

Louisiana

College Affordability Profile

The Southern Regional Education Board convened a Commission on College Affordability in the South and published a report in 2016 emphasizing that affordability is a critical factor in both access to and completion of postsecondary education. In this year's SREB College Affordability Profiles, SREB examined data for the 2021-22 academic year, the most recent year that student financial aid and net price data are available. The findings show that Louisiana faces challenges in college affordability, with declining state support, increasing student costs, and growing reliance on student borrowing, particularly affecting lower-income families.

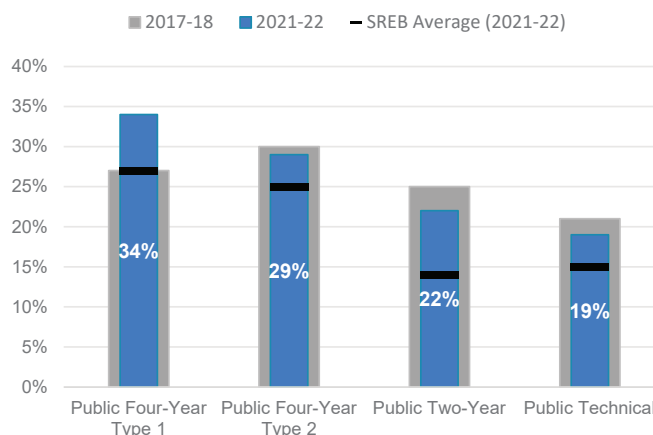
Family Income Needed for Net Price at Public Institutions

In 2021-22, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Louisiana was lower than in 2017-18 for public four-year Type 2, two-year and technical institutions.

Louisiana shows mixed trends across institution types, with increases at four-year Type 1 institutions but improvements at other types.

The 15-percentage point spread between four-year Type 1 and technical institutions indicates variation in affordability across institution types.

All institution types remain above SREB averages, suggesting persistent affordability challenges compared to regional peers.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2018 and 2022. Institutional sectors based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Key terms:

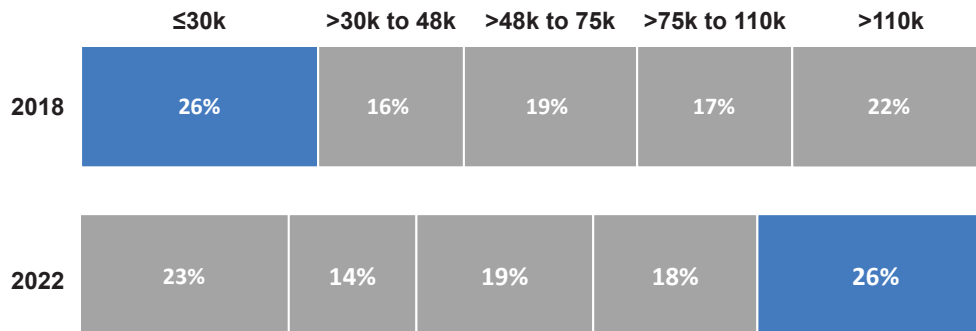
Four-Year Institution Type 1: Four-year institutions that awarded at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.

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

Net Price: Total cost of attendance (includes tuition, fees, room and board, and more) minus federal, state and local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid.

Distribution of Average Family Income

In Louisiana, students from families that made \$110,000 or more saw the most substantial increases from 2018 to 2022. The 4-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups indicates relatively balanced income distribution among postsecondary students.



Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022.

