

West Virginia

College Affordability Profile 2017

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

Families in West Virginia needed to pay, on average, 18.9 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 West Virginia needed 20.3 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public four-year non-research institutions. This was considerably lower than the SREB and national averages.

	West Virginia, 2008	West Virginia, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	21.9%	22.0%	29.0%	30.1%
Public Four-Year Category 2	20.0%	20.3%	28.1%	27.8%
Public Two-Year	16.0%	18.9%	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 West Virginia, need-based aid per student was \$561 in 2014. This was considerably higher than the SREB average and higher than the national average. Based on criteria other than need, the average award per student was \$645 in 2014. This was substantially higher than the SREB and national averages.

	West Virginia, 2004	West Virginia, 2007	West Virginia, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Need-Based Financial Aid Only	\$259	\$347	\$561	\$363	\$508
Other Financial Aid	\$336	\$549	\$645	\$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-eight percent of families in West Virginia 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 17 percent of income. This was higher than the SREB average and lower than the national average.

	2008	2014
Percentage of Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	32%	28%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$2,000	\$2,895
Average Income of West Virginia Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,460	\$17,011
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lowest-Priced Public Institutions	11%	17%
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 West Virginia in 2014 typically borrowed \$23,969. This was higher than the SREB and national averages.

	West Virginia, 2008	West Virginia, 2014	SREB Average, 2014	U.S. Average, 2014
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$14,500	\$23,969	\$21,883	\$21,598
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$14,468	\$22,818	\$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	\$17,011	28%	\$7,852	46%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,114	20%	\$8,799	22%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$10,914	18%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,625	17%	\$13,821	15%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$173,828	13%	\$14,497	8%

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 West Virginia, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 46 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 22 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	\$17,011	28%	\$7,322	43%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,114	20%	\$7,694	20%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$10,519	17%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,625	17%	\$12,670	14%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$173,828	13%	\$13,062	8%

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 West Virginia, families making less than \$30,000 in 2014 needed 43 percent of income for educational expenses. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 20 percent of income for a full-time student.

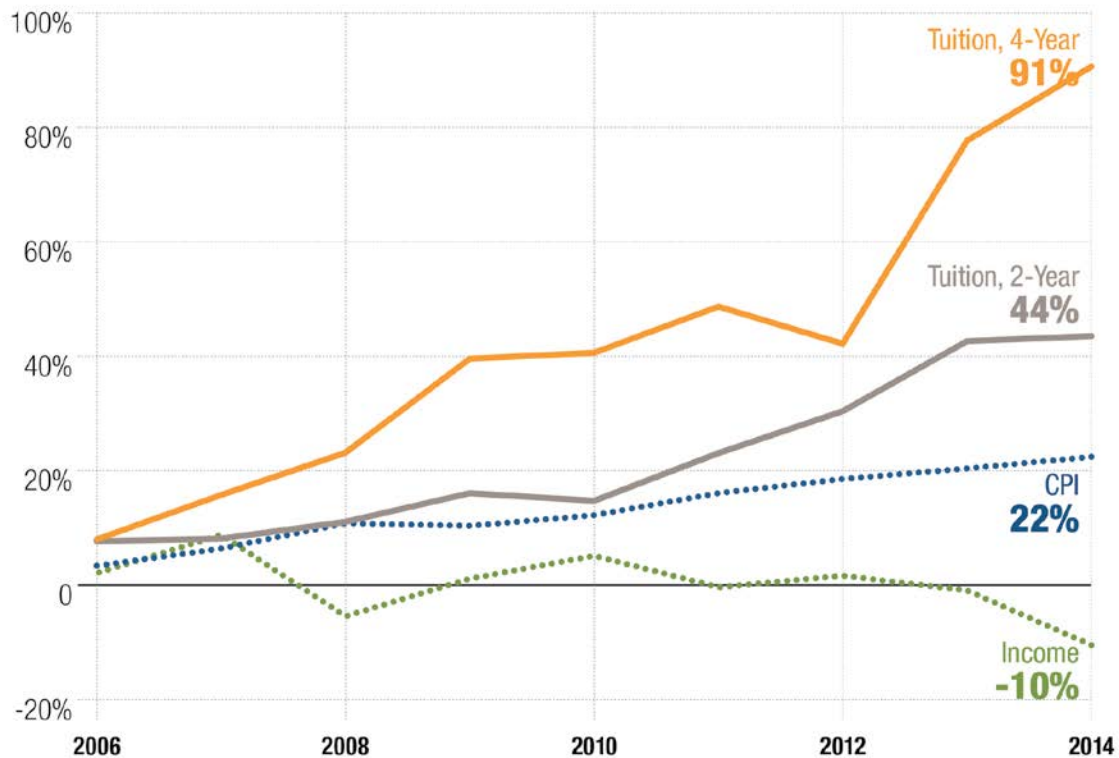
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year Institutions, 2014

	Average in This Income Level	Percentage of Families in This Income Level	Net Price	Percentage of Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$17,011	28%	\$7,107	42%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,114	20%	\$7,170	18%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$9,197	15%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,625	17%	\$11,378	13%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$173,828	13%	\$11,976	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 two-year institutions in West Virginia, 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 18 percent of income for a full-time student.

West Virginia: 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, 55 percent of jobs in West Virginia will require a postsecondary education, lower than the average for the South (59 percent) and lower than the U.S. average (65 percent).
- In 2015, 37 percent of students in West Virginia were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, 41 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and 19 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges.
- In 2015, 25 percent of children in West Virginia were living in poverty. This was up from 2004, when 24 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.

West Virginia Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Category 1

West Virginia University

Public Four-Year Category 2

Bluefield State College

Concord University

Fairmont State University

Glenville State College

Marshall University

Shepherd University

West Liberty University

West Virginia State University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Public Two-Year

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Mountwest Community and Technical College

New River Community and Technical College

Pierpont Community and Technical College

Potomac State College of West Virginia University

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

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.