

# Mississippi

## College Affordability Profile 2018

The socioeconomic future of SREB states depends in large part on substantially increasing the number of residents with postsecondary credentials of value. As the population of SREB states become more diversified, Mississippi faces a critical challenge to help more people succeed in postsecondary education and earn a living wage. This 2018 college affordability profile illustrates how affordable different public institutions are for Mississippi families at various income levels.

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

In 2015-16, families in Mississippi needed on average nearly 33 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public category 1 institutions and close to 32 percent at public four-year category 2 institutions. These percentages were higher than they were in 2010-11 and somewhat higher than the SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

For a full-time student at public two-year institutions, families in Mississippi needed to pay, on average, 13 percent of their income in 2015-16 to cover educational expenses. This was only slightly higher than the 12 percent needed in 2010-11 and considerably lower than SREB and national averages in 2015-16

	Mississippi, 2010-11	Mississippi, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	29.3%	32.7%	30.5%	30.8%
Public Four-Year Category 2	23.1%	31.8%	28.8%	27.9%
Public Two-Year	12.0%	13.2%	17.0%	18.2%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

Mississippi spent \$109 on average per full-time-equivalent student on financial aid with both need and merit criteria in 2015-16 compared to \$10 in 2010-11. The SREB average was \$135 and the national average was \$214 in 2015-16. The state spent \$146, on average, per FTE for merit-based aid in 2015-16, much less than the SREB average at \$416 and somewhat less than the national average of \$168.

Financial Aid Category	Mississippi, 2010-11	Mississippi, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Need Only	\$6	NA	\$343	\$376
Need and Merit	\$10	\$109	\$135	\$214
Merit Only	\$122	\$146	\$416	\$168
Special Purpose	\$7	\$2	\$64	\$39

Sources: National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2011 and 2016 annual surveys (results for public institutions only); U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files, 2011 and 2016, and Directory files, 2010 and 2015.

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

Thirty-two percent of families in Mississippi made less than \$30,000 in 2015. For these families, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 15 percent of income that year, compared to 12 percent in 2010-11. These percentages were lower than the SREB and national averages in 2010-11 and 2015-16.

	2010-11	2015-16
Percentage of Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	34%	32%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$1,952	\$2,414
Average Income of Mississippi Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$16,567	\$16,349
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lower-Priced Public Institutions	12%	15%
SREB Average	13%	17%
U.S. Average	15%	18%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges files and Directory files 2010 and 2015, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample files 2010 and 2015.

## How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from public four-year category 1 universities in Mississippi in 2015-16 borrowed, on average, \$23,203 and graduates of four-year category 2 institutions borrowed \$22,731, on average. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2010-11. While borrowing at category 1 universities was somewhat higher than SREB and national averages, the amount borrowed by graduates at category 2 universities was close to the SREB average and higher the national average in 2015-16.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$6,810 in 2015-16, nearly the same as the average amount borrowed in 2010-11 but much less than SREB and national averages.

	Mississippi, 2010-11	Mississippi, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$18,482	\$23,203	\$21,703	\$21,505
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$17,956	\$22,731	\$22,391	\$19,893
Public Two-Year	\$6,471	\$6,810	\$9,829	\$9,655

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2010 and 2015; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016 and Directory files 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB State Data Exchange categories.

## 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 — to family income.

Net price is the sum of tuition and required fees, plus room and board, books and other expenses, 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

At Mississippi’s public four-year category 1 institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 73 percent of their income for educational expenses. In 2010, that percentage was 63 percent. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 34 percent of their income for a full-time student in 2015-16; these families needed 30 percent of their income in 2010-11 to cover educational expenses.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,349	32%	\$11,903	63%	73%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,862	19%	\$13,130	30%	34%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$16,620	25%	27%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,796	15%	\$17,704	18%	19%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$177,400	13%	\$18,013	10%	10%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

At public four-year category 2 institutions in Mississippi, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 73 percent of their income for educational expenses compared 52 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 36 percent of their income in 2015 compared to 24 percent in 2010-11 for a full-time student.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,349	32%	\$11,939	52%	73%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,862	19%	\$13,956	24%	36%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$16,015	19%	26%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,796	15%	\$15,357	13%	17%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$177,400	13%	\$11,661	6%	7%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

