

# Mississippi

## Affordability Profile

from

*Affordability of Public Higher Education in SREB States*

prepared by

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**SREB**

Southern Regional  
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## INTRODUCTION

At the request of the SREB, the Higher Education Policy Institute has prepared a profile of college affordability for each SREB state as well as a synthesis of relevant trends in the SREB region. This project was designed to “take the temperature” of college affordability in the South in order to provide a policy tool that can assist state policy-makers in assessing the current and prospective dimensions of the affordability issue and the need for state policy initiatives or interventions.

The major finding of this analysis is that the SREB states have lost ground in college affordability. For most students and families in the South, the cost of paying for college has outstripped family income and inflation. Several promising initiatives have been put in place by individual states, but many are not directed at the students and families most adversely affected by declining affordability and none are commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. One consequence is greater reliance on loans to finance college and growing indebtedness of students and graduates.

Whatever its causes, the trend toward reduced college affordability undermines the efforts of SREB states and colleges and universities to address the changing demography of the region and undercuts progress towards educational attainment goals and economic development requirements of the SREB member states. It is mathematically impossible for most SREB states to reach national and international workforce competitiveness without improving college access and attainment rates of low-income groups and of ethnic groups with lagging college participation rates. However, if current trends continue, declining affordability will constrain the college enrollment of these potential students and prevent states from reaching educational levels needed to provide opportunity for individuals and a competitive work force in the knowledge-based global economy.

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## Mississippi

### Public Higher Education Affordability Profile

In order for students to enroll in community colleges in Mississippi, they, or their families, would need to pay on average 13 percent of their annual income for college expenses, including living expenses, each year after taking into account all forms of grant aid, based on the current college expenses and current levels of aid. This is substantially lower than the SREB average.

Mississippi's per-student need-based state grant program amounts are below the SREB average. The state's non-need-based grant program also has a per-student award less than the SREB average.

The average amount of student loan aid received by full-time, first-time students in Mississippi is less than the SREB average. Average loan aid per-borrower has increased over time.

	Mississippi			SREB	U.S. Average
	Pre-Recession	Recession	Post-Recession	Post-Recession	Post-Recession
<b>Family Ability to Pay</b>					
Percent of income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:					
at community colleges	N/A	12%	13%	16%	27%
at public 4-year colleges (category 1)	N/A	28%	32%	27%	41%
at public 4-year colleges (category 2)	N/A	20%	24%	25%	19%
<b>Strategies for Affordability</b>					
<b>State Grant funding</b>					
Need-Based grants per student	\$0	\$7	\$0	\$204	\$276
Grants that have a need and non-need based requirement per student*	\$151	\$13	\$21	\$98	\$142
Non-Need based grants per student	\$35	\$167	\$121	\$345	\$145
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the families with the lowest income need to pay for tuition	14%	11%	14%	18%	20%
<b>Reliance on Loans</b>					
Average amount of student loan aid received by full-time, first-time students attending public institutions	\$3,262	\$3,390	\$4,871	\$5,094	\$5,361

\*As defined by NASSGAP, see Technical Guide. Grant requirements in this category vary widely by state -- some have a substantial merit component and others have a modest merit component.

Note: Pre-Recession year data is from 2003-04; Recession year data is from 2006-07 on all variables except Estimated cost of postsecondary education where data is from 2008-09 (2007 data was unavailable for this variable); Post-Recession year data is from 2011-12. All dollar amounts have been adjusted into Constant 2013 dollars.

N/A: Data not available.

