

Tennessee

College Affordability Profile

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

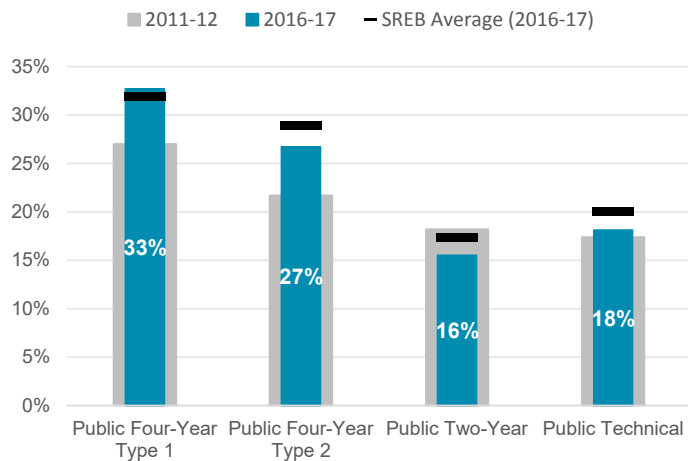
Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Attend College Full Time

In 2016-17, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Tennessee was **lower than the SREB averages** for each institutional type **except four-year Type 1 institutions**.

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

Families in Tennessee needed, on average, 33% of their income in 2016-17 to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 27% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2016-17, Tennessee families needed to pay, on average, 16% and 18% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and technical institutions, respectively. Income needed decreased from 2011-12 to 2016-17 for two-year institutions.

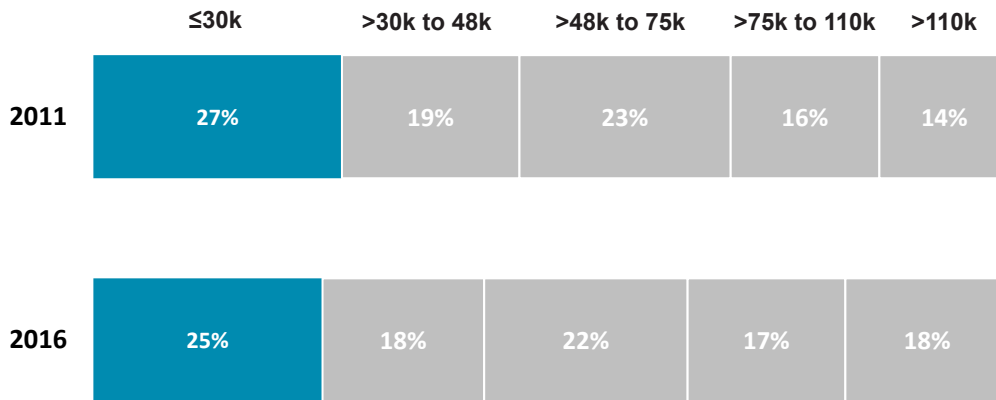


U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based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



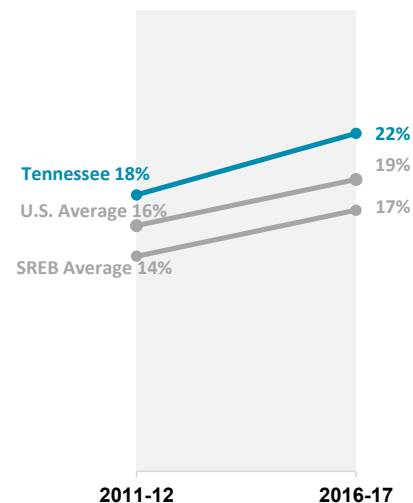
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

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 Tennessee 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 22% of income in 2016-17, compared to 18% in 2011-12.

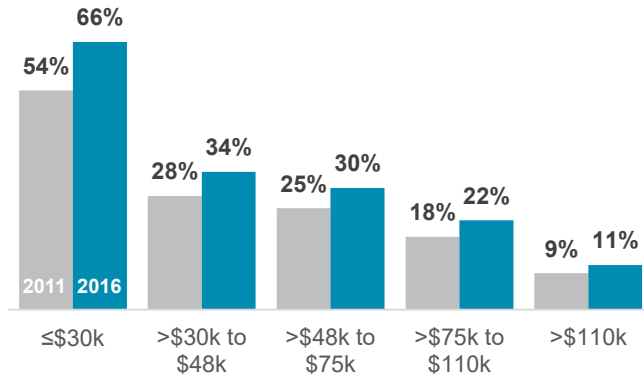
The percentage of income for Tennessee families making less than \$30,000 was higher than the SREB and national averages in 2011-12 and 2016-17.



