

South Carolina

College Affordability Profile

College affordability continues to be a concern for students and their families in South Carolina, 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 South Carolina families at various income levels.

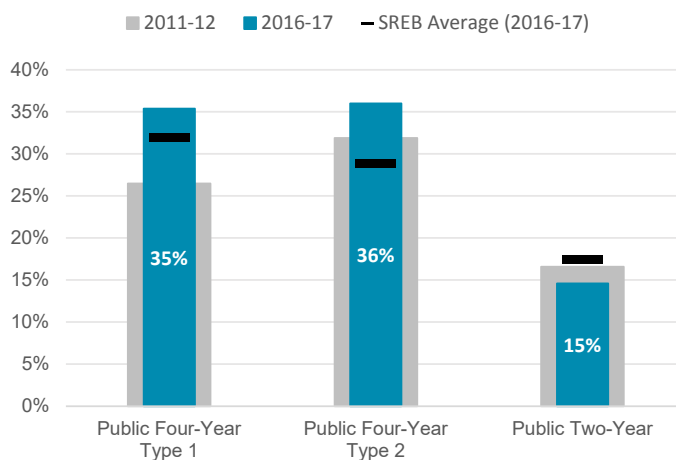
Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Attend College Full Time

In 2016-17, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in South Carolina was **lower than the SREB average for two-year institutions.**

Families in South Carolina paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2016-17 for a full-time student to attend four-year Type 1 and Type 2 institutions than in 2011-12.

Families in South Carolina needed, on average, 35% of their income in 2016-17 to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 36% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2016-17, families in South Carolina needed to pay, on average, 15% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year institutions.

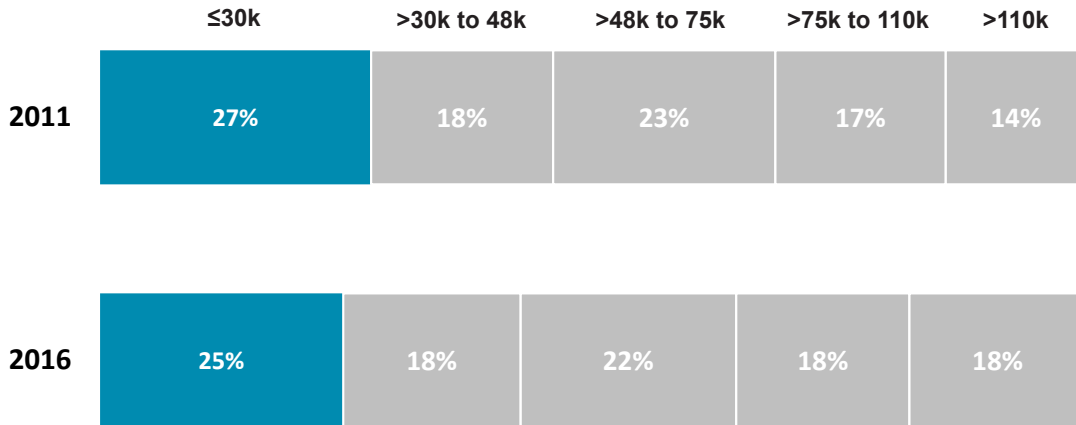


U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based 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 using five income categories. In South Carolina, students from families that **made less than \$30,000** accounted for **the largest percentage of families in 2011 and 2016**.



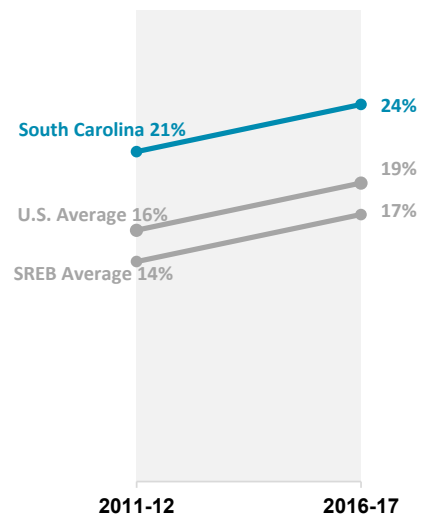
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

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

The percentage of income required for tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions **increased from 2011-12 to 2016-17** for South Carolina 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 24% of income in 2016-17, compared to 21% in 2011-12.