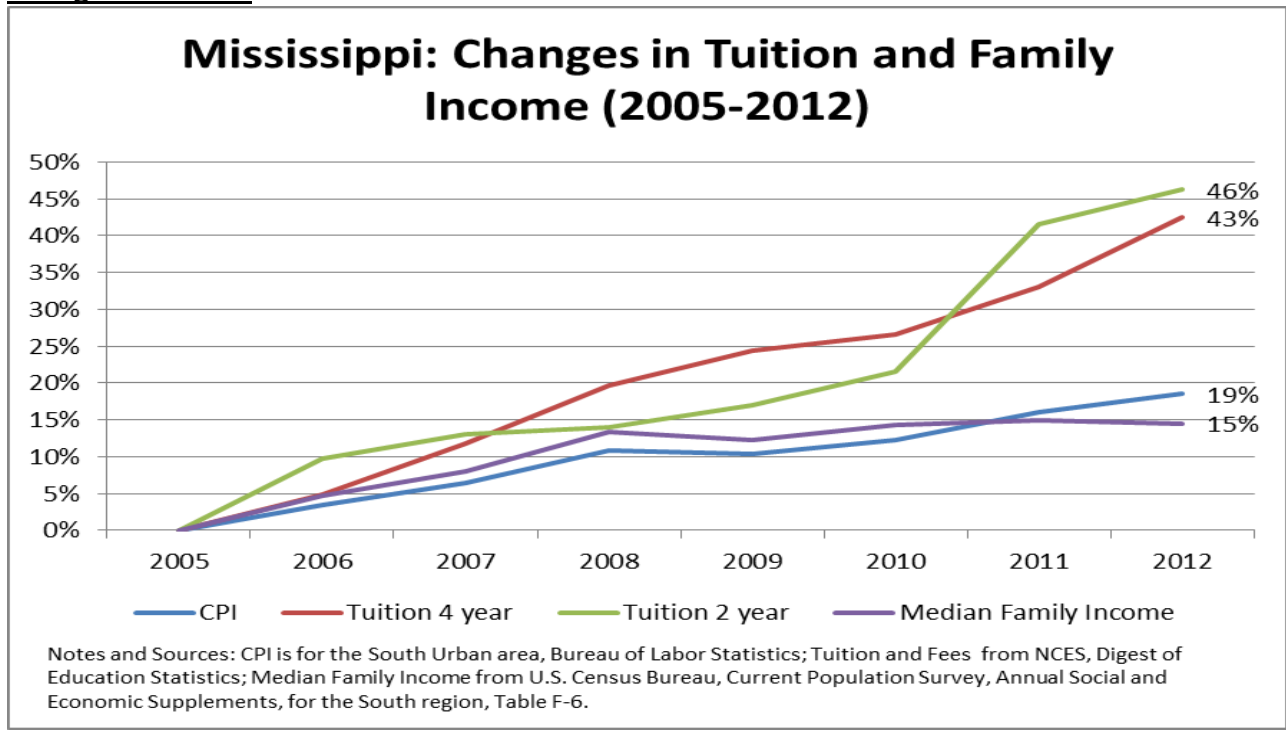
### A Closer Look at Family Ability To Pay

		Community Colleges	
	Average Income in Group	Net Price	Percent of Income needed to pay net college Price
Income \$0-\$30,000	\$16,373	\$4,567	28%
Income \$30-\$48,000	\$38,644	\$5,324	14%
Income \$48,000-\$75,000	\$60,691	\$6,911	11%
Income \$75,000-\$110,000	\$89,979	\$6,719	7%
Income \$110,000 and Above	\$176,309	\$6,732	4%

		Public Four Year 1		Public Four Year 2	
	Average Income in Group	Net Price	Percent of Income needed to pay net college Price	Net Price	Percent of Income needed to pay net college Price
Income \$0-\$30,000	\$15,347	\$11,487	70%	\$9,235	56%
Income \$30-\$48,000	\$38,437	\$12,999	34%	\$10,631	28%
Income \$48,000-\$75,000	\$60,397	\$15,837	26%	\$12,945	21%
Income \$75,000-\$110,000	\$89,950	\$16,329	18%	\$9,048	10%
Income \$110,000 and Above	\$176,478	\$17,105	10%	\$8,958	5%

- Low-income families (those with incomes less than \$30,000 per-year) would need to pay on average 28 percent of their income to attend community colleges, even after taking into account all types of grant aid.
- Middle-income families (those earning between \$48,000 and \$75,000 per-year) would need to pay on average 11 percent of their income to attend community colleges, even after taking into account all types of grant aid.

## Changes in Tuition



Since 2005, tuition at both public four-year and public two-year institutions in Mississippi has grown much more rapidly than either inflation or family income.

### Other Contextual Information:

- By 2020, the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that 61 percent of jobs in the state will require a postsecondary education or above, above the Southern average (59 percent) and slightly below the U.S. average (65 percent).
- Thirty-five percent of students in Mississippi are enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 8 percent at category 2 four-year institutions and 56 percent are enrolled in the community college sector.
- In 2012, 35 percent of children in Mississippi were living in poverty. This is up dramatically from 2004 when 26 percent were living in poverty.
- In 2012, state investment in need-based grant aid at public colleges in Mississippi was less than 1 percent as compared to the federal investment (Pell Grants).

Note: Category 1 four-year institutions are those that award at least 30 doctoral degrees in 5 different areas. Category 2 includes all other four-year institutions.

List of Institutions by Type:

**Category 1 Public Four-Year Institutions**

Mississippi State University  
University of Southern Mississippi

**Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions**

Alcorn State University  
Delta State University  
Jackson State University  
Mississippi University for Women  
Mississippi Valley State University  
University of Mississippi

**Community Colleges**

Coahoma Community College  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
East Central Community College  
East Mississippi Community College  
Hinds Community College  
Holmes Community College  
Itawamba Community College  
Jones County Junior College  
Meridian Community College  
Mississippi Delta Community College  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Northwest Mississippi Community College  
Pearl River Community College  
Southwest Mississippi Community College