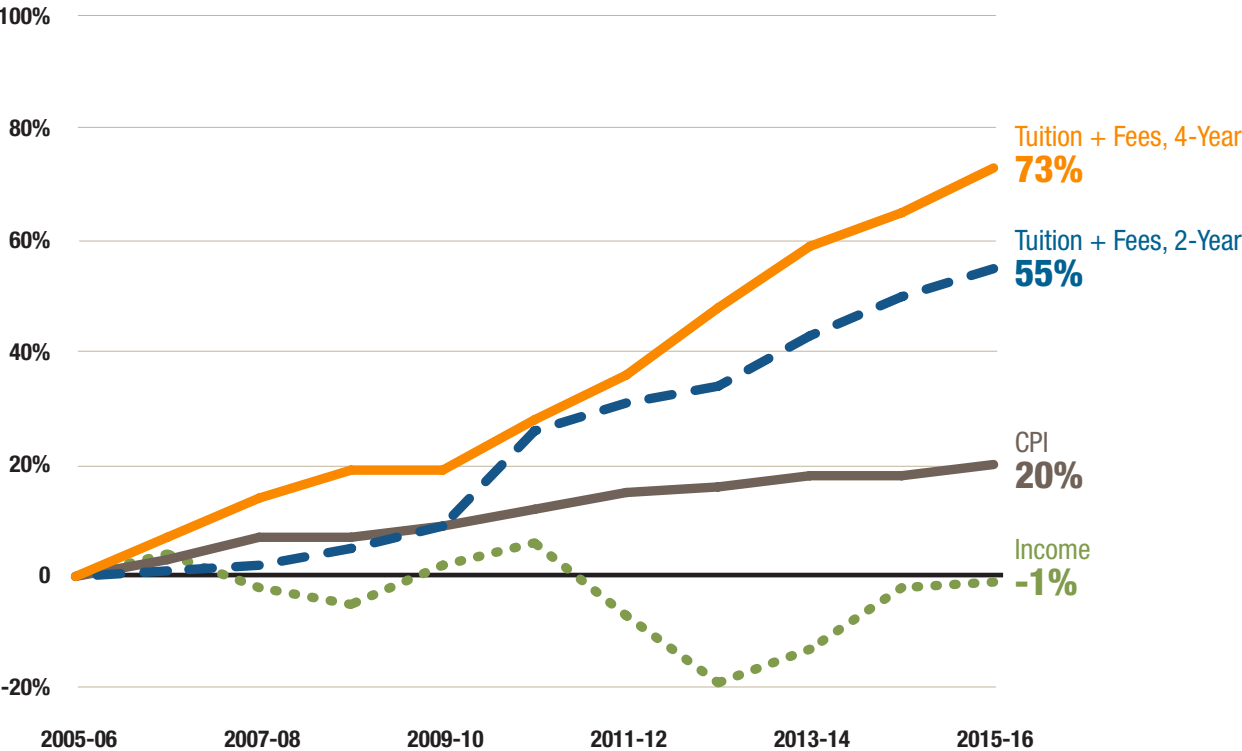
At public two-year institutions in Mississippi, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 28 percent of their income for educational expenses compared to 24 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 in 2015 needed 13 percent of their income for a full-time student, close to the 12 percent needed in 2010.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,349	32%	\$4,577	24%	28%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,862	19%	\$5,079	12%	13%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$6,653	11%	11%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,796	15%	\$8,075	8%	9%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$177,400	13%	\$8,624	5%	5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

# Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI, and Income

Compared to the Consumer Price Index and household income, tuition and fees at Mississippi public colleges and universities increased substantially between 2006 and 2016. Over that decade, the CPI increased by 20 percent and household income declined by 1 percent, while tuition and fees at four-year institutions increased by 73 percent and by 55 percent at two-year institutions.

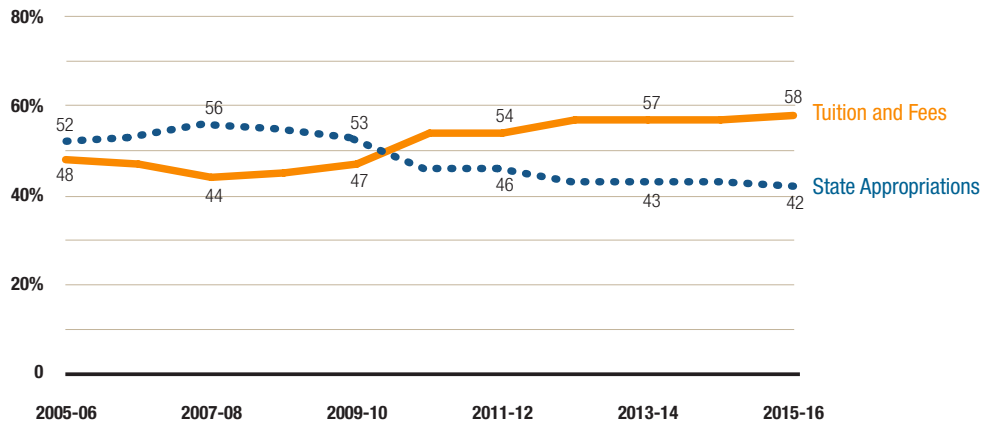


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2016. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics files, 2005 to 2015. Median household income retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, 2018.

