

Georgia

College Affordability Profile

College affordability continues to be a concern for students and their families in Georgia, particularly those in lower income groups. This, along with declining birth rates and other factors, makes maintaining enrollment challenging for postsecondary institutions. Decreasing or stagnant enrollment will, in turn, make reaching state education attainment goals and improving students' employment outcomes more difficult. This 2019 college affordability profile provides updated data on how affordable different types of public institutions are for Georgia families at various income levels.

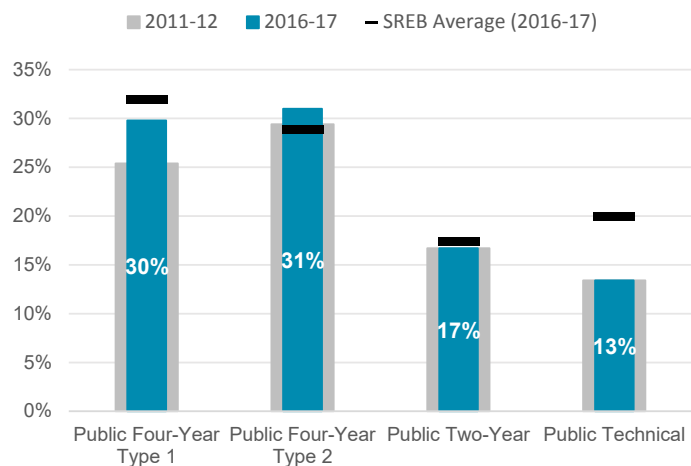
Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Attend College Full Time

In 2016-17, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Georgia was **lower than the SREB average** for every type of institution **except four-year Type 2 institutions**.

Families in Georgia paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2016-17 to send a full-time student to a four-year institution than in 2011-12.

Georgia's families needed, on average, 30% of their income in 2016-17 to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 31% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2016-17 Georgia families needed to pay, on average, 17% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and 13% at technical institutions.

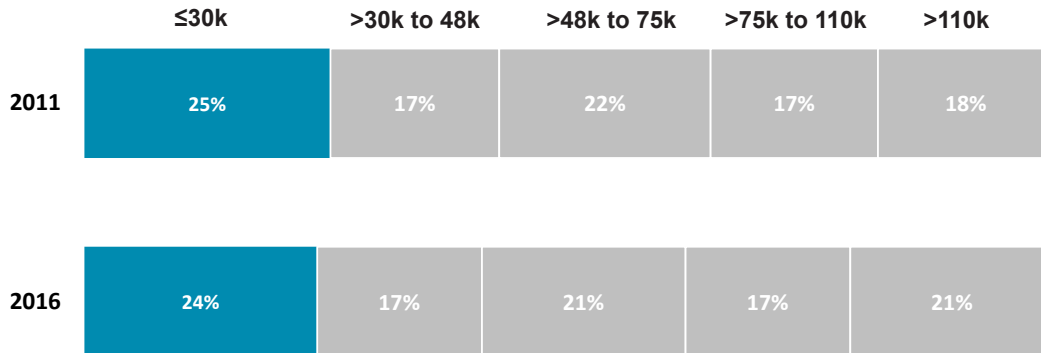


U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

SREB College Affordability Profiles detail data and trends specific to each SREB state to assist policy-makers 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 <https://www.sreb.org/AffordabilityProfiles>.

Distribution of Average Family Income

Data on cost of attendance are collected for five income ranges. In Georgia, families that **made less than \$30,000** accounted for **the largest percentage of families in 2011 and 2016**.



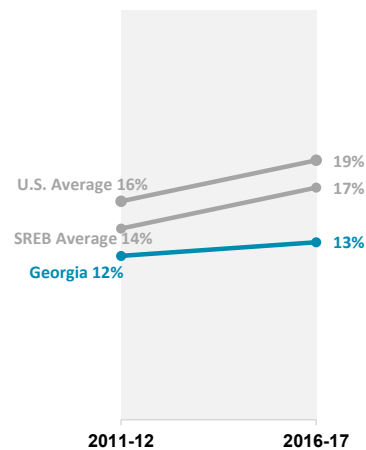
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

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

For Georgia families making less than \$30,000, the percentage of income required for tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions **remained stable from 2011-12 to 2016-17**.

