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.

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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>≤30k</th>
<th>&gt;30k to 48k</th>
<th>&gt;48k to 75k</th>
<th>&gt;75k to 110k</th>
<th>&gt;110k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.

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

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

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.
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.

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Need Only</th>
<th>Need and Merit</th>
<th>Merit Only</th>
<th>Special Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia (2011-12)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia (2016-17)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,685</td>
<td>$391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SREB Average (2016-17)</td>
<td>$351</td>
<td>$137</td>
<td>$397</td>
<td>$69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Average (2016-17)</td>
<td>$382</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$163</td>
<td>$44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Georgia 2011-12</th>
<th>Georgia 2016-17</th>
<th>SREB Average 2016-17</th>
<th>US Average 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 1</td>
<td>$17,806</td>
<td>$21,106</td>
<td>$21,546</td>
<td>$21,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 2</td>
<td>$18,821</td>
<td>$22,309</td>
<td>$22,198</td>
<td>$19,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year</td>
<td>$9,847</td>
<td>$14,912</td>
<td>$9,693</td>
<td>$9,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.

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.

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.
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.


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

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

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

SREB College Affordability Profile 2019 – Georgia
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.