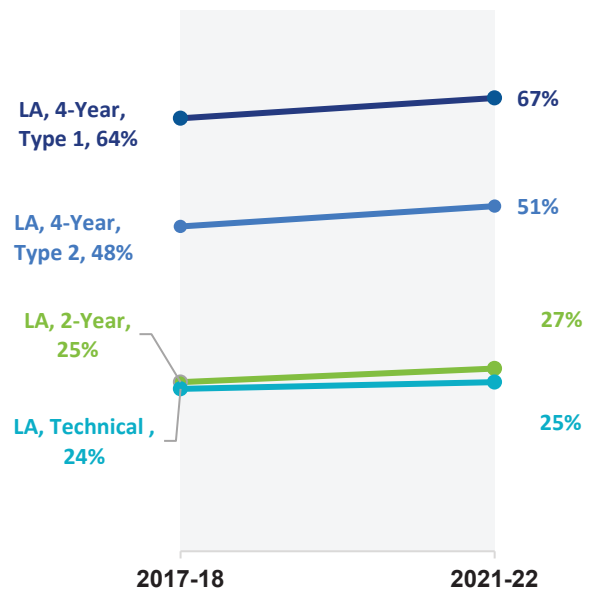
Income Required for Median Tuition and Fees at Public Colleges for Families Making Less Than \$30,000

The percentage of income required for median tuition and fees increased across all institution types for Louisiana families making less than \$30,000.

In 2021-22, families earning less than \$30,000 needed 67% of their income to cover median tuition and fees at four-year Type 1 institutions, 51% at Type 2 institutions, 27% at two-year institutions and 25% at technical institutions.

The 42-percentage point gap between four-year Type 1 and technical institutions indicates disparities in accessibility across institution types.

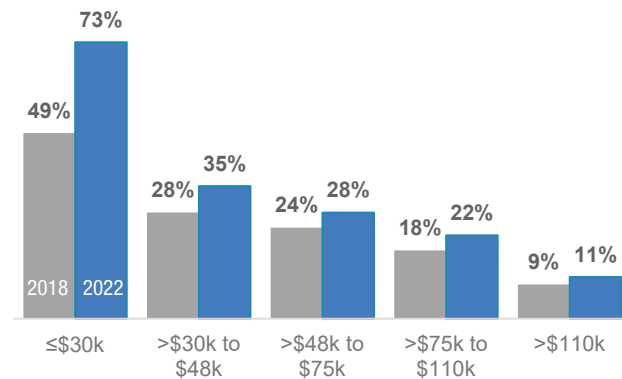
While two-year and technical institutions remain more affordable, the substantial burden at four-year institutions suggests affordability challenges for families making less than \$30,000.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2018 and 2022, American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2018 and 2022.

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

The percentage of income that Louisiana families needed to pay for educational expenses at four-year Type 1 institutions increased from 2018 to 2022 for all income groups.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

For Louisiana families making \$30,000 or less, the net price consumes nearly three quarters of their annual income, presenting a major barrier to access four-year Type 1 institutions.

The 62-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups in 2022 represents inequity in affordability.

The pattern shows decrease in affordability, particularly for the lowest income families who faced a 24-percentage point increase in required income percentage.

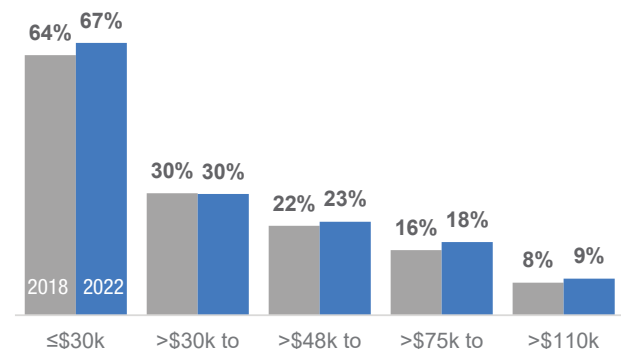
Net Price as a Percentage of Income for Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

The percentage of income that Louisiana families needed to pay for educational expenses at four-year Type 2 institutions increased or remained stable from 2018 to 2022.

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

The 58-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups in 2022 indicates significant inequity in affordability.