For families making less than \$30,000, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 13% of income in 2016-17, compared to 12% in 2011-12.

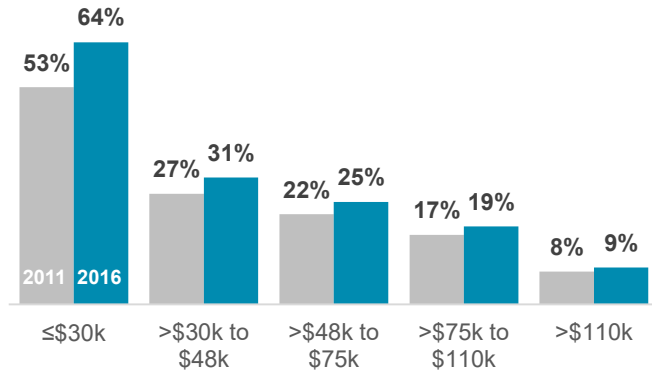
The percentage of income for Georgia families making less than \$30,000 continued to be lower than the SREB and national averages.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files 2010 and 2015, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2011 and 2016.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 1 Institutions

Georgia families in the **lowest income category** were the **most affected** by the increase in net price at four-year Type 1 institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia was much larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 53% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 64%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 8% of their income in 2011 and 9% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

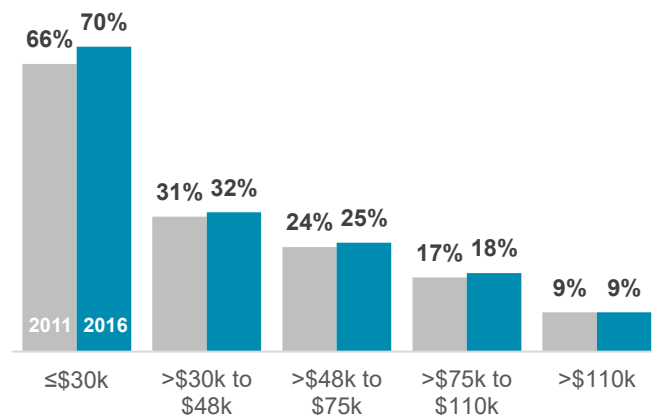
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

At four-year Type 2 institutions, Georgia families making less than \$30,000 were the most affected by the rising cost of attendance.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 2 institutions in Georgia was larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 66% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 70%.

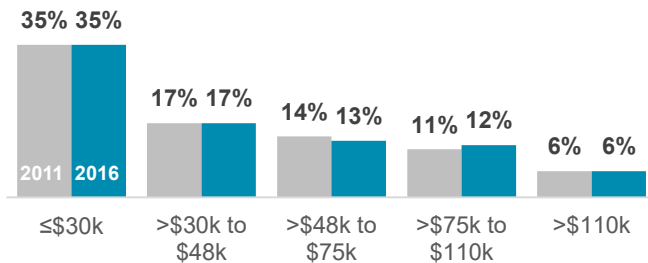
Families making over \$110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2011 and 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

The **percentage of income** that Georgia families needed to pay for educational **expenses at two-year institutions remained stable** from 2011 to 2016.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

There was little or no change in the percentage of income needed to pay for two-year institutions in Georgia for families in all income categories.

At Georgia's two-year institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 and 2016 needed 35% of their income to pay for educational expenses.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2011 and 2016 to cover these expenses.

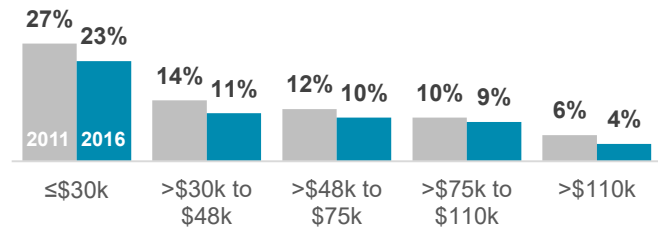
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions

Georgia's **technical institutions** required a **lower percentage of family income** to pay for education expenses in 2016 than 2011.