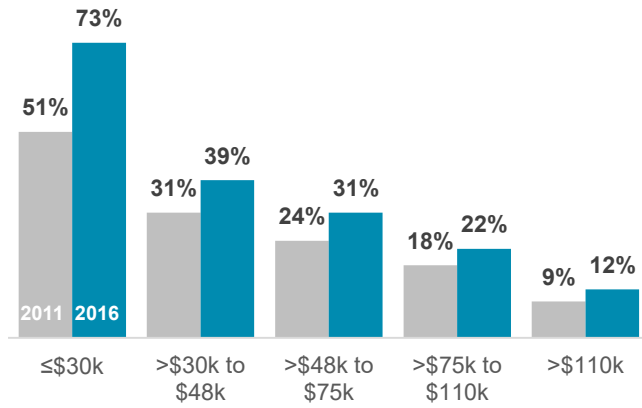
The percentage of income for South Carolina families making less than \$30,000 was higher than the SREB and national averages in 2011-12 and 2016-17.



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

South Carolina 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 South Carolina 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 51% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 73%.

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

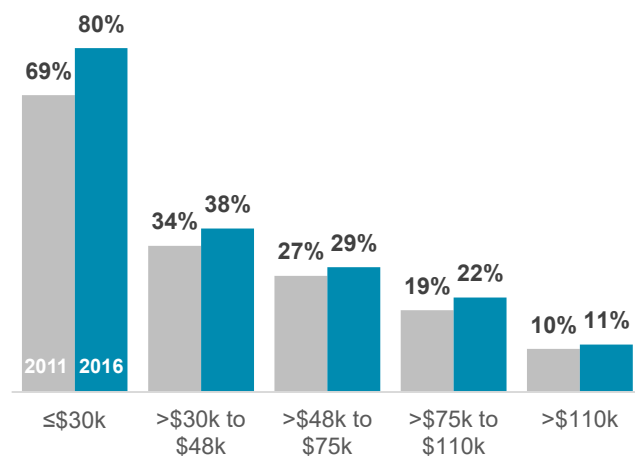
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

South Carolina **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 South Carolina was larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 69% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 80%.

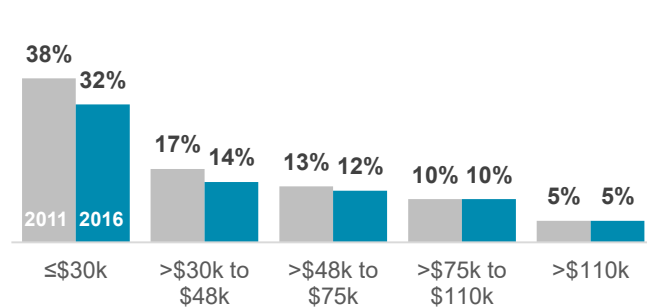
Families making over \$110,000 only needed 10% of their income in 2011 and 11% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.



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.

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

The **percentage of income** that South Carolina families needed to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions **decreased** 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.

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

At South Carolina'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 32%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 5% of their income in 2011 and 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

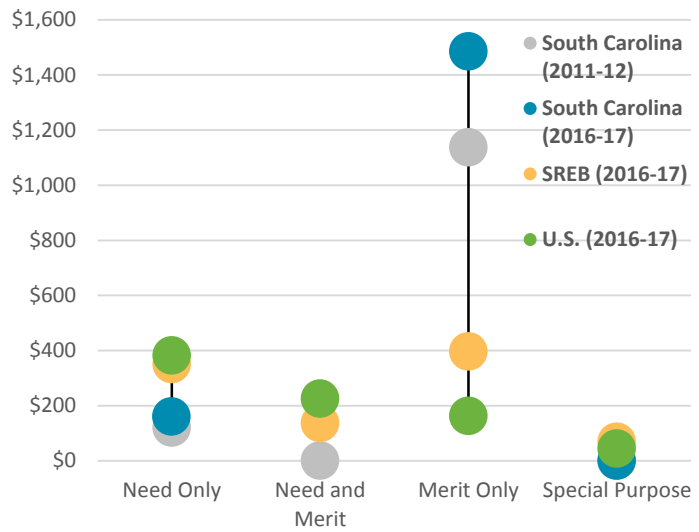
State Financial Aid Per Student

South Carolina 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
South Carolina (2011-12)	\$120	\$0	\$1,138	\$0
South Carolina (2016-17)	\$160	NA	\$1,486	\$0
SREB Average (2016-17)	\$351	\$137	\$397	\$69
U.S. Average (2016-17)	\$382	\$225	\$163	\$44

The state spent \$1,138, on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2011-12 compared to \$1,486 in 2016-17. The SREB average in 2016-17 was \$397 and the national average was \$163.

South Carolina spent \$160, on average, per FTE for need-based financial aid in 2016-17, much less than the SREB average for special purpose aid of \$351 and the national average of \$382.



