



Virginia

Affordability Profile

from

Affordability of Public Higher Education in SREB States

prepared by

Patrick M. Callan, William Doyle, Joni Finney and Darcie Harvey

Higher Education Policy Institute

for the Southern Regional Education Board

November 2014

SREB

Southern Regional
Education Board

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.

Patrick M. Callan
President
Higher Education Policy Institute

Virginia

Public Higher Education Affordability Profile

In order for students to enroll in community colleges in Virginia, they, or their families, would need to pay on average 16 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 equal to the SREB average.

On a per-student basis, Virginia's need-based state grant program amount is higher than the SREB average.

The average amount of student loan aid received by full-time, first-time students in Virginia is greater than the SREB average and has increased over time.

	Virginia			SREB	U.S. Average
	Pre-Recession	Recession	Post-Recession	Post-Recession	Post-Recession
Family Ability to Pay					
Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:					
at community colleges	N/A	14%	16%	16%	27%
at public 4-year colleges (category 1)	N/A	26%	31%	27%	41%
at public 4-year colleges (category 2)	N/A	24%	30%	25%	19%
Strategies for Affordability					
State Grant funding per student					
Need-Based grants per student	\$224	\$248	\$268	\$204	\$276
Grants that have a need and non-need based requirement per student*	\$152	\$170	\$190	\$98	\$142
Non-Need based grants per student	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$345	\$145
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the families with the lowest income need to pay for tuition	12%	14%	21%	18%	20%
Reliance on Loans					
Average amount of student loan aid received by full-time, first-time students attending public institutions	\$3,649	\$3,875	\$5,371	\$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.					

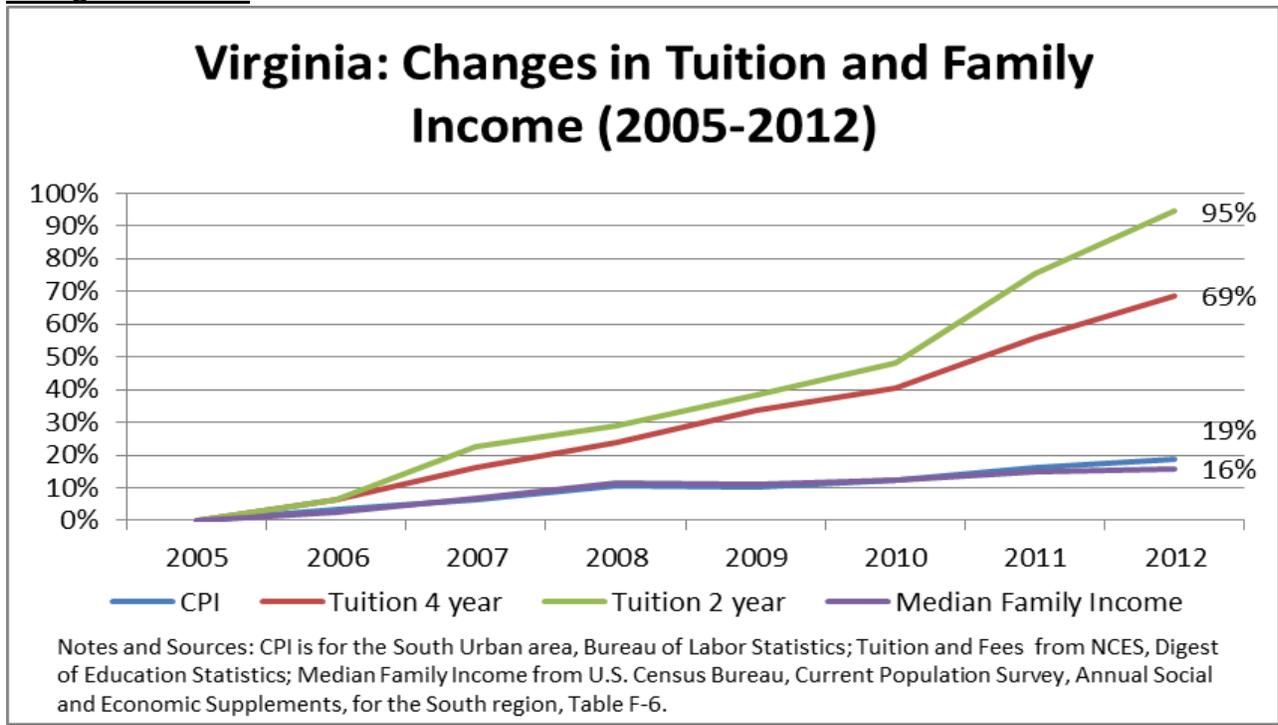
A Closer Look at Family Ability To Pay

Community Colleges			
	Average Income in Group	Net Price	Percent of Income needed to pay net college Price
Income \$0-\$30,000	\$17,097	\$6,028	35%
Income \$30-\$48,000	\$38,903	\$6,828	18%
Income \$48,000-\$75,000	\$61,096	\$8,560	14%
Income \$75,000-\$110,000	\$91,345	\$9,416	10%
Income \$110,000 and Above	\$196,146	\$9,587	5%

		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	\$17,097	\$11,092	65%	\$10,600	62%
Income \$30-\$48,000	\$38,903	\$12,539	32%	\$12,039	31%
Income \$48,000-\$75,000	\$61,096	\$16,048	26%	\$15,510	25%
Income \$75,000-\$110,000	\$91,345	\$18,297	20%	\$17,715	19%
Income \$110,000 and Above	\$196,146	\$20,608	11%	\$19,801	10%

- Low-income families (those with incomes less than \$30,000 per-year) would need to pay on average 35 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 14 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 Virginia has been growing much more rapidly than either inflation or family income.

Other Contextual Information:

- By 2020, the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that 65 percent of jobs in the state will require a postsecondary education or above, higher than the Southern average (59 percent) and very similar to the U.S. average (also 65 percent).
- Twenty-seven percent of students in Virginia are enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 23 percent at category 2 four-year institutions and 50 percent are enrolled in the community college sector.
- In 2012, 15 percent of children in Virginia were living in poverty. This is up slightly from 2004 when 13 percent were living in poverty.
- In 2012, state investment in need-based grant aid at public colleges in Virginia was 33 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

George Mason University
Old Dominion University
University of Virginia
College of William and Mary
Virginia Commonwealth University

Category 2 Public Four-Year Institutions

Christopher Newport University
James Madison University
Longwood University
Norfolk State University
Radford University
University of Mary Washington
University of Virginia's College at Wise
Virginia State University

Community Colleges

Blue Ridge Community College
Central Virginia Community College
D.S. Lancaster Community College
Danville Community College
Eastern Shore Community College
Germanna Community College
J.S. Reynolds Community College
John Tyler Community College
Lord Fairfax Community College
Mountain Empire Community College
New River Community College
Northern Virginia Community College
Patrick Henry Community College
Piedmont Virginia Community College
Rappahannock Community College
Richard Bland College
Southside Virginia Community College
Southwest Virginia Community College
Thomas Nelson Community College
Tidewater Community College
Virginia Highlands Community College
Virginia Tech Paul D. Camp Community College
Virginia Western Community College
Wytheville Community College