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

Tennessee 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 Tennessee 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 66%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2011 and 11% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

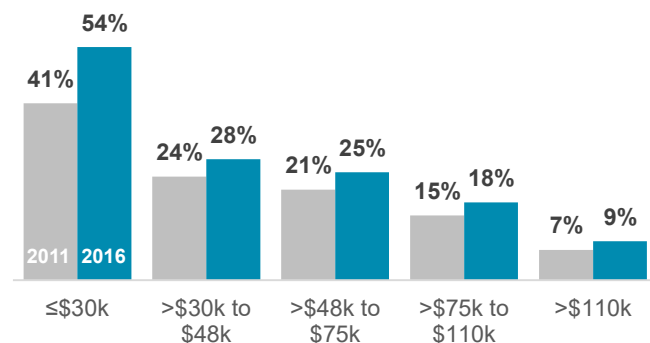
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

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

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 41% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 54%.

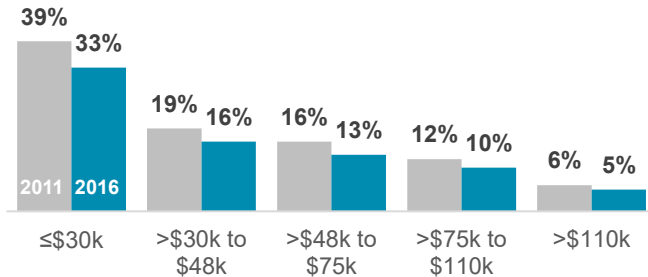
Families making over \$110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2011 and 9% of their income in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.



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

At Tennessee’s public two-year institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 39% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 33%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2011 and 5% in 2016 to cover expenses these institutions.

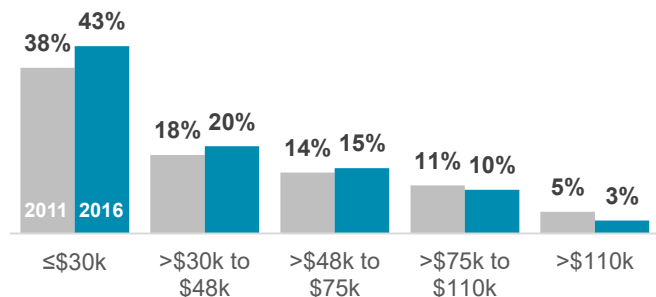
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions

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

At Tennessee’s public technical institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 38% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 43%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 5% of their income in 2011 and 3% 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.

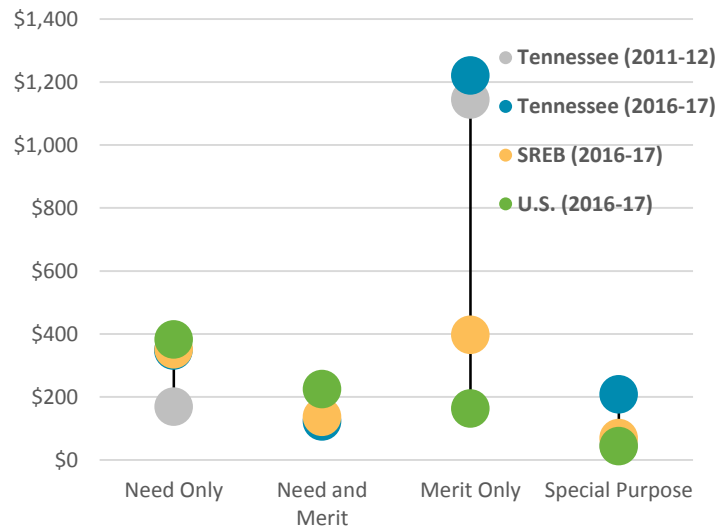
State Financial Aid Per Student

Tennessee 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
Tennessee (2011-12)	\$169	\$126	\$1,144	\$46
Tennessee (2016-17)	\$347	\$122	\$1,220	\$208
SREB Average (2016-17)	\$351	\$137	\$397	\$69
U.S. Average (2016-17)	\$382	\$225	\$163	\$44

The state spent \$1,144, on average, per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2011-12 compared to \$1,220 in 2016-17. The SREB average in 2016-17 was \$397 and the national average was \$163.

Tennessee spent \$347, on average, per FTE for need-based financial aid in 2016-17, slightly less than the SREB average 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, Tennessee graduates **borrowed more than the SREB and national averages** to earn degrees **at public four-year Type 1 institutions**.