The decrease in the percentage of income needed to pay for technical institutions in Georgia was larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

At Georgia's technical institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 27% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 23%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2011 and 4% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

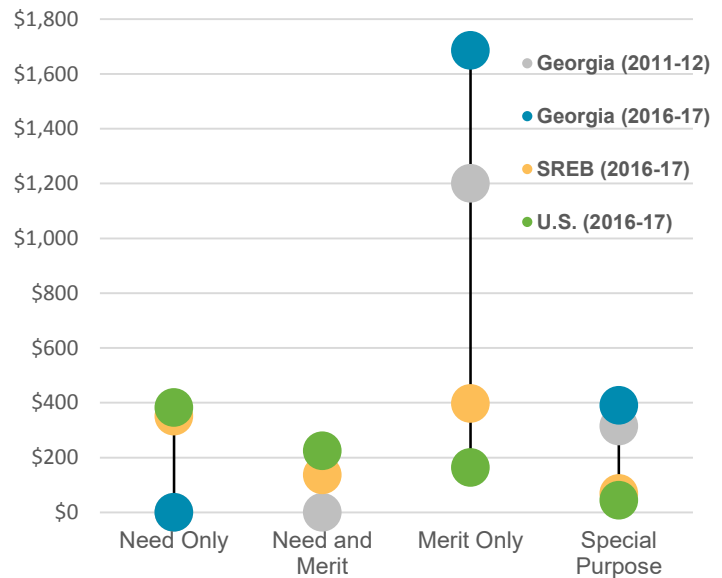
State Financial Aid Per Student

Georgia awarded **more merit-based aid in 2016-17** per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student than the SREB and national averages. **Merit-based aid also increased** from 2011-12 to 2016-17.

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
Georgia (2011-12)	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$315
Georgia (2016-17)	\$0	NA	\$1,685	\$391
SREB Average (2016-17)	\$351	\$137	\$397	\$69
U.S. Average (2016-17)	\$382	\$225	\$163	\$44

The state spent \$1,685 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2016-17, compared to \$1,200 in 2011-12. The SREB average in 2016-17 was \$397 and the national average was \$163.

Georgia spent \$391, on average, per FTE for special purpose financial aid in 2016-17, much more than the SREB average of \$69 and the national average of \$44.



National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2012 and 2017 annual survey (results for public institutions only). U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity File, 2012 and 2017, and Directory File, 2011 and 2016.

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2016-17, Georgia graduates **borrowed more than the SREB and national averages to earn degrees at public four-year Type 2 and two-year institutions.**

	Georgia 2011-12	Georgia 2016-17	SREB Average 2016-17	US Average 2016-17
Four-Year Type 1	\$17,806	\$21,106	\$21,546	\$21,139
Four-Year Type 2	\$18,821	\$22,309	\$22,198	\$19,115
Two-Year	\$9,847	\$14,912	\$9,693	\$9,356

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2011 and 2016. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2012 and 2017 and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

