

# North Carolina

## College Affordability Profile 2017

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

Families in North Carolina needed to pay, on average, 18.1 percent of their income in 2014 to cover educational expenses for a full-time student at public two-year institutions in the state. This was higher than the SREB average and about the same as the national average.

Families in North Carolina needed 25.7 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public four-year non-research institutions. This was lower than the SREB and national averages.

	North Carolina, 2008	North Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	13.0%	21.0%	29.0%	30.1%
Public Four-Year Category 2	15.0%	25.7%	28.1%	27.8%
Public Two-Year	14.8%	18.1%	17.1%	18.5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files, Instructional Activity Files and Directory Files, 2008-2014. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2008-2014. Institutional sectors based on categories in the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*. Analysis by SREB consultant.

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

In North Carolina, need-based aid per student was \$645 in 2014. This was much higher than the SREB and national averages. Based on criteria other than need, the average award per student was \$11 in 2014. This was considerably lower than the SREB and national averages.

	North Carolina, 2004	North Carolina, 2007	North Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Need-Based Financial Aid Only	\$207	\$358	\$645	\$363	\$508
Other Financial Aid	\$2	\$14	\$11	\$506	\$218

Sources: National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2004, 2007 and 2014 annual surveys. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity and Directory Files, 2004, 2007 and 2014. Analysis by SREB consultant.

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

Twenty-six percent of families in North Carolina made less than \$30,000 per year in 2014. For these families, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions was 13 percent of income in 2014. This was lower than the SREB average and much lower than the national average.

	2008	2014
Percentage of Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	25%	26%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$1,310	\$2,182
Average Income of North Carolina Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,548	\$17,217
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lowest-Priced Public Institutions	7%	13%
SREB Average	11%	16%
U.S. Average	14%	18%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files 2008 and 2013, Instructional Activity Data Files 2008-2014, and Directory Files 2008-2014. American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2008-2014. Analysis by SREB consultant.

## How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates from public four-year research universities in North Carolina in 2014 typically borrowed \$20,625. This was lower than the SREB and national averages.

	North Carolina, 2008	North Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$14,328	\$20,625	\$21,883	\$21,598
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$16,015	\$23,384	\$22,622	\$20,574

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard. U.S. Department of Education, 2014 and 2015. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Instructional Activity Data Files 2009-2015 and Directory Files 2008-2014.

# 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, books and other expenses 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, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,217	26%	\$5,849	34%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,060	18%	\$7,826	20%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,924	22%	\$12,733	21%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,907	17%	\$17,695	19%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$187,910	17%	\$20,240	11%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files, Instructional Activity Files and Directory Files, 2008-2014. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2008-2014. Institutional sectors based on categories in the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*. Analysis by SREB consultant.

At public four-year category 1 institutions in North Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 34 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 20 percent of income for a full-time student.

## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Category 2 Institutions, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,217	26%	\$8,735	51%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,060	18%	\$10,176	26%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,924	22%	\$13,957	23%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,907	17%	\$17,467	19%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$187,910	17%	\$18,064	10%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files, Instructional Activity Files and Directory Files, 2008-2014. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2008-2014. Institutional sectors based on categories in the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*. Analysis by SREB consultant.

At public four-year category 2 institutions in North Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 51 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 26 percent of income for a full-time student.

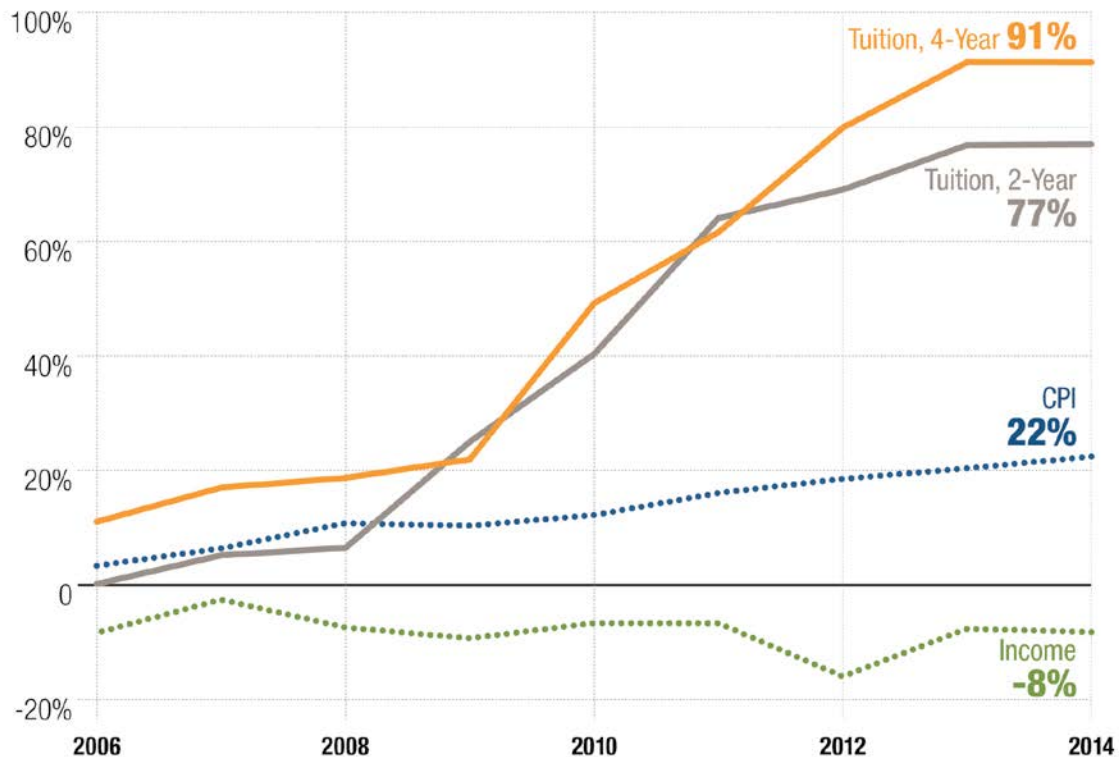
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year Institutions, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,217	26%	\$6,990	41%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,060	18%	\$7,437	19%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,924	22%	\$8,326	14%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,907	17%	\$9,950	11%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$187,910	17%	\$11,417	6%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files, Instructional Activity Files and Directory Files, 2008-2014. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2008-2014. Institutional sectors based on categories in the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*. Analysis by SREB consultant.