	Tennessee 2011-12	Tennessee 2016-17	SREB Average 2016-17	US Average 2016-17
Four-Year Type 1	\$18,313	\$22,673	\$21,546	\$21,139
Four-Year Type 2	\$17,606	\$20,862	\$22,198	\$19,115
Two-Year	\$7,628	\$7,534	\$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.

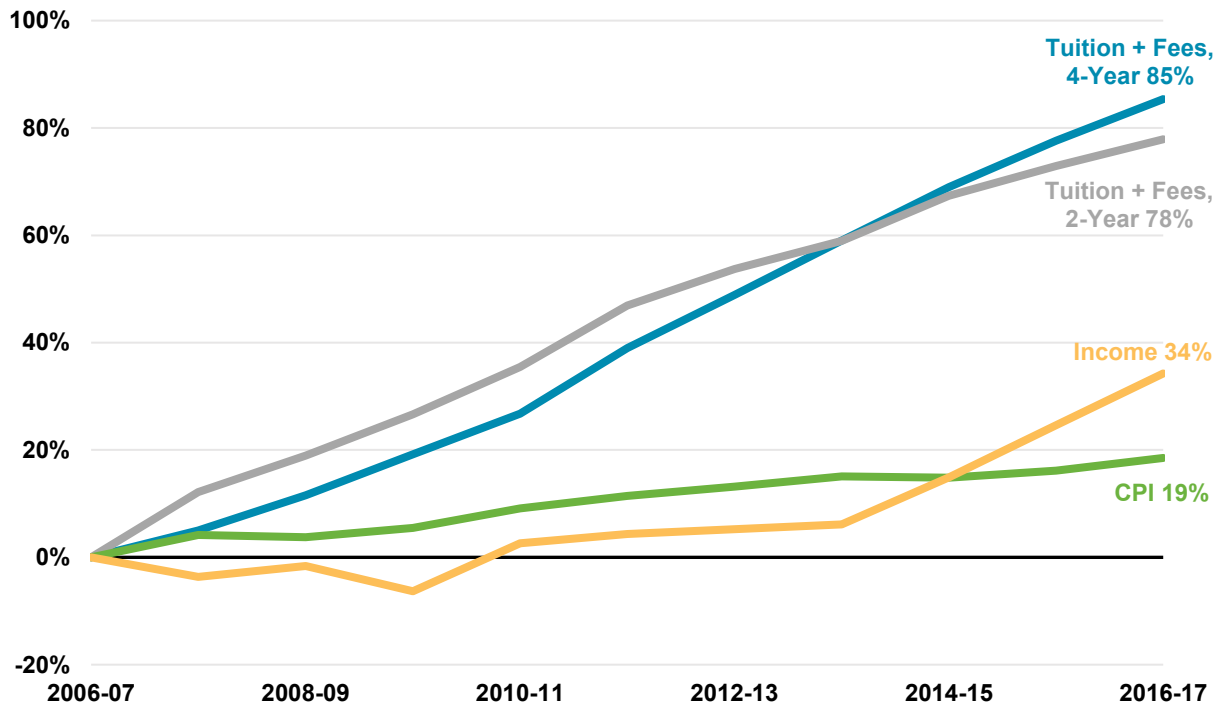
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in Tennessee in 2016-17 borrowed, on average, \$22,673 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$20,862. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2011-12.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$7,534 in 2016-17, which was less 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 Tennessee 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 Tennessee increased by 34%, while tuition and fees increased by 85% at four-year institutions and 78% at two-year institutions.

