Georgia College Affordability Profile

The effect of the pandemic on state budgets has not yet peaked, but it will likely affect college affordability for years to come. In this year’s SREB College Affordability Profiles, we examine data for the 2017-18 academic year, the most recent year that student financial aid and net price data are available. Although the data were collected prior to the pandemic, it shows that states continue to face challenges in making college affordable. In many states, students must spend a larger percentage of their family income to pay for college particularly at four-year institutions. In most states, two-year institutions and technical colleges and institutes offer the most affordable degree programs.

Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Pay the Net Price for Full-Time Students at Public Institutions

In 2017-18, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Georgia was lower than the SREB average for four-year Type 1 and technical institutions.

Families in Georgia paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2017-18 to send a full-time student to four-year and two-year institutions than in 2012-13.

Georgia’s families needed, on average, 29% of their income in 2017-18 to pay educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 31% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2017-18 Georgia families needed to pay, on average, 18% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and 10% at technical institutions.

Key terms:

Four-Year Institution Type 1: four-year institutions that awarded at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.

Four-Year Institution Type 2: all other four-year institutions.

Net Price: total cost of attendance (includes tuition, fees, room & board, etc.) minus federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid.
Distribution of Average Family Income

Data on net price is collected using five income categories. In Georgia, families that made less than $30,000 or over $110,000 accounted for the largest percentage of families in 2017.

<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>2012</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Percentage of Income Required for Median Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions for Families Making Less Than $30,000

For Georgia families making less than $30,000, the percentage of income required for median tuition and fees at public institutions was higher at four-year institutions than two-year institutions in 2012-13 and 2017-18.

For families making less than $30,000, the cost of median tuition and fees at four-year institutions was 38% of income in 2017-18, compared to 35% in 2012-13.

The percentage of income needed for Georgia families making less than $30,000 was lower for two-year institutions. Families needed 20% of their income in 2017-18 to cover the state’s median tuition at two-year institutions. In 2012-13 it was 18%.

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.

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

Families making less than $30,000 in 2012 needed 58% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 61%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2012 and 2017 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 2012 needed 68% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 70%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2012 and 2017 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 increased slightly from 2012 to 2017.

The percentage of income needed to pay for two-year institutions in Georgia increased slightly or remained the same for families in all income categories.

At Georgia’s two-year institutions, families making less than $30,000 in 2012 needed 37% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 38%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2012 and 2017 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 2017 than 2012.

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 2012 needed 26% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 17%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 5% of their income in 2012 and 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.
State Financial Aid Per Student

Georgia awarded more merit-based aid in 2017-18 per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student than the SREB and national averages. Merit-based aid also increased from 2012-13 to 2017-18.

<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 (2012-13)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,370</td>
<td>$287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia (2017-18)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,807</td>
<td>$396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SREB Average (2017-18)</td>
<td>$389</td>
<td>$143</td>
<td>$476</td>
<td>$74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Average (2017-18)</td>
<td>$411</td>
<td>$241</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The state spent $1,807 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2017-18, compared to $1,370 in 2012-13. The SREB average in 2017-18 was $476 and the national average was $195.

Georgia spent $396, on average, per FTE for special purpose financial aid in 2017-18, much more than the SREB average of $74 and the national average of $53.
Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2017-18, Georgia graduates borrowed more than the SREB and national averages to earn degrees at four-year Type 2 and two-year institutions.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 1</td>
<td>$18,813</td>
<td>$20,749</td>
<td>$21,600</td>
<td>$21,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 2</td>
<td>$20,532</td>
<td>$23,231</td>
<td>$22,677</td>
<td>$19,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year</td>
<td>$10,442</td>
<td>$14,949</td>
<td>$10,798</td>
<td>$10,171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in Georgia in 2017-18 borrowed, on average, $20,749 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed $23,231. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2012-13 and the SREB and national averages for four-year Type 2 institutions in 2017-18.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, $14,949 in 2017-18, much more than the average amount in 2012-13 and higher than the SREB and national averages in 2017-18.
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 2007-08 and 2017-18.

Over that decade, both the CPI increased by 16% and median household income in Georgia increased by 21%, while tuition and fees increased by 75% at four-year institutions and 83% at two-year institutions.

Dollars per FTE Student from State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Operational funds per FTE student consisted most of tuition and fees for Georgia’s public four-year institutions in 2017-18.

Net tuition and fees per FTE student at Georgia’s four-year institutions increased from $4,419 in 2007-08 to $7,996 in 2017-18. In comparison, state appropriations per FTE student dropped from $8,287 in 2007-08 to $6,832 in 2017-18. Students and families paid a larger share of the total funding per student.

State and local appropriations per FTE student accounted for most of the operating expenses at Georgia’s public two-year institutions in 2017-18.

Although state and local appropriations per FTE student dropped from $4,577 in 2007-08 to $4,482 in 2017-18 at Georgia’s two-year institutions, they have increased in recent years. Net tuition and fees per FTE student increased from $2,336 in 2007-08 to $3,298 in 2017-18. The state paid a larger share of the total funding per student.
**Additional State Context**

**Postsecondary Enrollment.** In 2017-18, 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 2017 cohort, 93% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia were still enrolled one year later, 80% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 54% were retained at public two-year and technical colleges.

**Pell Grants.** In 2017-18, 17% 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 22% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 29% of costs in public two-year colleges, and 31% of costs in public technical colleges.

**Education Attainment.** In 2018, over 52% 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, 56% of the class of 2019 graduated from four-year colleges with debt, owing an average of $28,081.


**Georgia Institutions by Type**

**Public Four-Year Type 1**
- Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia

**Public Four-Year Type 2**
- Albany 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 & State University

**Public Two-Year**
- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Atlanta Metropolitan 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
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 2017-18 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 2017-18 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2017-18 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for the 2016-17 academic year.

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.