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, South Carolina graduates **borrowed more than the SREB and national averages** to earn degrees **at public four-year and two-year institutions.**

	South Carolina 2011-12	South Carolina 2016-17	SREB Average 2016-17	US Average 2016-17
Four-Year Type 1	\$20,572	\$22,371	\$21,546	\$21,139
Four-Year Type 2	\$23,031	\$24,843	\$22,198	\$19,115
Two-Year	\$9,746	\$11,011	\$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.

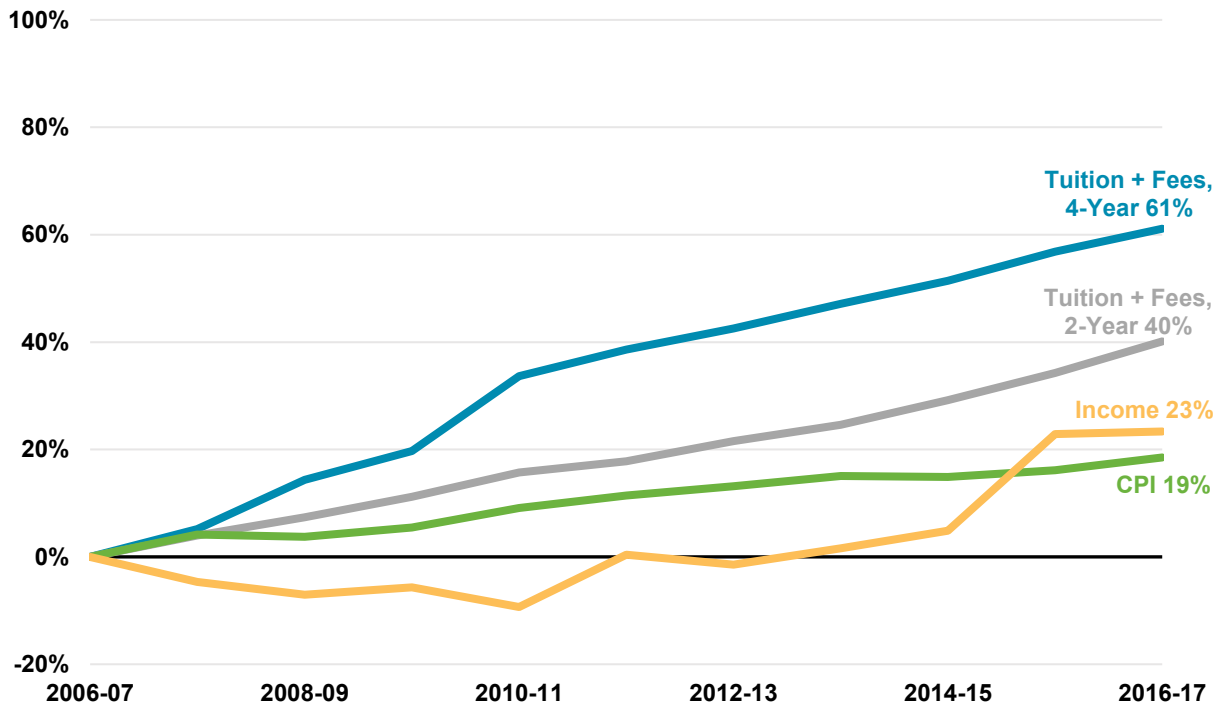
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in South Carolina in 2016-17 borrowed, on average, \$22,371 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$24,843. These amounts were higher than average amounts borrowed in 2011-12 and the SREB and national averages in 2016-17.

Students at two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$11,011 in 2016-17, more than the average amount in 2011-12 and more 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 South Carolina public colleges and universities **increased at a faster rate** between 2006-07 and 2016-17.

Over that decade, the CPI increased by 19% and median household income in South Carolina increased by 23%, while tuition and fees increased by 61% at four-year institutions and 40% at two-year institutions.