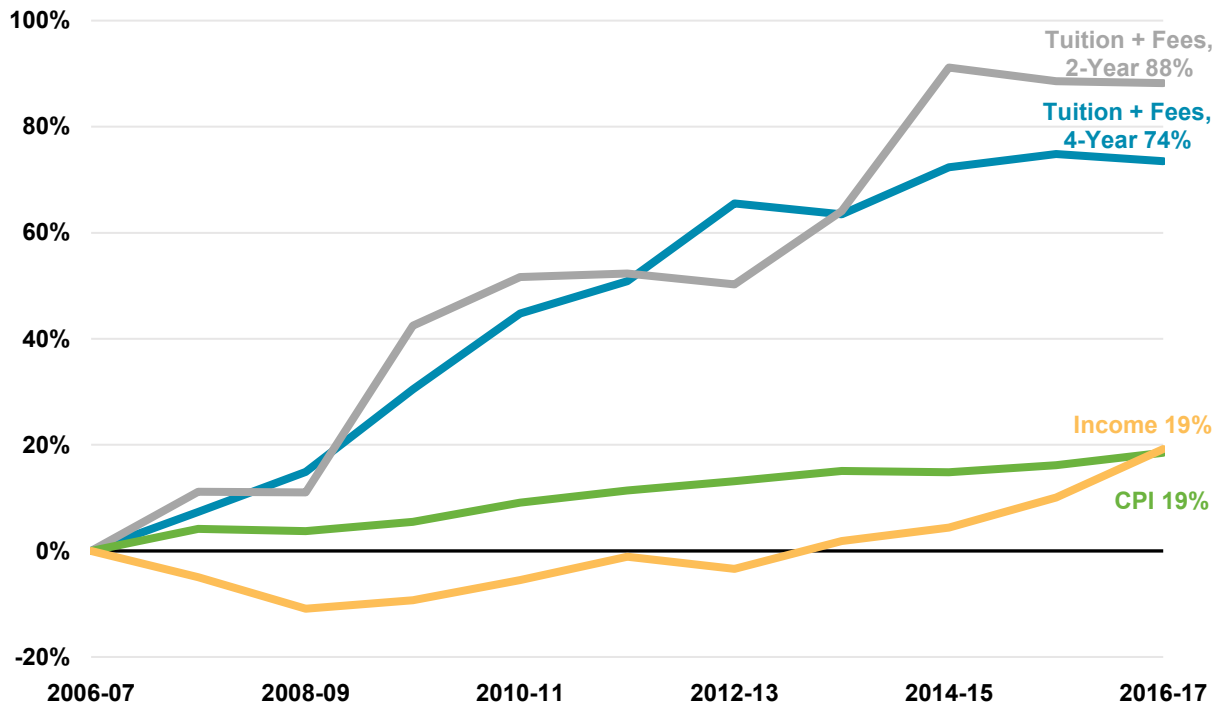
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in Georgia in 2016-17 borrowed, on average, \$21,106 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$22,309. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2011-12 but close to the SREB averages in 2016-17.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$14,912 in 2016-17, much more than the average amount in 2011-12 and higher than the SREB and national averages in 2016-17.

Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI, and Household Income

Compared to the Consumer Price Index and household income, **tuition and fees** at Georgia public colleges and universities **increased substantially** between 2006-07 and 2016-17.

Over that decade, both the CPI and median household income in Georgia increased by 19%, while tuition and fees increased by 74% at four-year institutions and 88% at two-year institutions.

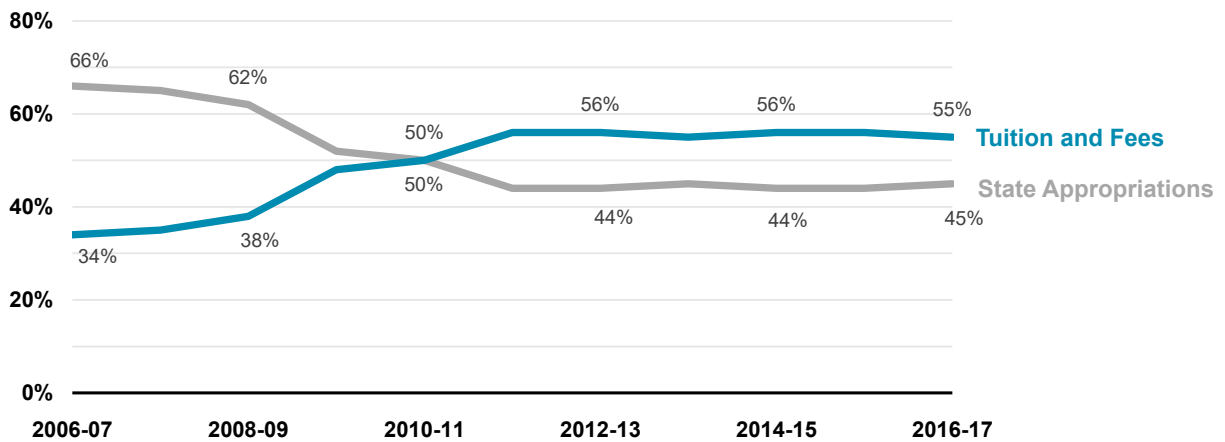


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2017. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2006 to 2016. Median household income in current dollars retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, 2019.

State Appropriations vs. Tuition and Fees: Share of Funding

Operational funds consisted **mostly of tuition and fees** for Georgia's **public four-year institutions** in 2016-17.