At public two-year institutions in North Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 41 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 19 percent of income for a full-time student.

## North Carolina: Changes in Tuition and Fees



Sources: Consumer Price Index: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2015. Tuition and fees: National Center for Education Statistics Digest of Education Statistics, 2017. Median family income: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, Table F-6, 2017.

## Additional Context

- The Georgetown Center for the Workforce projects that by 2020, 67 percent of jobs in North Carolina will require a postsecondary education, higher than the average for the South (59 percent) and higher than the U.S. average (65 percent).
- In 2015, 22 percent of students in North Carolina were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 27 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and 52 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges.
- In 2015, 23 percent of children in North Carolina were living in poverty. This was up slightly from 2004, when 22 percent were living in poverty.

Sources: Workforce data: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 2015. Enrollment data: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2015. Children in poverty data: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Book, 2017.

## North Carolina Institutions by Type

### Public Four-Year Category 1

North Carolina State University at Raleigh  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

### Public Four-Year Category 2

Appalachian State University  
East Carolina University  
Elizabeth City State University  
Fayetteville State University  
North Carolina A & T State University  
North Carolina Central University  
University of North Carolina at Asheville  
University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
University of North Carolina School of the Arts  
Western Carolina University  
Winston-Salem State University

### Public Two-Year

Alamance Community College  
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College  
Beaufort County Community College  
Bladen Community College

Blue Ridge Community College  
Brunswick Community College  
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute  
Cape Fear Community College  
Carteret Community College  
Catawba Valley Community College  
Central Carolina Community College  
Central Piedmont Community College  
Cleveland Community College  
Coastal Carolina Community College  
College of the Albemarle  
Craven Community College  
Davidson County Community College  
Durham Technical Community College  
Edgecombe Community College  
Fayetteville Technical Community College  
Forsyth Technical Community College  
Gaston College  
Guilford Technical Community College  
Halifax Community College  
Haywood Community College  
Isothermal Community College  
James Sprunt Community College  
Johnston Community College  
Lenoir Community College  
Martin Community College  
Mayland Community College  
McDowell Technical Community College  
Mitchell Community College  
Montgomery Community College  
Nash Community College  
Pamlico Community College  
Piedmont Community College  
Pitt Community College  
Randolph Community College  
Richmond Community College  
Roanoke-Chowan Community College  
Robeson Community College  
Rockingham Community College  
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Sampson Community College  
Sandhills Community College  
South Piedmont Community College  
Southeastern Community College  
Southwestern Community College  
Stanly Community College  
Surry Community College  
Tri-County Community College  
Vance-Granville Community College  
Wake Technical Community College  
Wayne Community College  
Western Piedmont Community College  
Wilkes Community College  
Wilson Community College

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## Notes

**Category 1** four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas. **Category 2** includes all other four-year institutions.

**The public two-year group includes** institutions that primarily award associates degrees; the list may include two-year institutions that award bachelor's degrees.

These profiles list only institutions that reported data for 2014-15 by March 2017 to the IPEDS Student Financial Aid Data Dictionary.

These profiles do not report data for the technical college sector if a state's technical colleges enroll less than 3 percent of students.

See the technical guide at [SREB.org/Affordability](http://SREB.org/Affordability) for detailed sources and explanatory notes.

*SREB College Affordability Profiles detail data and trends specific to each SREB state to assist policymakers 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](http://SREB.org/Affordability).*