While changes are relatively moderate, the pattern shows persistent inequities with the lowest-income families facing higher burdens, requiring more than two-thirds of their annual income.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

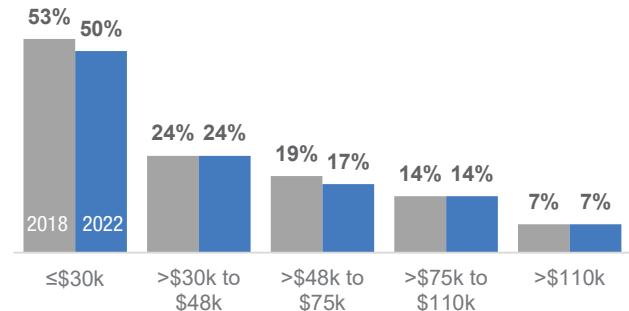
Net Price as a Percentage of Income for Public Two-Year Institutions

The percentage of income that Louisiana families needed to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions slightly decreased or remained the same from 2018 to 2022.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2022 needed 50% of their income while families making over \$110,000 needed 7% of their income to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions.

The 43-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups in 2022 still indicates significant inequity in affordability across institution types.

While two-year institutions are more affordable than four-year options, the burden on low-income families remains.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

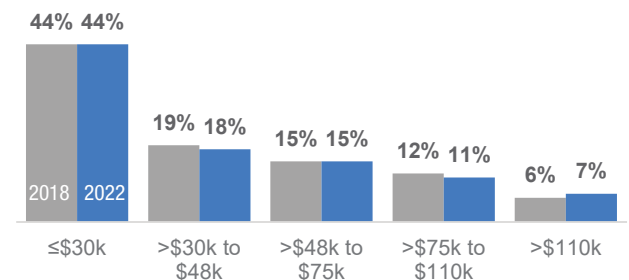
Net Price as a Percentage of Income for Public Technical Institutions

The percentage of income that Louisiana families needed to pay for educational expenses at technical institutions remained stable from 2018 to 2022.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2022 needed 44% of their income while families making over \$110,000 needed 7% of their income to cover educational expenses at these institutions.

The 37-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups is smaller than at other institution types.

Technical institutions maintain the most stable and generally most affordable option among all public institutions in Louisiana.

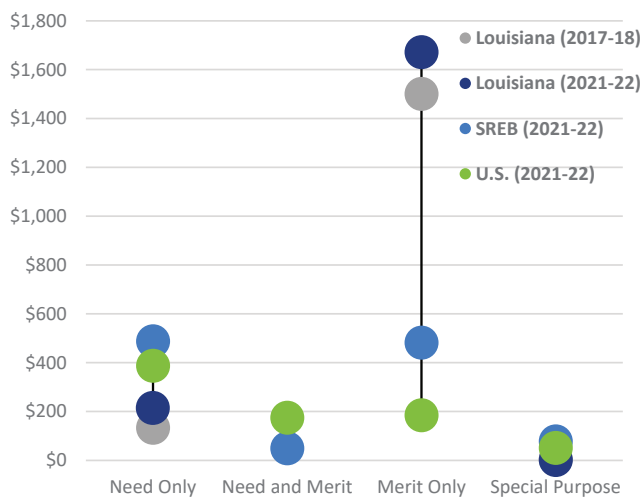


U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

State Financial Aid Per Student

Louisiana shows a strong preference for merit-based aid, with funding levels more than three times the SREB average and nine times the national average.

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
Louisiana (2017-18)	\$134	NA	\$1,501	\$5
Louisiana (2021-22)	\$214	NA	\$1,672	\$2
SREB (2021-22)	\$488	\$50	\$483	\$78
U.S. (2021-22)	\$388	\$175	\$185	\$51



Louisiana shows a strong emphasis on merit-only aid, with amounts more than triple the SREB average and nine times the national average. The state spent \$1,672 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2021-22, compared to \$1,501 in 2017-18. The SREB average in 2021-22 was \$483 and the national average was \$185.

