



# Mississippi

## College Affordability Profile

October 2016

To support the work of the SREB's member states and its Commission on College Affordability, SREB commissioned the Higher Education Policy Institute to prepare a college affordability profile for each SREB state, as well as a synthesis of relevant trends in the SREB region. These profiles detail college affordability data and trends specific to the state to assist policymakers in assessing the dimensions of the affordability issue and the need for state policy initiatives or interventions.

In addition to this state profile, other affordability resources from SREB include:

- *Shared Responsibility for College Affordability*, the Commission's final report and executive summary
- *College Affordability: Trends in the SREB Region*
- *College Affordability: SREB Technical Report*
- *College Affordability Policy and Practice Review: A Statewide Framework*
- *College Affordability: Promising State Policies and Practices*
- *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*

Each of these documents is available at [SREB.org/Affordability](https://www.sreb.org/Affordability).

# Mississippi College Affordability Profile

## What Percentage of Family Income Is Required to Attend College Full Time?

Families in Mississippi would need to pay 13.3 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public two-year institution in the state. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

Families in Mississippi would need to pay 29.3 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student at a public four-year, non-research institution in the state. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average

	Mississippi, 2008	Mississippi, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Public Four-Year Category 1	28.6%	35.2%	29.0%	29.9%
Public Four-year Category 2	22.6%	29.3%	27.3%	27.4%
Public Two-Year	12.0%	13.3%	17.2%	18.6%
Public Technical	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## How Much Is Spent Per Student on Financial Aid?

In Mississippi, need-based aid per student is \$0. Aid based on criteria other than need is \$176 per student, which is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	Mississippi, 2004	Mississippi, 2007	Mississippi, 2013	SREB Average, 2013	U.S. Average, 2013
Need Only	\$0	\$6	\$0	\$338	\$474
Other	\$165	\$169	\$176	\$480	\$210

## For Families Making Less Than \$30,000, What Percentage of Income Is Required for Tuition at Lowest-Price Colleges?

Thirty-three percent of families in Mississippi make less than \$30,000 per year. For a student in these families, tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public colleges would require 14 percent of income. This is lower than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	2008	2013
Percentage of Families	35%	33%
Tuition and Fees	\$1,625	\$2,218
Income	\$16,431	\$16,256
Percentage of Income	10%	14%
SREB Average	11%	16%
National Average	14%	18%

**How Much Do Graduates Borrow?**

Graduates from public four-year research universities in Mississippi have borrowed, on average, \$23,661 in 2013. This is higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	<b>Mississippi, 2008</b>	<b>Mississippi, 2013</b>	<b>SREB Average, 2013</b>	<b>U.S. Average, 2013</b>
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$18,391	\$23,661	\$22,959	\$20,980
Public Four-year Category 2	\$19,701	\$7,920	\$11,082	\$10,906
Public Two-Year	\$6,972	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Technical	\$24,059	N/A	N/A	N/A

**A Closer Look at Family Ability to Pay**

SREB’s Commission on College Affordability defined *affordability* as the relationship of the price required to attend higher education — or the net price — relative to family income. *Net price* = tuition and required fees plus room and board, minus grant aid students receive from the federal or state government or the institution.

**Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Category 1 Institutions, 2013**

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Average in This Income Level</b>	<b>Percentage of Families in This Income Level</b>	<b>Net Price</b>	<b>Percentage of Income Needed</b>
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,256	33%	\$13,499	83%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,787	19%	\$13,812	36%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$16,582	27%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,691	14%	\$17,707	20%
\$110,000 and above	\$176,411	12%	\$18,486	10%

At public four-year Category 1 institutions in Mississippi, families making less than \$30,000 would need 83 percent of their income to cover educational expenses for a student. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 per year, 36 percent of income would be needed.

**Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Category 2 Institutions, 2013**

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Average for This Income Level</b>	<b>Percentage of Families in This Income Level</b>	<b>Net Price</b>	<b>Percentage of Income Needed</b>
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,256	33%	\$11,461	71%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,787	19%	\$12,697	33%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$12,848	21%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,691	14%	\$13,058	14%
\$110,000 and above	\$176,411	12%	\$13,321	8%

At public four-year Category 2 institutions in Mississippi, 71 percent of income would be needed to cover educational expenses for a student in a family making less than \$30,000. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000, 33 percent of income would be needed.

