



West Virginia 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).

West Virginia College Affordability Profile

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

Families in West Virginia would need to pay 17.4 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 West Virginia would need to pay 20.1 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.

	West Virginia, 2008	West Virginia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	21.9%	20.1%	29.0%	29.9%
Public Four-year Category 2	20.0%	20.1%	27.3%	27.4%
Public Two-Year	16.0%	17.4%	17.2%	18.6%
Public Technical	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

How Much Is Spent Per Student on Financial Aid?

In West Virginia, need-based aid per student is \$545. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average. Aid based on criteria other than need is \$645 per student. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	West Virginia, 2004	West Virginia, 2007	West Virginia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Need Only	\$259	\$347	\$545	\$338	\$474
Other	\$336	\$549	\$645	\$480	\$210

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

Twenty-eight percent of families in West Virginia make less than \$30,000. 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	32%	28%
Tuition	\$2,000	\$2,882
Income	\$17,460	\$16,962
Percentage of Income	11%	17%
SREB Average	11%	16%
National Average	14%	18%

How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates from public four-year research universities in West Virginia have borrowed, on average, \$23,497. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	West Virginia, 2008	West Virginia, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$16,250	\$23,497	\$22,959	\$20,980
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$16,800	\$14,175	\$11,082	\$10,906
Public Two-Year	\$11,395	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Technical	\$23,808	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
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,962	28%	\$7,033	41%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,085	20%	\$7,703	20%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,466	22%	\$10,010	17%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,706	17%	\$13,368	15%
\$110,000 and above	\$175,420	13%	\$13,905	8%

At public four-year Category 1 institutions in West Virginia, families making less than \$30,000 would need 41 percent of income to cover educational expenses for a student. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 per year, 20 percent of income would be needed.

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	\$16,962	28%	\$7,075	42%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,085	20%	\$7,903	20%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,466	22%	\$10,507	17%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,706	17%	\$12,567	14%
\$110,000 and above	\$175,420	13%	\$12,566	7%

At public four-year Category 2 institutions in West Virginia, 42 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, 20 percent of income would be needed.

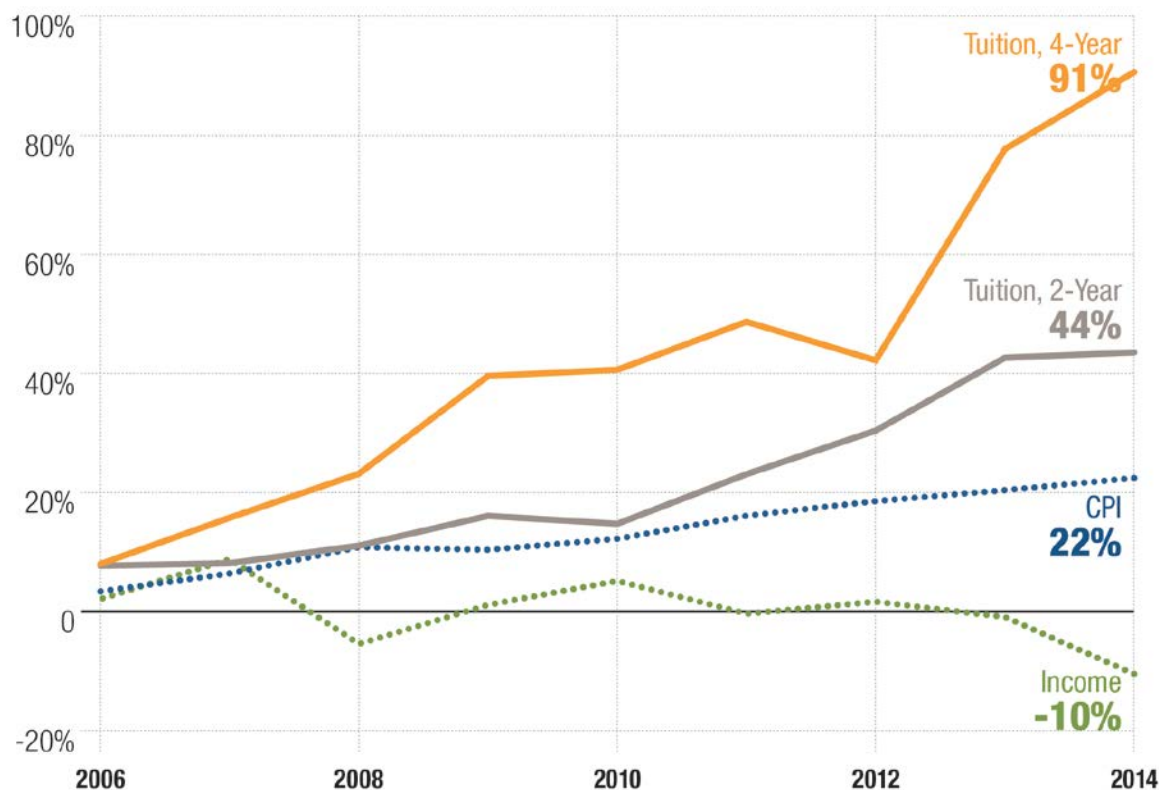
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,962	28%	\$6,509	38%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,085	20%	\$6,554	17%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,466	22%	\$8,248	14%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,706	17%	\$10,656	12%
\$110,000 and above	\$175,420	13%	\$11,697	7%

At public two-year institutions in West Virginia, 38 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.

West Virginia: Changes in Tuition and Family Income, 2005-2014

Since 2005, tuition at public four-year and two-year institutions in West Virginia 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 55 percent of jobs in West Virginia will require a postsecondary education or above, below the average for the South (59 percent) and far below the U.S. average (65 percent).
- Thirty-five percent of students in West Virginia are enrolled in public four-year Category 1 institutions, 45 percent are enrolled in Category 2 four-year institutions, 18 percent are enrolled in community colleges, and 2 percent are enrolled in technical colleges.
- In 2014, 25 percent of children in West Virginia were living in poverty. This is down slightly from 2004 when 26 percent were living in poverty.

West Virginia Institutions by Type

Category 1 Public Four-Year Institutions

West Virginia University

Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions

Bluefield State College

Concord University

Fairmont State University

Glennville State College

Marshall University

Shepherd University

West Liberty University

West Virginia State University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Two-Year with Bachelor's Degrees

Potomac State College of West Virginia University

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Community Colleges

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

Bridgemont Community and Technical College

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College

Mountwest Community & Technical College

New River Community & Technical College

Pierpont Community and Technical College

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

West Virginia Northern Community College

Technical Institutes or Colleges

Benjamin Franklin Vocational Center

Boone County Career & Technical Center

Cabell County Vocational-Technical Center

Carver Vocational Center

Fred W. Eberle Technical Center

Garnet Career Center

James Rumsey Technical Institute

Marion County Vocational-Technical Center

McDowell County Vocational-Technical Center

Mercer County Vocational-Technical Center

Mineral County Vocational-Technical Center

Monongalia County Technical Education Center

Putnam County Vocational-Technical Center

Raleigh County Academy of Careers and Technology

Ralph R. Willis Vocational-Technical Center

Roane-Jackson Technical Center

Wood County School of Practical Nursing

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

Category 2 includes all other four-year institutions.