# Ratio of State Appropriations and Tuition and Fee Revenues

## Public Four-Year Institutions

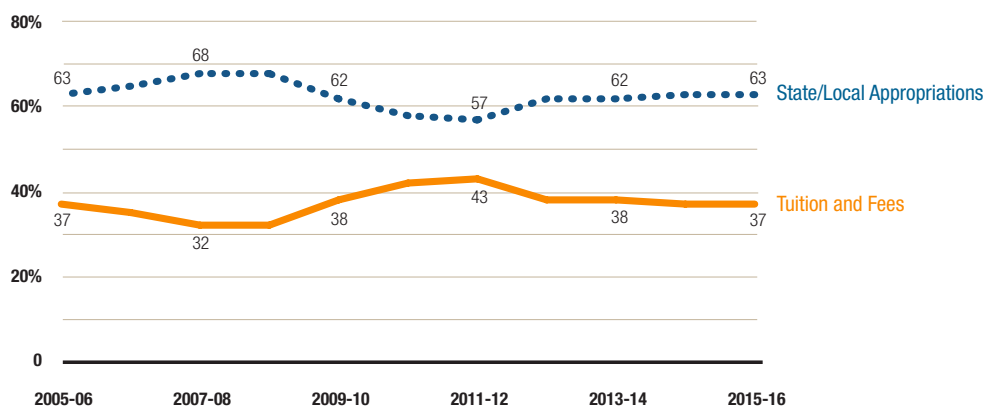
In 2015-16, net tuition and fees at Mississippi's four-year institutions made up 58 percent of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 42 percent. In comparison, state appropriations provided 52 percent in 2005-06.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

## Public Two-Year Institutions

Mississippi's two-year colleges have seen some change in the portion of operational revenue from tuition and fees and from state and local appropriations. Appropriations provided 63 percent of revenues in 2005-06; that share fluctuated over the decade but had returned to 63 percent by 2015-16. Tuition and fees made up 37 percent of revenues in 2015-16.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

## Additional Context

**Attainment** — In 2016, nearly 38 percent of Mississippi’s working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. The state’s educational attainment goal is to reach the national attainment level by 2025.

**Poverty** — In 2016, 30 percent of children in Mississippi were living in poverty. This was down from 2010, when 33 percent were living in poverty. The SREB region and the nation saw overall declines in this rate from 26 to 23 percent and from 22 to 20 percent during this time period, respectively.

**FAFSA** — Through June 2018, approximately 64 percent of Mississippi’s 2017-18 12th grade class had completed a FAFSA application, a one-year increase of around 4 percent. Nationwide, the FAFSA completion rate was nearly 61 percent.

**Enrollment** — In 2015-16, nearly 43 percent of students in Mississippi were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 7 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and close to 50 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges.

**Automation** — A recent study has found that individuals face a reduced risk of job automation if they have achieved a higher level of educational attainment and that “Artificial Intelligence puts more low-skilled jobs at risk than previous waves of technological progress.” According to this study, approximately 10 percent of the jobs in the United States can be considered at high risk of automation (in that they have an over 70 percent probability of being automated), with roughly an additional 25 percent of jobs at risk of significant change due to automation.

Sources: Educational attainment: State higher education master plans and Lumina Foundation, “A Stronger Nation,” 2017. Children in poverty: U.S. Census Bureau. FAFSA completion: National College Access Network. Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2016. Automation: Nedelkoska, L. and G. Quintini, “Automation, skills use and training,” OECD, 2018.

## Mississippi Institutions by Type

### Public Four-Year Category 1

- Jackson State University
- University of Mississippi
- Mississippi State University
- University of Southern Mississippi

### Public Four-Year Category 2

- Alcorn State University
- Delta State University
- Mississippi University for Women
- Mississippi Valley State University

### Public Two-Year

- Coahoma Community College
- Copiah-Lincoln Community College

- East Central Community College
- East Mississippi Community College
- Hinds Community College
- Holmes Community College
- Itawamba Community College
- Jones County Junior College
- Meridian Community College
- Mississippi Delta Community College
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- Northeast Mississippi Community College
- Northwest Mississippi Community College
- Pearl River Community College
- Southwest Mississippi Community College



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## Notes and Sources

**Category 1** four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas. **Category 2** includes all other four-year institutions. The **public two-year category** includes institutions that primarily award associate degrees; the list may include two-year institutions that award bachelor's degrees.

Institutions are listed as they were categorized in the 2015-16 Data Exchange Survey and if they submitted the data required for this profile.

This profile is based on data reported to IPEDS by institutions during the 2010-11 and 2015-16 academic years. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2015-16 Student Financial Aid survey reports data for 2014-15.

Institutions or states may update data that were previously reported to an organization or adjust the methodology to calculate a statistic. As a result, some data reported in past Affordability Profiles may differ from data in the current profile, even though the data are for the same time period.

See the technical guide at [SREB.org/Affordability](http://SREB.org/Affordability) for detailed sources and explanatory notes.

*SREB College Affordability Profiles detail data and trends specific to each SREB state to assist policymakers with decisions on postsecondary affordability and attainment. For additional resources, including recommendations of the Commission on College Affordability in the South and the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education, visit [SREB.org/Affordability](http://SREB.org/Affordability).*