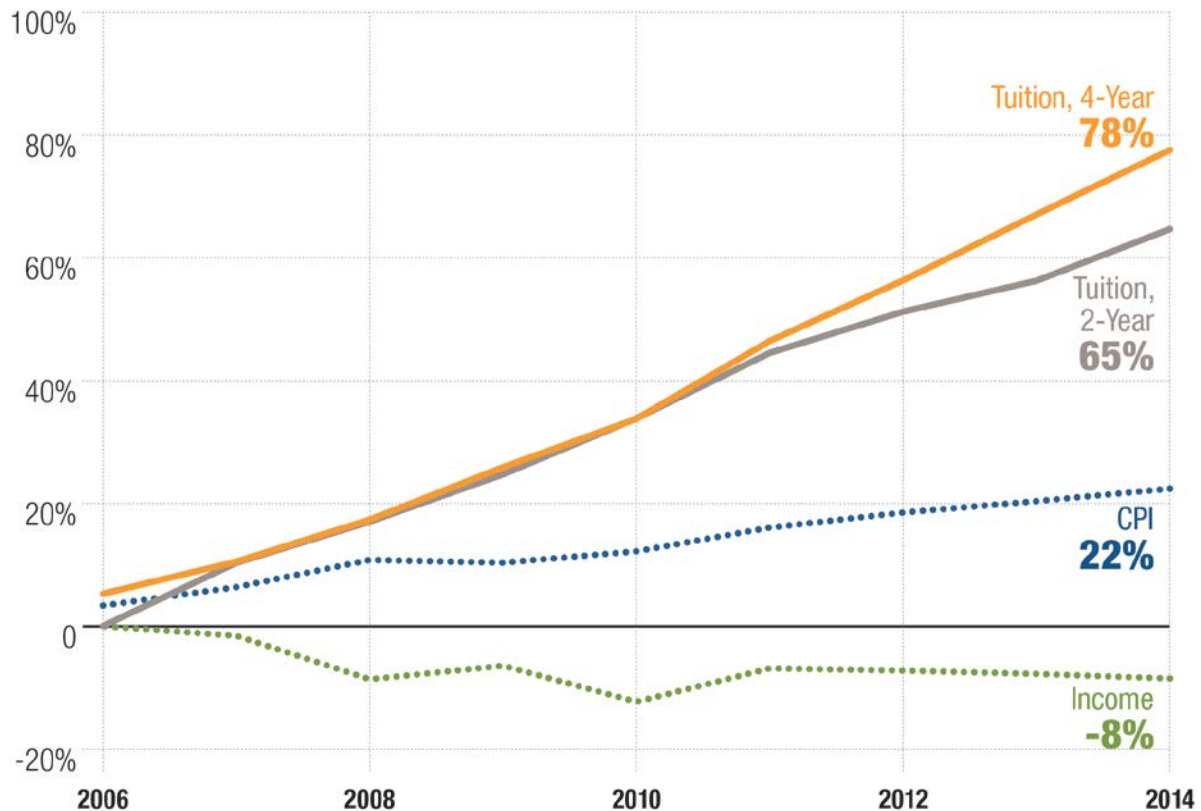
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage Income Needed
\$0 - \$30,000	\$17,118	27	\$6,199	36
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,056	18	\$6,772	17
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,839	22	\$8,775	14
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,603	16	\$10,314	11
\$110,000 and above	\$189,174	16	\$11,083	6

At public two-year institutions in Tennessee, 36 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, 17 percent of income would be needed.

## Tennessee: Changes in Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees at both public four-year and public two-year institutions in Tennessee 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 58 percent of jobs in Tennessee will require a postsecondary education or above, below the average for the South (59 percent) and also below the U.S. average (65 percent).
- Sixteen percent of students in Tennessee are enrolled in public four-year Category 1 institutions, 38 percent are enrolled in Category 2 four-year institutions, 32 percent are enrolled in community colleges, and 14 percent are enrolled in technical colleges.
- In 2014, 26 percent of children in Tennessee were living in poverty. This is up from 2004 when 20 percent were living in poverty.

## Tennessee Institutions by Type

### Category 1 Public Four-Year Institutions

University of Memphis  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions

Austin Peay State University  
East Tennessee State University  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Tennessee State University  
Tennessee Technological University  
University of Tennessee at Martin  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

### Community Colleges

Chattanooga State Technical Community College  
Cleveland State Community College  
Columbia State Community College  
Dyersburg State Community College  
Jackson State Community College  
Motlow State Community College  
Nashville State Technical Community College  
Northeast State Technical Community College  
Pellissippi State Technical Community College  
Roane State Community College  
Southwest Tennessee Community College  
Volunteer State Community College  
Walters State Community College

### Technical Colleges

Technical Tennessee Technology Center at Athens  
Tennessee Technology Center at Chattanooga  
Tennessee Technology Center at Covington  
Tennessee Technology Center at Crossville  
Tennessee Technology Center at Crump  
Tennessee Technology Center at Dickson  
Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton  
Tennessee Technology Center at Harriman  
Tennessee Technology Center at Hartsville  
Tennessee Technology Center at Hohenwald  
Tennessee Technology Center at Jacksboro  
Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson  
Tennessee Technology Center at Knoxville  
Tennessee Technology Center at Livingston  
Tennessee Technology Center at McKenzie  
Tennessee Technology Center at McMinnville  
Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis  
Tennessee Technology Center at Morristown  
Tennessee Technology Center at Murfreesboro  
Tennessee Technology Center at Nashville  
Tennessee Technology Center at Newbern  
Tennessee Technology Center at Oneida  
Tennessee Technology Center at Paris  
Tennessee Technology Center at Pulaski  
Tennessee Technology Center at Ripley

Tennessee Technology Center at  
Shelbyville

Tennessee Technology Center at Whiteville

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