

North Carolina

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, North Carolina 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 North Carolina families at various income levels.

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

In 2015-16, families in North Carolina needed on average nearly 25 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public category 1 institutions and public four-year category 2 institutions. These percentages were much higher than they were in 2010-11 but lower than the SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

For a full-time student at public two-year institutions, families in North Carolina needed to pay, on average, 18 percent of their income in 2015-16 to cover educational expenses, the same as families needed in 2010-11 and close to the SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

	North Carolina, 2010-11	North Carolina, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	18.4%	24.8%	30.5%	30.8%
Public Four-Year Category 2	16.3%	25.1%	28.8%	27.9%
Public Two-Year	17.5%	18.0%	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?

North Carolina spent \$615, on average per full-time-equivalent student on need-based aid in 2015-16 compared to \$650 in 2010-11. The SREB average was \$343 and the national average was \$376 in 2015-16. The state also spent \$10, on average, per FTE for special purpose financial aid in 2015-16, much less than the SREB average for special purpose aid at \$64 and the national average of \$39.

Financial Aid Category	North Carolina, 2010-11	North Carolina, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Need Only	\$650	\$615	\$343	\$376
Need and Merit	NA	NA	\$135	\$214
Merit Only	NA	NA	\$416	\$168
Special Purpose	\$17	\$10	\$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?

Twenty-five percent of families in North Carolina made less than \$30,000 in 2015. For these families, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 13 percent of income that year, compared to 10 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	26%	25%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$1,730	\$2,221
Average Income of North Carolina Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,411	\$17,280
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lower-Priced Public Institutions	10%	13%
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 North Carolina in 2015-16 borrowed, on average, \$21,648, and graduates of four-year category 2 institutions borrowed \$23,247, on average. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2010-11. While borrowing at category 1 universities was close to SREB and national averages, the amount borrowed by graduates at category 2 universities was higher than the SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$10,662 in 2015-16, much more than the average amount borrowed in 2010-11 but close to the SREB and national averages.

	North Carolina, 2010-11	North Carolina, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$17,487	\$21,648	\$21,703	\$21,505
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$18,243	\$23,247	\$22,391	\$19,893
Public Two-Year	\$7,919	\$10,662	\$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 equals 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 North Carolina’s public four-year category 1 institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 46 percent of their income for educational expenses. In 2010, that percentage was 31 percent. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed nearly 24 percent of their income for a full-time student in 2015-16; these families needed 18 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	\$17,280	25%	\$7,944	31%	46%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,090	18%	\$9,569	18%	24%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,915	21%	\$13,686	17%	22%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,096	17%	\$18,434	17%	20%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$190,037	18%	\$20,432	9%	11%

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 North Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 49 percent of their income for educational expenses compared to 29 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 26 percent of their income in 2015 compared to 15 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	\$17,280	25%	\$8,473	29%	49%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,090	18%	\$10,057	15%	26%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,915	21%	\$13,851	15%	23%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,096	17%	\$17,015	15%	19%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$190,037	18%	\$17,638	8%	9%