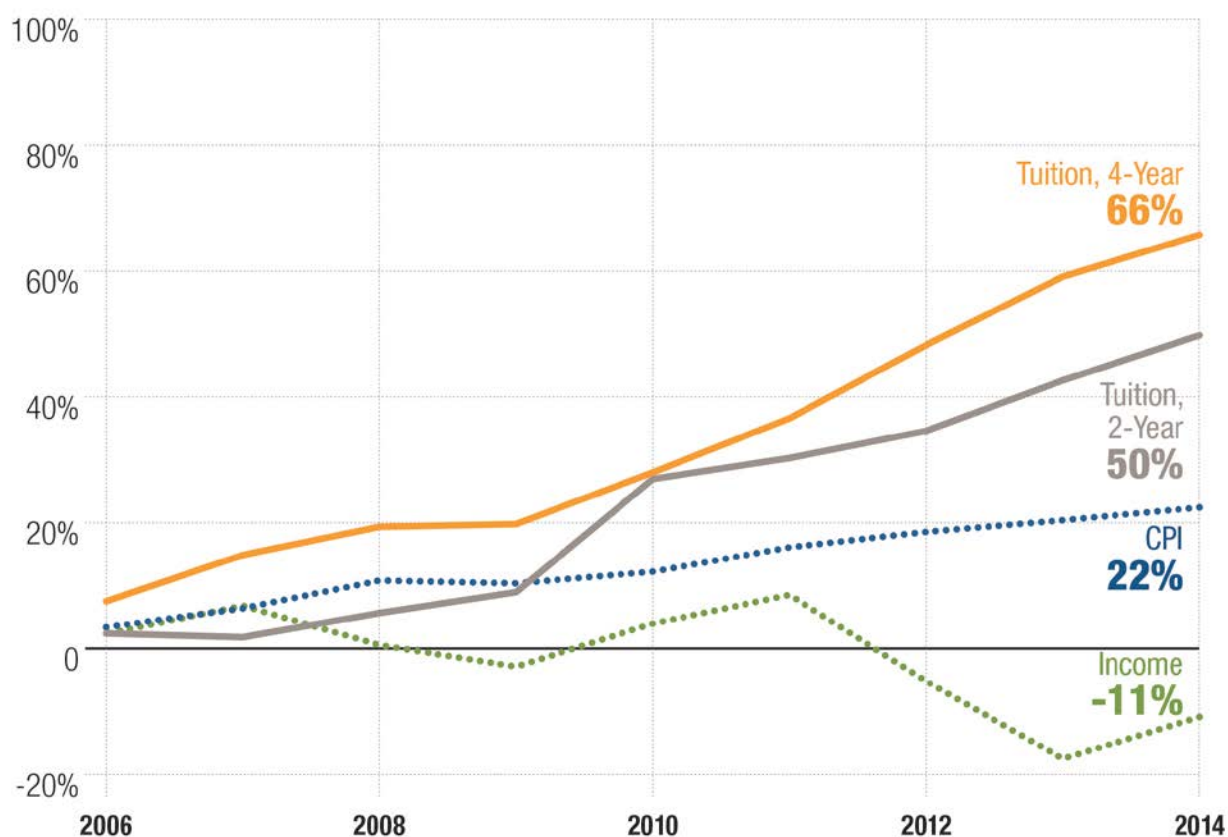
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year institutions, 2013

Annual Income	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage Income Needed
\$0 - \$30,000	\$16,256	33%	\$4,586	28%
\$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,787	19%	\$5,307	14%
\$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,788	21%	\$6,713	11%
\$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,691	14%	\$7,850	9%
\$110,000 and above	\$176,411	12%	\$8,715	5%

At public two-year institutions in Mississippi, 28 percent of income would be needed to cover educational expenses for a student in a family making less than \$30,000. For families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000, 14 percent of income would be needed.

## Mississippi: Changes in Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees at both public four-year and public two-year institutions in Mississippi have grown much more rapidly than either inflation or family income.



Notes and sources: Consumer Price Index: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area. Tuition and fees: National Center for Education Statistics *Digest of Education Statistics*; Median family income: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, Table F-6.

## Other Contextual Information

- By 2020, the Georgetown Center for the Workforce predicts that 61 percent of jobs in Mississippi will require a postsecondary education or above, above the average for the South (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 are enrolled in Category 2 four-year institutions and 56 percent are enrolled in community college.
- In 2014, 29 percent of children in Mississippi were living in poverty. This is up from 2004 when 26 percent were living in poverty.

## Mississippi 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

*Category 1 four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.*

*Category 2 includes all other four-year institutions.*