Louisiana

College Affordability Profile

College affordability continues to be a concern for students and their families in Louisiana, 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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana was lower than the SREB average for four-year Type 1 and Type 2 institutions.

Families in Louisiana paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2016-17 for a full-time student to attend four-year and two-year institutions than in 2011-12.

Louisiana's families needed, on average, 29% of their income in 2016-17 to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 28% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2016-17, Louisiana families needed to pay, on average, 23% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and 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 using five income categories. In Louisiana, students from 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>29%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

The percentage of income required for tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions increased from 2011-12 to 2016-17 for Louisiana families making less than $30,000.

For families making less than $30,000, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 18% of income in 2016-17, compared to 8% in 2011-12.

The percentage of income for Louisiana families making less than $30,000 was lower than the SREB and national averages in 2011-12, but higher than the SREB average in 2016-17.

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

Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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 54% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 81%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2011 and 12% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

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

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

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

Families making less than $30,000 in 2011 needed 46% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 64%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2011 and 8% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

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

The percentage of income that Louisiana families needed to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions increased from 2011 to 2016.

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

At Louisiana’s two-year institutions, families making less than $30,000 in 2011 needed 38% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 52%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2011 and 7% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions

Louisiana families making between $48,000 and $75,000 were the most affected by the cost of attendance at technical institutions.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for technical institutions in Louisiana was larger for families making between $48,000 and $75,000 than for any other income category.

At Louisiana’s technical institutions, families making between $48,000 and $75,000 in 2011 needed 15% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it 18%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.
State Financial Aid Per Student

Louisiana 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>Louisiana (2011-12)</td>
<td>$144</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$926</td>
<td>$37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana (2016-17)</td>
<td>$164</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,278</td>
<td>$7</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 $926 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2011-12 compared to $1,278 in 2016-17. The SREB average in 2016-17 was $397 and the national average was $163.

Louisiana spent $164, on average, per FTE for need-based financial aid in 2016-17, much less than the SREB average of $351 and the national average of $382.

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2016-17, Louisiana 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>Louisiana 2011-12</th>
<th>Louisiana 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>$16,573</td>
<td>$20,037</td>
<td>$21,546</td>
<td>$21,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 2</td>
<td>$19,313</td>
<td>$22,986</td>
<td>$22,198</td>
<td>$19,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year</td>
<td>$10,473</td>
<td>$12,826</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 Louisiana in 2016-17 borrowed, on average, $20,037 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed $22,986. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2011-12, but less than the SREB and national averages.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, $12,826 in 2016-17, which was more than the average amount in 2011-12 and 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 Louisiana public colleges and universities increased substantially between 2006-07 and 2016-17.

Over that decade, the CPI increased by 19% and median household income in Louisiana increased by 5%, while tuition and fees increased by 114% at four-year institutions and 135% at two-year institutions.

State Appropriations vs. Tuition and Fees: Share of Funding

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

In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at Louisiana's four-year institutions made up 70% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 30%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 61% in 2006-07. The shift in who pays for the majority of operating expenses at public four-year institutions occurred after 2010-11.

Most of the operating expenses at Louisiana’s public two-year institutions were provided by tuition and fees in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at Louisiana's four-year institutions made up 64% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 36%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 60% in 2006-07. The shift in who pays for the majority of operating expenses at public four-year institutions occurred after 2010-11.
Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2016-17, 36% of students in Louisiana were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, close to 35% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, almost 23% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 6% were enrolled in public technical colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2016 cohort, 86% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in Louisiana were still enrolled one year later, 76% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 51% were retained at public two-year colleges, and 47% were retained at technical colleges.

Pell Grants. In 2016-17, 18% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in Louisiana was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 21% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 24% of costs in public two-year colleges, and 25% of costs in public technical colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2017, over 44% of Louisiana’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 2030.

Student Debt. In Louisiana, 49% of the class of 2018 graduated with debt, owing an average of $27,151.


Louisiana Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Louisiana Tech University
University of New Orleans
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Public Four-Year Type 2
Grambling State University
Louisiana State University-Alexandri
Louisiana State University-Shreveport
McNeese State University
Nicholls State University
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Southeastern Louisiana University
Southern University and A & M College
Southern University at New Orleans

Public Two-Year
Bossier Parish Community College
Delgado Community College
Nunez Community College
Louisiana State University-Eunice
Southern University at Shreveport
South Louisiana Community College
River Parishes Community College
Baton Rouge Community College
Louisiana Delta Community College
Technical Colleges
Central Louisiana Technical Community College
Northwest Louisiana Technical College
Fletcher Technical Community College
SOWELA Technical Community College
Northshore Technical Community College
South Central Louisiana 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.