While need-based aid increased slightly, it remains well below regional and national averages. The minimal special purpose aid and absence of need and merit combination programs suggests a focused approach primarily on academic achievement rather than financial need.

National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2018 and 2022 annual survey (results for public institutions only). U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity File, 2018 and 2022, and Directory File, 2018 and 2022.

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2020-21, Louisiana shows increasing borrowing trends across all institution types, with the most dramatic increase in technical institutions. All institution types except technical schools show borrowing levels above both SREB and national averages.

	Louisiana 2015-16	Louisiana 2020-21	SREB Average 2020-21	U.S. Average 2020-21
Four-Year Type 1	\$18,927	\$21,072	\$20,710	\$20,550
Four-Year Type 2	\$23,400	\$25,254	\$21,912	\$20,758
Two-Year	\$11,281	\$14,600	\$10,088	\$10,653
Technical	\$3,500	\$9,688	\$9,037	\$10,088

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2016-17 and 2021-22. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2018 and 2022 and Directory Files 2018 and 2022.

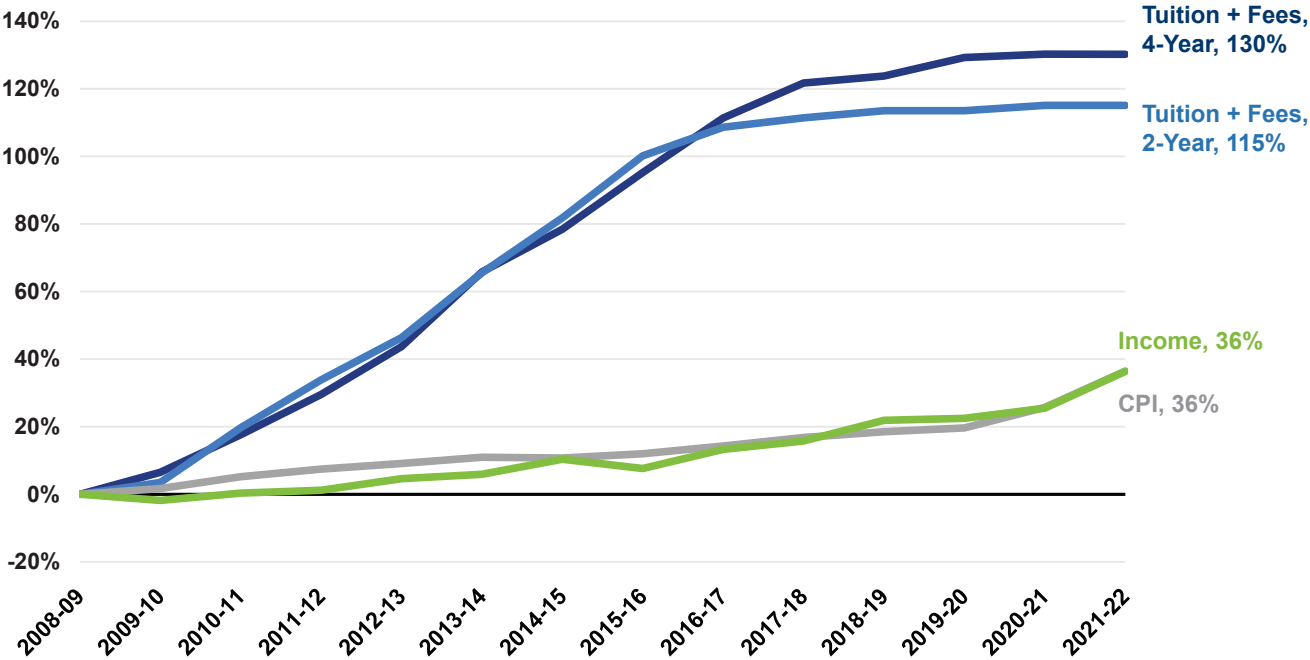
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from a four-year Type 1 institution in Louisiana in 2020-21 borrowed, on average, \$21,072 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$25,254. These amounts were higher than average amounts borrowed in 2015-16 and higher than the SREB and national averages in 2020-21.