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

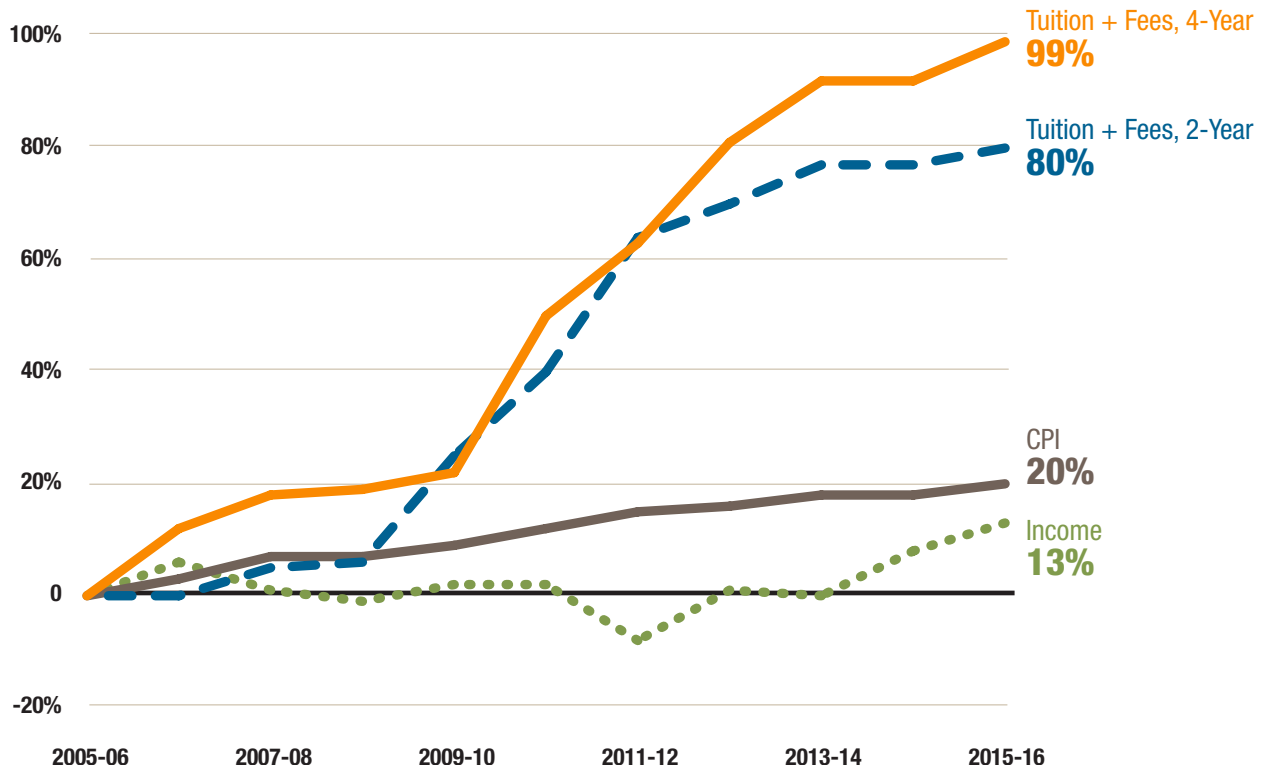
At public two-year institutions in North Carolina families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 40 percent of their income for educational expenses compared to 37 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 in 2015 needed 19 percent of their income for a full-time student, the same percentage 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	\$17,280	25%	\$6,932	37%	40%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,090	18%	\$7,416	19%	19%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,915	21%	\$8,375	14%	14%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$91,096	17%	\$9,897	11%	11%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$190,037	18%	\$11,566	7%	6%

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 North Carolina public colleges and universities increased substantially between 2006 and 2016. Over that decade, the CPI increased by 20 percent and household income rose by 13 percent, while tuition and fees increased by 99 percent at four-year institutions and by 80 percent at two-year institutions.

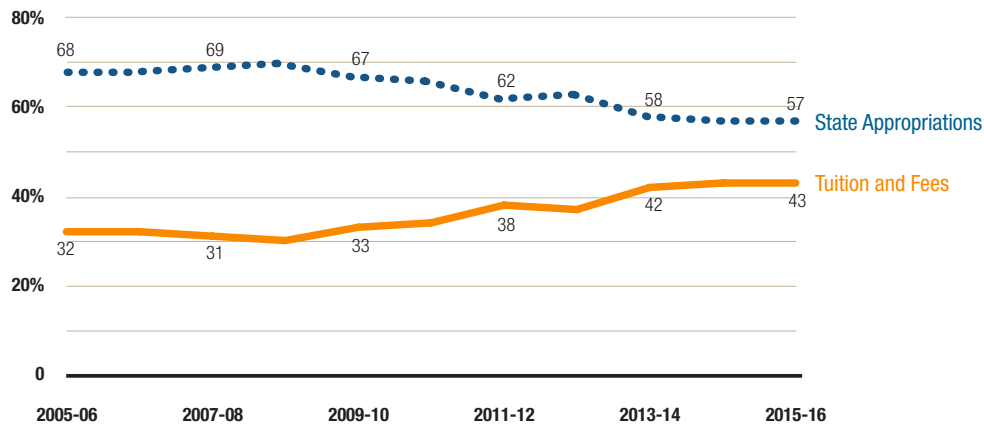


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2016. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics files, 2005 to 2015. 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