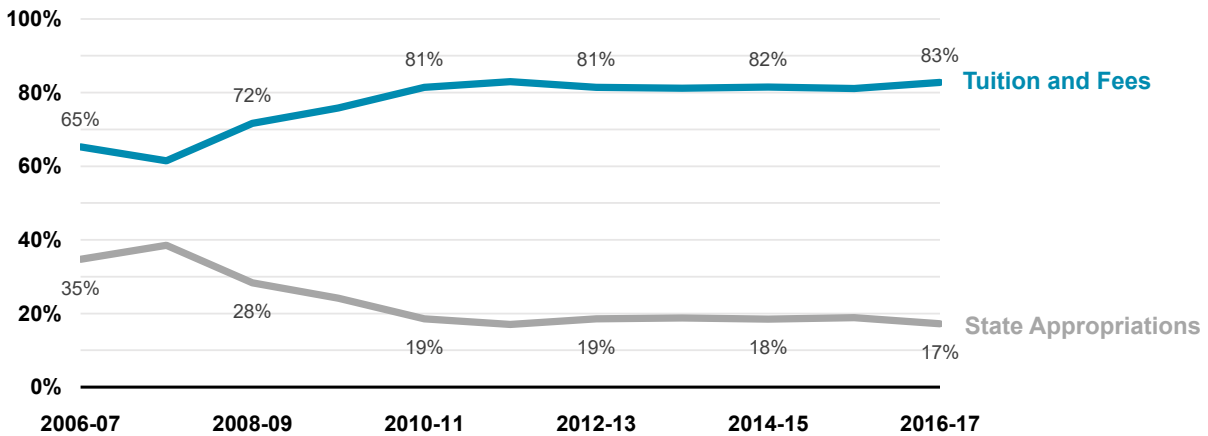


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2017. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2006 to 2016. 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 South Carolina’s **public four-year institutions** in 2016-17.

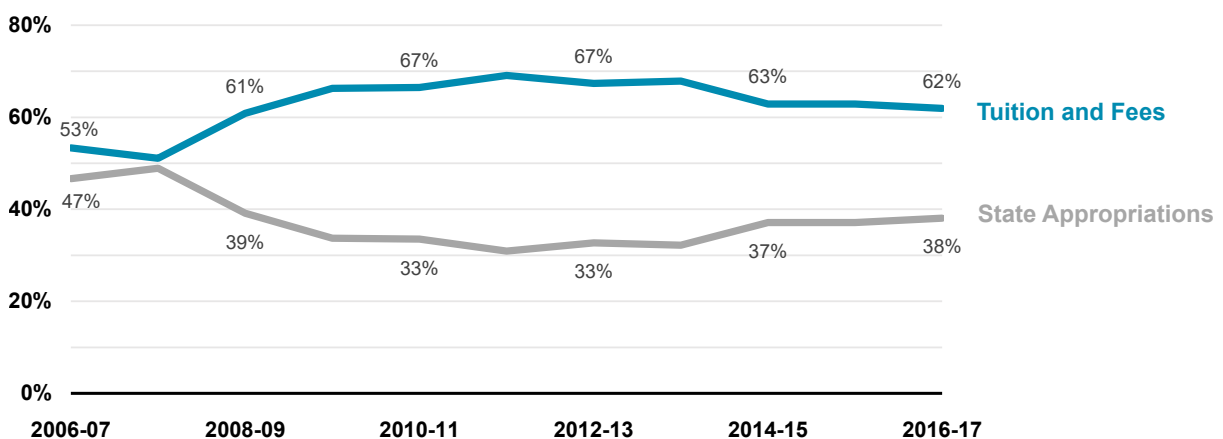
In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at South Carolina’s four-year institutions made up 83% of total funds available for operations of the state’s public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 17%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 35% in 2006-07.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Operational funds consisted **mostly of tuition and fees** for South Carolina’s **public two-year institutions** in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at South Carolina’s four-year institutions made up 62% of total funds available for operations of the state’s public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 38%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 47% in 2006-07.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2016-17, 29% of students in South Carolina were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, 30% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 41% were enrolled in public two-year colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2016 cohort, 92% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in South Carolina were still enrolled one year later, 80% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 66% were retained at public two-year colleges.

Pell Grants. In 2016-17, 15% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in South Carolina was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 17% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions and 24% of costs in public two-year colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2017, nearly 44% of South Carolina'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 South Carolina, 58% of the class of 2018 graduated with debt, owing an average of \$30,838.

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).

South Carolina Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type 1

Clemson University
University of South Carolina-Columbia

Public Four-Year Type 2

College of Charleston
Citadel Military College of South Carolina
Francis Marion University
Lander University
University of South Carolina-Aiken
University of South Carolina-Beaufort
Coastal Carolina University
South Carolina State University
University of South Carolina-Upstate
Winthrop University

Public Two-Year

Aiken Technical College
Technical College of the Lowcountry

Northeastern Technical College
Denmark Technical College
Florence-Darlington Technical College
Greenville Technical College
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Midlands Technical College
Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College
Piedmont Technical College
University of South Carolina-Lancaster
University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie
University of South Carolina-Sumter
University of South Carolina-Union
Spartanburg Community College
Central Carolina Technical College
Tri-County Technical College
Trident Technical College
Williamsburg Technical College
York 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.