Graduates of two-year institutions borrowed, on average, \$14,600. The most dramatic increase occurred in technical institutions, nearly tripling over the period as graduates of technical institutions borrowed \$9,688, on average. These amounts were lower than the average amounts borrowed in 2015-16 and lower than the SREB and national averages in 2020-21.

Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI and Family Income

The divergence between tuition and fees, family income and Consumer Price Index suggests decreasing affordability in Louisiana between 2008-09 and 2021-22.

The growth rates of tuition and fees at both four-year and two-year institutions in Louisiana have significantly outpaced family income and the Consumer Price Index, indicating a decline in college affordability. Specifically, tuition and fee growth at four-year institutions nearly quadrupled income growth, while growth at two-year institutions tripled income growth.

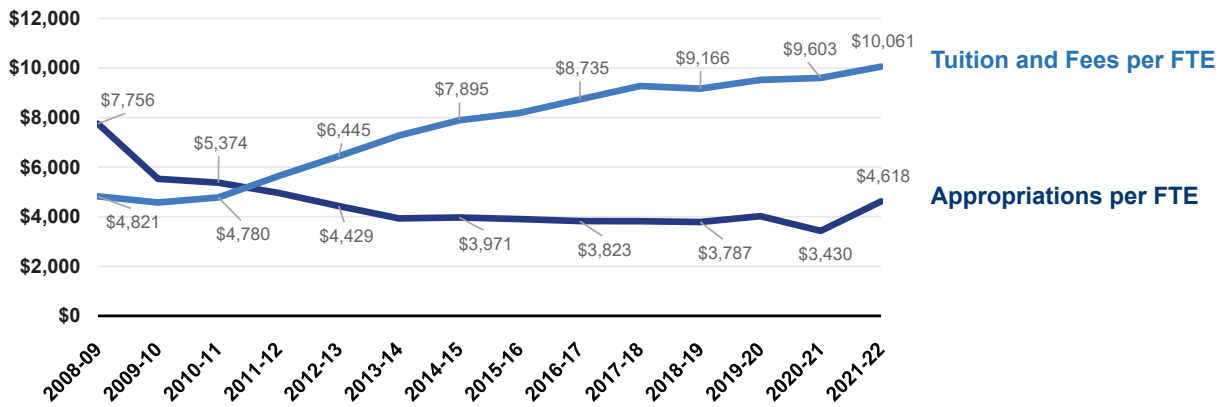


Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2021. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2008 to 2021. Median family income retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B19113, 2023.

Dollars per FTE Student from State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Operational funds per FTE consisted mostly of tuition and fees for Louisiana’s public four-year institutions in 2021-22.

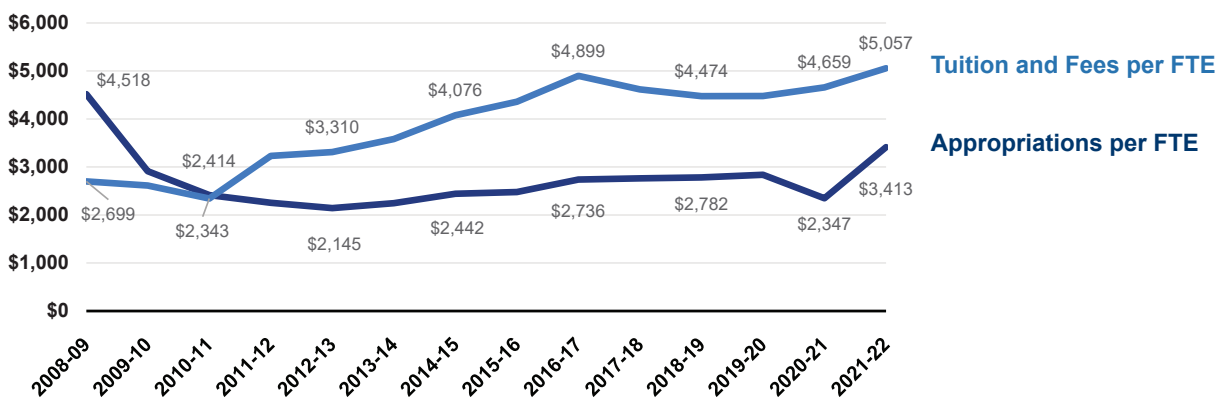
While tuition and fees more than doubled since 2008-09, state appropriations decreased by nearly half. By 2021-22, tuition and fees were more than double state appropriations, indicating a dramatic shift of higher education costs from state funding to student responsibility. The crossover point occurred around 2011-12, marking the beginning of greater reliance on tuition and fees rather than state support.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Operational funds per FTE consisted mostly of tuition and fees for Louisiana’s public two-year institutions in 2021-22.