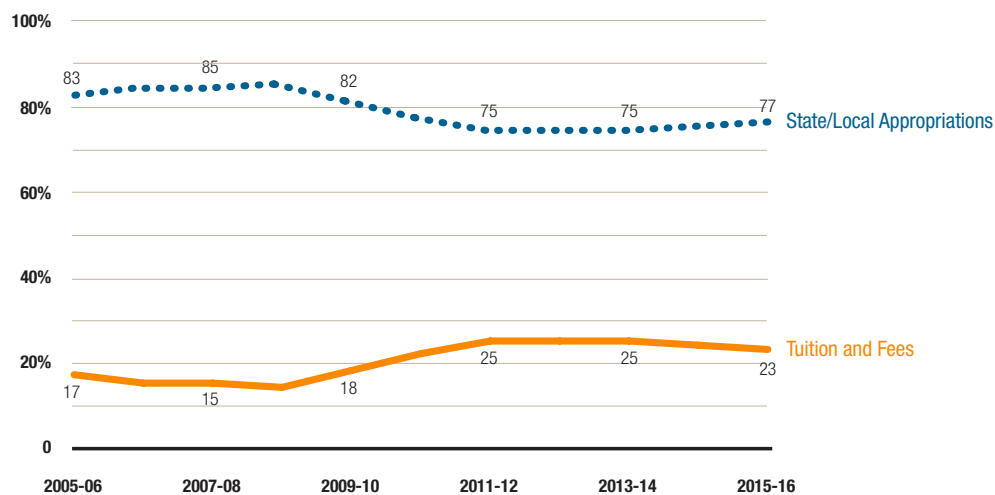
In 2015-16, net tuition and fees at North Carolina's four-year institutions made up 43 percent of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 57 percent. In comparison, state appropriations provided 68 percent in 2005-06.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

Public Two-Year Institutions

State and local appropriations have continued to be the major source for operational revenue for the state's two-year colleges. Appropriations provided 83 percent of revenues in 2005-06, although that share had dropped to 77 percent by 2015-16. Tuition and fees made up 23 percent of revenues that year compared to 17 percent in 2005-06.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

Additional Context

Attainment — In 2016, 47 percent of North Carolina’s working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. North Carolina does not currently have an educational attainment goal.

Poverty — In 2016, 22 percent of children in North Carolina were living in poverty. This was down from 2010, when 25 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 59 percent of North Carolina’s 2017-18 12th grade class had completed a FAFSA application, a one-year increase of around 3 percent. Nationwide, the FAFSA completion rate was nearly 61 percent.

Enrollment — In 2015-16, nearly 29 percent of students in North Carolina were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, close to 21 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and 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.

North Carolina Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Category 1

East Carolina University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
North Carolina State University at Raleigh

North Carolina Central University
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Winston-Salem State University
Western Carolina University

Public Four-Year Category 2

Appalachian State University
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
North Carolina A & T State University
University of North Carolina at Asheville

Public Two-Year

College of the Albemarle
South Piedmont Community College
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
Beaufort County Community College
Bladen Community College

Blue Ridge Community College
Brunswick Community College
Caldwell Community College and Technical
Institute
Cape Fear Community College
Carteret Community College
Catawba Valley Community College
Central Carolina Community College
Central Piedmont Community College
Cleveland Community College
Coastal Carolina Community College
Craven Community College
Davidson County Community College
Durham Technical Community College
Edgecombe Community College
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College
Gaston College
Guilford Technical Community College
Halifax Community College
Haywood Community College
Isothermal Community College
James Sprunt Community College
Johnston Community College
Lenoir Community College
Martin Community College
Mayland Community College

McDowell Technical Community College
Mitchell Community College
Montgomery Community College
Nash Community College
Pamlico Community College
Piedmont Community College
Pitt Community College
Randolph Community College
Richmond Community College
Roanoke-Chowan Community College
Robeson Community College
Rockingham Community College
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Sampson Community College
Sandhills Community College
Southeastern Community College
Southwestern Community College
Stanly Community College
Surry Community College
Alamance Community College
Tri-County Community College
Vance-Granville Community College
Wake Technical Community College
Wayne Community College
Western Piedmont Community College
Wilkes Community College
Wilson Community College

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 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.