

Tennessee

College Affordability Profile 2017

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

Families in Tennessee needed to pay, on average, 16.1 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 lower than the SREB and national averages.

Families in Tennessee needed 25.9 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.

	Tennessee, 2008	Tennessee, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	22.9%	31.1%	29.0%	30.1%
Public Four-Year Category 2	19.3%	25.9%	28.1%	27.8%
Public Two-Year	17.9%	16.1%	17.1%	18.5%
Public Technical	17.7%	19.4%	20.1%	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 Tennessee, need-based aid per student was \$212 in 2014. This was considerably lower than the SREB and national averages. Based on criteria other than need, the average award per student was \$1,455 in 2014. This was much higher than the SREB and national averages.

	Tennessee, 2004	Tennessee, 2007	Tennessee, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Need-Based Financial Aid Only	\$157	\$149	\$212	\$363	\$508
Other Financial Aid	\$2	\$77	\$1,455	\$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 Tennessee 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 21 percent of income. This was considerably 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 Institutions	\$2,506	\$3,528
Average Income of Tennessee Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,233	\$17,140
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lowest-Priced Public Institutions	15%	21%
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 Tennessee in 2014 typically borrowed \$22,972. This was higher than the SREB and national averages.

	Tennessee, 2008	Tennessee, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$15,713	\$22,972	\$21,883	\$21,598
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$13,724	\$20,659	\$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	\$17,140	27%	\$10,195	59%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,986	18%	\$12,952	33%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,832	22%	\$18,186	30%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,683	17%	\$20,151	22%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$188,586	16%	\$20,292	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 Tennessee, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 59 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 33 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	\$17,140	27%	\$8,819	51%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,986	18%	\$11,006	28%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,832	22%	\$14,427	24%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,683	17%	\$15,857	17%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$188,586	16%	\$16,047	9%

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 Tennessee, 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 28 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	\$17,140	27%	\$5,694	33%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,986	18%	\$6,351	16%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,832	22%	\$8,562	14%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,683	17%	\$10,153	11%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$188,586	16%	\$11,174	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 Tennessee, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 33 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 16 percent of income for a full-time student.

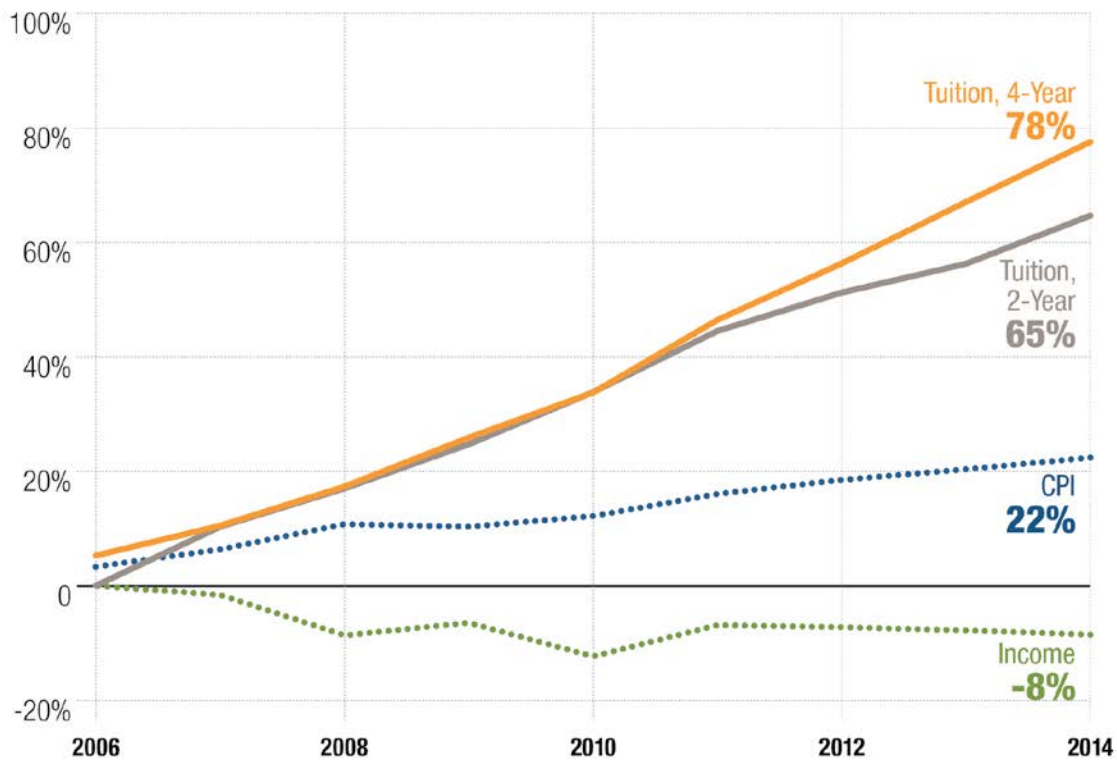
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,140	27%	\$7,180	42%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$38,986	18%	\$7,736	20%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,832	22%	\$9,700	16%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,683	17%	\$11,503	13%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$188,586	16%	\$12,886	7%

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 technical institutions in Tennessee, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 42 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 20 percent of income for a full-time student.

Tennessee: 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, 58 percent of jobs in Tennessee will require a postsecondary education, about the same as the average for the South (59 percent) and lower than the U.S. average (65 percent).
- In 2015, 24 percent of students in Tennessee were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 35 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions, 32 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges and 9 percent were at technical colleges.
- In 2015, 24 percent of children in Tennessee were living in poverty. This was up from 2004, when 21 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.

Tennessee Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Category 1

Tennessee State University
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
University of Memphis

Public Four-Year Category 2

Austin Peay State University
East Tennessee State University
Middle Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
The University of Tennessee-Martin

Public Two-Year

Chattanooga State Community College
Cleveland State Community College
Columbia State Community College
Dyersburg State Community College
Jackson State Community College
Motlow State Community College
Nashville State Community College
Northeast State Community College
Pellissippi State Community College
Roane State Community College
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Volunteer State Community College
Walters State Community College

Technical Colleges

Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Athens
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Chattanooga
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Covington
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Crossville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Crump
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Dickson
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Elizabethton
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Harriman
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Hartsville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Hohenwald
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jacksboro

Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jackson
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Knoxville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Livingston
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-McKenzie
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-McMinnville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Memphis
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Morristown
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Murfreesboro
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Nashville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Newbern
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Oneida
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Paris
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Pulaski
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Ripley
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Whiteville

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 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.