

# South Carolina

## College Affordability Profile 2017

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

Families in South Carolina needed to pay, on average, 16.3 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 lower than the SREB and national averages.

Families in South Carolina needed 33.7 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public four-year non-research institutions. This was higher than the SREB and national averages.

	South Carolina, 2008	South Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	38.9%	33.5%	29.0%	30.1%
Public Four-Year Category 2	29.3%	33.7%	28.1%	27.8%
Public Two-Year	17.1%	16.3%	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 South Carolina, need-based aid per student was \$134 in 2014. This was substantially lower than the SREB average and considerably lower than the national average. Based on criteria other than need, the average award per student was \$1,599. This was considerably higher than the SREB and national averages.

	South Carolina, 2004	South Carolina, 2007	South Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Need-Based Financial Aid Only	\$95	\$141	\$134	\$363	\$508
Other Financial Aid	\$1,190	\$1,421	\$1,599	\$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-seven percent of families in South 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 23 percent of income in 2014. This was much higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average.

	2008	2014
Percentage of Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	27%	27%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$3,200	\$3,850
Average Income of South Carolina Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,220	\$16,896
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lowest-Priced Public Institutions	19%	23%
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 South Carolina in 2014 typically borrowed \$22,513. This was higher than the SREB and national averages.

	South Carolina, 2008	South Carolina, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$16,070	\$22,513	\$21,883	\$21,598
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$16,904	\$25,314	\$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	\$16,896	27%	\$11,774	70%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,018	18%	\$14,248	37%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,819	22%	\$17,340	29%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,888	17%	\$19,316	21%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$178,609	16%	\$20,383	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 South Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 70 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 37 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	\$16,896	27%	\$12,625	75%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,018	18%	\$13,857	36%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,819	22%	\$16,594	27%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,888	17%	\$18,521	20%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$178,609	16%	\$19,140	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 2 institutions in South Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 75 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 36 percent of income for a full-time student.

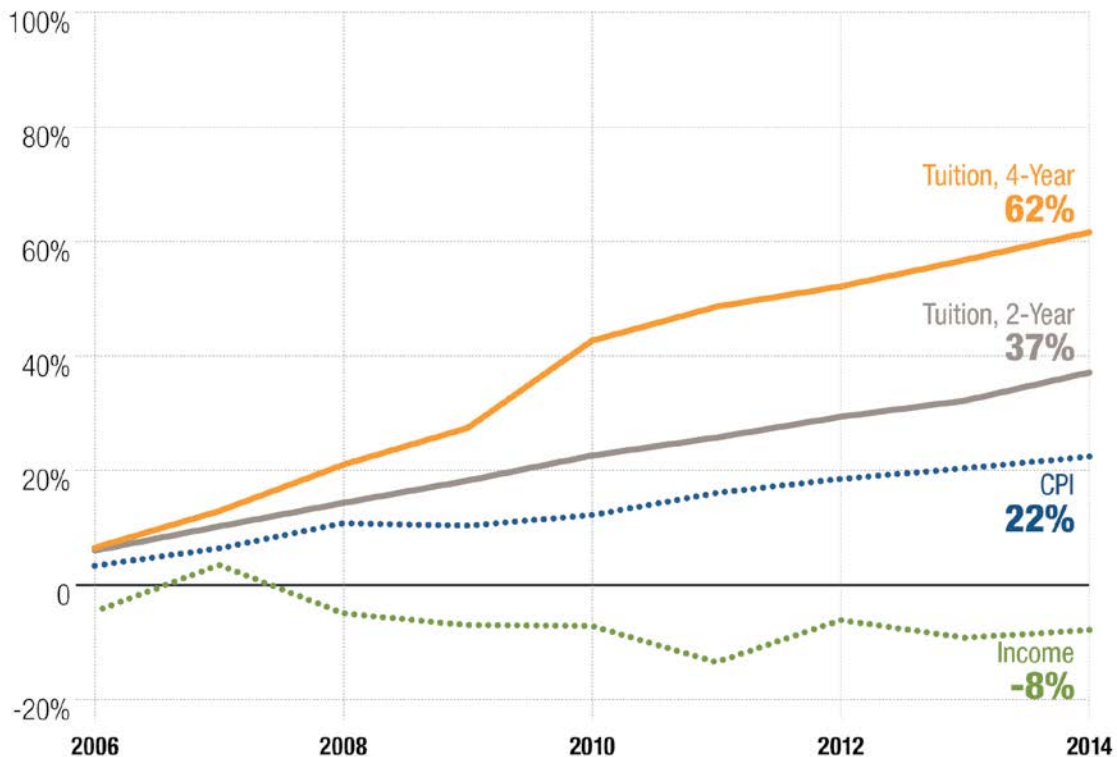
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year Institutions, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,896	27%	\$6,262	37%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,018	18%	\$6,455	17%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,819	22%	\$7,637	13%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,888	17%	\$9,124	10%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$178,609	16%	\$9,727	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.

At public two-year institutions in South Carolina, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 37 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 17 percent of income for a full-time student.

## South 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, 62 percent of jobs in South Carolina will require a postsecondary education, higher than the average for the South (59 percent) and lower than the U.S. average (65 percent).
- In 2015, 27 percent of students in South Carolina were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 29 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and 44 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges.
- In 2015, 24 percent of children in South Carolina were living in poverty. This was up slightly from 2004, when 23 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.

## South Carolina Institutions by Type

### Public Four-Year Category 1

Clemson University

University of South Carolina-Columbia

### Public Four-Year Category 2

Coastal Carolina University

College of Charleston

Francis Marion University

Lander University

Medical University of South Carolina

South Carolina State University

The Citadel Military, The Military College of South Carolina

University of South Carolina-Aiken

University of South Carolina-Beaufort

University of South Carolina-Upstate

Winthrop University

### Public Two-Year

Aiken Technical College

Central Carolina Technical College

Denmark Technical College

Florence-Darlington Technical College

Greenville Technical College

Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Midlands Technical College

Northeastern Technical College  
Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College  
Piedmont Technical College  
Spartanburg Community College  
Technical College of the Lowcountry  
Tri-County Technical College  
Trident Technical College  
University of South Carolina-Lancaster  
University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie  
University of South Carolina-Sumter  
University of South Carolina-Union  
Williamsburg Technical College  
York Technical 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).*