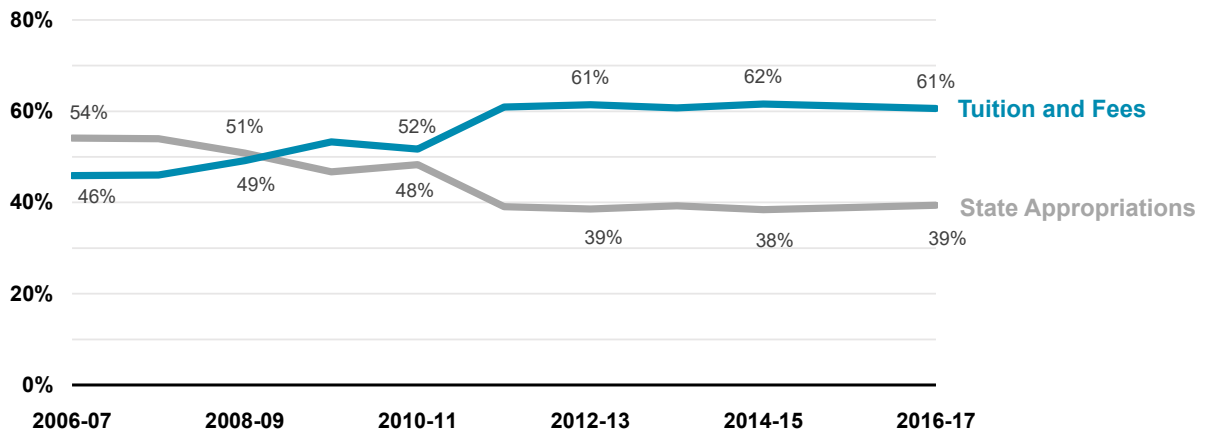


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2017. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2006 to 2016.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

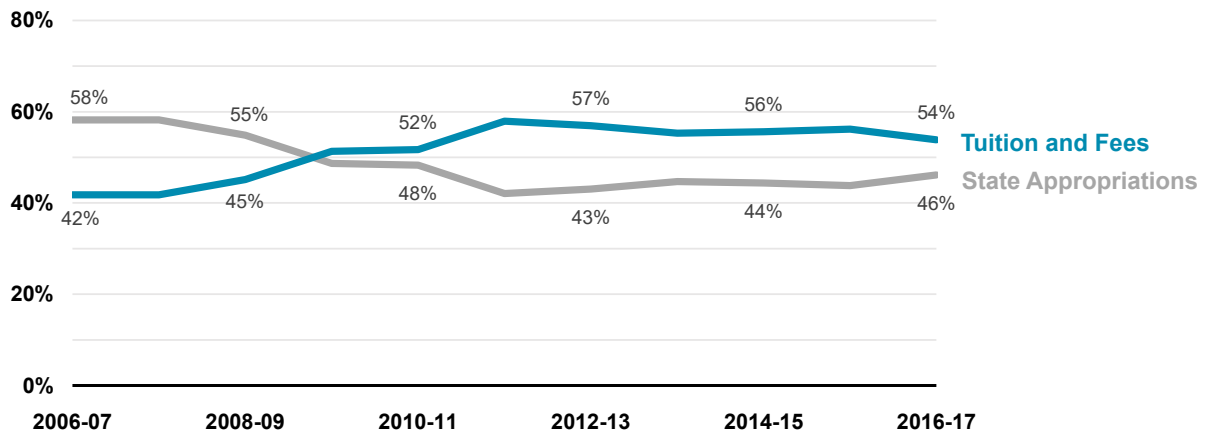
In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at Tennessee's four-year institutions made up 61% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 39%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 54% in 2006-07. The shift in who pays for the majority of operating expenses at public four-year institutions occurred after 2008-09.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

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

In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at Tennessee's two-year institutions made up 54% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 46%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 58% in 2006-07. The shift in who pays for the majority of operating expenses at public four-year institutions occurred after 2008-09.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2016-17, 31% of students in Tennessee were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, 29% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, 33% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 7% were enrolled in public technical colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2016 cohort, 83% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in Tennessee 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 colleges.*

Pell Grants. In 2016-17, 17% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in Tennessee was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 19% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions and 28% of costs in public two-year colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2017, nearly 43% of Tennessee's working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. The state's educational attainment goal is to reach 55% by 2025.

Student Debt. In Tennessee, 55% of the class of 2018 graduated with debt, owing an average of \$26,838.

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).

*The Tennessee Higher Education Commission does not report retention data for technical colleges to the SREB-State Data Exchange.

Tennessee Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type

East Tennessee State University
University of Memphis
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Tennessee State University

Public Four-Year Type 2

Austin Peay State University
Middle Tennessee State University
The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
The University of Tennessee-Martin
Tennessee Technological University

Public Two-Year

Chattanooga State Community College
Cleveland State Community College
Columbia State Community College
Dyersburg State Community College

Jackson State Community College
Motlow State Community College
Nashville State Community College
Roane State Community College
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Pellissippi State Community College
Northeast State Community College
Volunteer State Community College
Walters State Community College

Technical Colleges

Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Athens
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Covington
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Dickson
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Elizabethton

Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Harriman
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Hartsville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Hohenwald
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Jacksboro
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Livingston
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
McKenzie
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Memphis
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Morristown
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Murfreesboro
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Newbern

Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Paris
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Pulaski
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Ripley
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Crump
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Shelbyville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Oneida-Huntsville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Crossville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
McMinnville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Jackson
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Knoxville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-
Whiteville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology
Nashville

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.