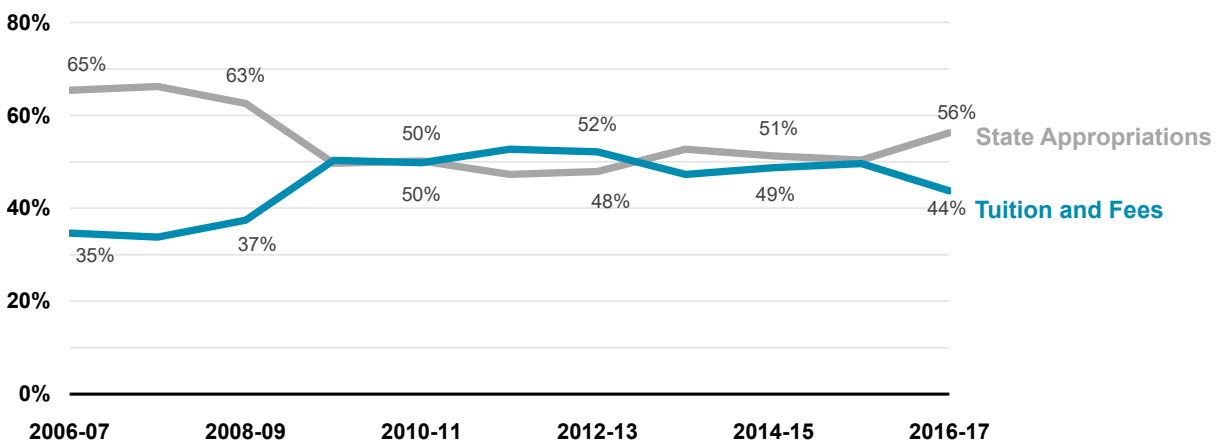
In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at Georgia's four-year institutions made up 55% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 45%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 66% in 2006-07. The shift in who pays for the majority of operating expenses at public four-year institutions occurred after 2010-11.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

State appropriations accounted for **most of the operating expenses** at Georgia's **public two-year institutions** in 2016-17.

Although contributions from state appropriations dropped from 65% in 2006-07 to 56% in 2016-17, that share increased in recent years after hovering around 50% during the previous six years. Net tuition and fees made up 44% of revenues in 2016-17 compared to 35% in 2006-07.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2016-17, 21% of students in Georgia were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, close to 45% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, almost 13% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 21% were enrolled in public technical colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2016 cohort, 93% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia were still enrolled one year later, 81% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 58% were retained at public two-year and technical colleges.

Pell Grants. In 2016-17, 15% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 20% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 29% of costs in public two-year colleges, and 23% in public technical colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2017, 51% of Georgia's working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. The state's educational attainment goal is to reach 60% by 2025.

Student Debt. In Georgia, 57% of the class of 2018 graduated with debt, owing an average of \$28,824.

Sources: Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2016. Retention: SREB-State Data Exchange. Pell: U.S. Department of Education: 2016-2017 Award Year Grant Volume by School (2018) and SREB analysis of National Center for Education Statistics student financial aid survey, 2016-17. Educational attainment: State Higher Education Master Plans and Lumina Foundation, "A Stronger Nation," 2019. Student debt: The Institute for College Access & Success, "Student Debt and the Class of 2018" (2019).

Georgia Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type

Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

Public Four-Year Type 2

Albany State University
Armstrong State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Southern University
Savannah State University

Valdosta State University
University of West Georgia
Georgia Gwinnett College
Middle Georgia State University
University of North Georgia
Kennesaw State University

Public Two-Year

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Bainbridge State College
East Georgia State College
Georgia Highlands College
Gordon State College
Georgia State University-Perimeter College
South Georgia State College
Georgia Military College

Technical Colleges

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Grady Health System Professional Schools
Southern Crescent Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College

North Georgia Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Athens Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College

Notes

Type 1 four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas. **Type 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. The **technical college category** includes postsecondary institutions that offer programs of less than two years duration below the baccalaureate level and occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1800 contact hours. This profile does not report data for the technical college category if less than 3% of students are enrolled in this sector.

Institutions are listed as they were categorized in the 2016-17 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 2016-17 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2016-17 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for 2015-16.

Institutions or states may have updated data previously reported, or adjusted methodology to calculate a statistic. As a result, some data in the current profile may differ from data reported in past Affordability Profiles for the same time period.

See the technical guide at SREB.org/Affordability for detailed sources and explanatory notes.