While state appropriations decreased by about 24%, tuition and fees nearly doubled. Since 2010-11, a fundamental shift from state appropriations to student tuition and fees took place. By 2021-22, tuition and fees were significantly higher than state appropriations, suggesting increased reliance on student funding rather than state support.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Louisiana Fast Facts

Postsecondary Enrollment: According to 2021 fall enrollment, 34% of students in Louisiana were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, 32% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, 27% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 7% were enrolled in technical institutions.

FAFSA: As of July 5, 2024, Louisiana’s high school class of 2024 had a FAFSA completion rate of 64%, a 14% decrease from the rate on the same date in 2023.

Federal Student Aid: In 2021-22, 28% of students receiving any form of federal student aid were awarded Pell Grants, while 31% received federal student loans.

Education Attainment: In 2022, 48.3% of Louisiana’s working adult population (ages 25 to 64) held a postsecondary credential, placing the state 6 percentage points below the national average of 54.3%. This figure includes short-term credentials, which account for 12% of Louisiana’s credential attainment rate, including certificates and industry-recognized certifications.

Workforce Needs: By 2031, 59% of jobs in Louisiana will require a postsecondary credential. Louisiana ranks 51st among states in the percentage of jobs projected to require such credentials.

Sources: Postsecondary Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2022.

FAFSA: FAFSA Tracker – National, Retrieved November 2024. <https://national.fafsatracker.com/schoolView/18>.

Federal Student Aid: SREB analysis of National Center for Education Statistics student financial aid database, 2021-22.

Educational attainment: Lumina Foundation, A Stronger Nation, Retrieved November 2024.

<https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress/state/LA>.

Workforce Needs: Georgetown University, After Everything: Projections of Jobs, Education, and Training Requirements through 2031, Retrieved November 2024. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/projections2031/>.

Louisiana Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type 1

Louisiana State University and Agricultural
& Mechanical College
Louisiana Tech University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
University of New Orleans

Public Four-Year Type 2

Grambling State University
Louisiana State University-Alexandria
Louisiana State University-Shreveport
McNeese State University
Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University of Louisiana
Southeastern Louisiana University
Southern University and A&M College
Southern University at New Orleans
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Public Two-Year

Baton Rouge Community College
Bossier Parish Community College
Delgado Community College

Louisiana Delta Community College
Louisiana State University-Eunice
Nunez Community College

Louisiana Institutions by Type

Public Two-Year (continued)

River Parishes Community College
South Louisiana Community College

Southern University at Shreveport

Technical Colleges

Central Louisiana Technical Community College
Fletcher Technical Community College
Northshore Technical Community College

Northwest Louisiana Technical College
SOWELA 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2022-23 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for the 2021-22 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 <https://www.sreb.org/state-affordability-profiles> for detailed sources and explanatory notes.

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 [SREB.org/Affordability](https://www.sreb.org/Affordability).