Louisiana 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 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 2017-18 for a full-time student to attend four-year and two-year institutions than in 2012-13.

Louisiana’s families needed, on average, 26% of their income in 2017-18 to pay educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 28% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2017-18, Louisiana families needed, on average, 23% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and 20% 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 Louisiana, students from families that made less than $30,000 accounted for the largest percentage of families in 2012 and 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤30k</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30k to 48k</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;48k to 75k</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;75k to 110k</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;110k</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Percentage of Income Required for Median Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions for 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 Louisiana families making less than $30,000.

For families making less than $30,000, the cost of median tuition and fees at four-year institutions was 52% of income in 2017-18, compared to 33% in 2012-13.

Families needed 25% 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

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 2012 needed 36% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 49%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2012 and 9% in 2017 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 2012 needed 50% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 65%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2012 and 8% in 2017 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 2012 to 2017.

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 2012 needed 42% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2017 it was 53%.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2012 and 7% in 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions

The cost of attendance at technical institutions remained stable from 2012-13 to 2017-18 for Louisiana families making $110,000 or less.

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 less than $30,000 needed 45% of their income to pay for educational expenses in 2012 and 2017.

Families making over $110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.

State Financial Aid Per Student

Louisiana awarded more merit-based aid in 2017-18 per full-time-equivalent 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>Louisiana (2012-13)</td>
<td>$156</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,154</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana (2017-18)</td>
<td>$167</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,877</td>
<td>$6</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 $1,877 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2017-18, compared to $1,154 in 2012-13. The SREB average in 2017-18 was $476 and the national average was $195.

Louisiana spent $167, on average, per FTE for need-based financial aid in 2017-18, much less than the SREB average of $389 and the national average of $411.

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 1</td>
<td>$17,803</td>
<td>$20,279</td>
<td>$21,600</td>
<td>$21,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Type 2</td>
<td>$20,490</td>
<td>$24,155</td>
<td>$22,677</td>
<td>$19,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year</td>
<td>$10,932</td>
<td>$13,759</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 Louisiana in 2017-18 borrowed, on average, $20,279 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed $24,155. 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, $13,759 in 2017-18, which was more than the average amount in 2012-13 and the SREB and national averages in 2017-18.
Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI and Household Income

Compared to the CPI and household income, tuition and fees at Louisiana public colleges and universities increased substantially between 2007-08 and 2017-18.

Over that decade, the CPI increased by 16% and median household income in Louisiana increased by 26%, while tuition and fees increased by 139% at four-year institutions and 130% at two-year institutions.

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Dollars per FTE Student from State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Operational funds consisted mostly of tuition and fees for Louisiana’s public four-year institutions in 2017-18.

Net tuition and fees per FTE student at Louisiana’s four-year institutions increased from $4,072 in 2007-08 to $9,273 in 2017-18. In comparison, state appropriations per FTE student dropped from $7,773 in 2007-08 to $3,818 in 2017-18. Students and families started paying a larger share of the total funding per student after 2010-11.

Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Most of the operating expenses at Louisiana’s public two-year institutions were provided by tuition and fees in 2017-18.

In 2017-18, net tuition and fees per FTE student at Louisiana’s two-year institutions increased from $2,576 in 2007-08 to $4,617 in 2017-18. In comparison, state and local appropriations per FTE student dropped from $4,475 in 2007-08 to $2,764 in 2017-18. Students and families started paying a larger share of the total funding per student after 2010-11.

Source: SREB-State Data Exchange
Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2017-18, 36% of students in Louisiana were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, close to 36% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, almost 22% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 6% were enrolled in public technical colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2017 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, and 47% were retained at technical colleges.

Pell Grants. In 2017-18, 19% 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 22% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 24% in public two-year colleges, and 25% of costs were covered in public technical colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2018, over 47% 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, 43% of the class of 2019 graduated from four-year colleges with debt, owing an average of $25,512.


Louisiana Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type 1
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-Alexandria
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 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.