

# West Virginia

## College Affordability Profile 2018

The socioeconomic future of SREB states depends in large part on substantially increasing the number of residents with postsecondary credentials of value. As the population of SREB states become more diversified, West Virginia faces a critical challenge to help more people succeed in postsecondary education and earn a living wage. This 2018 college affordability profile illustrates how affordable different public institutions are for West Virginia families at various income levels.

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

In 2015-16, families in West Virginia needed on average close to 22 percent of their income to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at public category 1 institutions and 21 percent at public four-year category 2 institutions. These percentages were higher than they were in 2010-11 but much lower than SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

For a full-time student at public two-year institutions, families in West Virginia needed to pay, on average, close to 18 percent of their income in 2015-16 to cover educational expenses. This was higher than the 15 percent needed in 2010-11 but close to SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

	West Virginia, 2010-11	West Virginia, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	17.1%	21.8%	30.5%	30.8%
Public Four-Year Category 2	19.0%	21.2%	28.8%	27.9%
Public Two-Year	15.1%	17.5%	17.0%	18.2%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

West Virginia spent \$533, on average, per full-time-equivalent student in 2015-16 for financial aid that had both need and merit criteria, more than the SREB average at \$135 and the national average of \$214. The state spent \$672, on average, per FTE for merit-based aid in 2015-16, much more than the SREB average at \$416 and the national average of \$168.

Financial Aid Category	West Virginia, 2010-11	West Virginia, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Need Only	\$0	NA	\$343	\$376
Need and Merit	\$428	\$533	\$135	\$214
Merit Only	\$575	\$672	\$416	\$168
Special Purpose	\$4	\$4	\$64	\$39

Sources: National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2011 and 2016 annual surveys (results for public institutions only); U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files, 2011 and 2016, and Directory files, 2010 and 2015.

## 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 West Virginia made less than \$30,000 in 2015. For these families, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 18 percent of income that year, compared to 13 percent in 2010-11. These percentages were nearly the same as the SREB and national averages in 2010-11 and 2015-16.

	2010-11	2015-16
Percentage of Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	30%	27%
Tuition and Fees at Lowest-Priced Public Colleges	\$2,313	\$3,052
Average Income of West Virginia Families Earning Less than \$30,000 Annually	\$17,359	\$16,927
Percentage of Income Needed for Tuition and Fees at the Lower-Priced Public Institutions	13%	18%
SREB Average	13%	17%
U.S. Average	15%	18%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges files and Directory files 2010 and 2015, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample files 2010 and 2015.

## How Much Do Graduates Borrow?

Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from public four-year category 1 universities in West Virginia in 2015-16 borrowed, on average, \$24,001 and graduates of four-year category 2 institutions borrowed \$22,560, on average. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2010-11. Borrowing at category 1 and category 2 universities was higher than SREB and national averages in 2015-16.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$11,102 in 2015-16, more than the average amount borrowed in 2010-11 and higher than SREB and national averages for 2015-16.

	West Virginia, 2010-11	West Virginia, 2015-16	SREB Average, 2015-16	U.S. Average, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Category 1	\$17,625	\$24,001	\$21,703	\$21,505
Public Four-Year Category 2	\$17,864	\$22,560	\$22,391	\$19,893
Public Two-Year	\$10,770	\$11,102	\$9,829	\$9,655

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2010 and 2015; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016 and Directory files 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB State Data Exchange categories.

## 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 — to family income.

Net price is the sum of 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

At West Virginia’s public four-year category 1 institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 46 percent of their income for educational expenses. In 2010, that percentage was 32 percent. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 21 percent of their income for a full-time student in 2015-16; these families needed close to 17 percent of their income in 2010-11 to cover educational expenses.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,927	27%	\$7,769	32%	46%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,123	20%	\$8,397	17%	21%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$10,947	16%	18%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,632	17%	\$13,832	13%	15%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$174,104	14%	\$14,504	7%	8%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

At public four-year category 2 institutions in West Virginia, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 45 percent of their income for educational expenses compared to 39 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 needed 21 percent of their income in 2015 compared to 20 percent in 2010-11 for a full-time student.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,927	27%	\$7,557	39%	45%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,123	20%	\$8,086	20%	21%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$10,547	16%	17%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,632	17%	\$13,559	13%	15%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$174,104	14%	\$14,232	7%	8%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, 12 Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

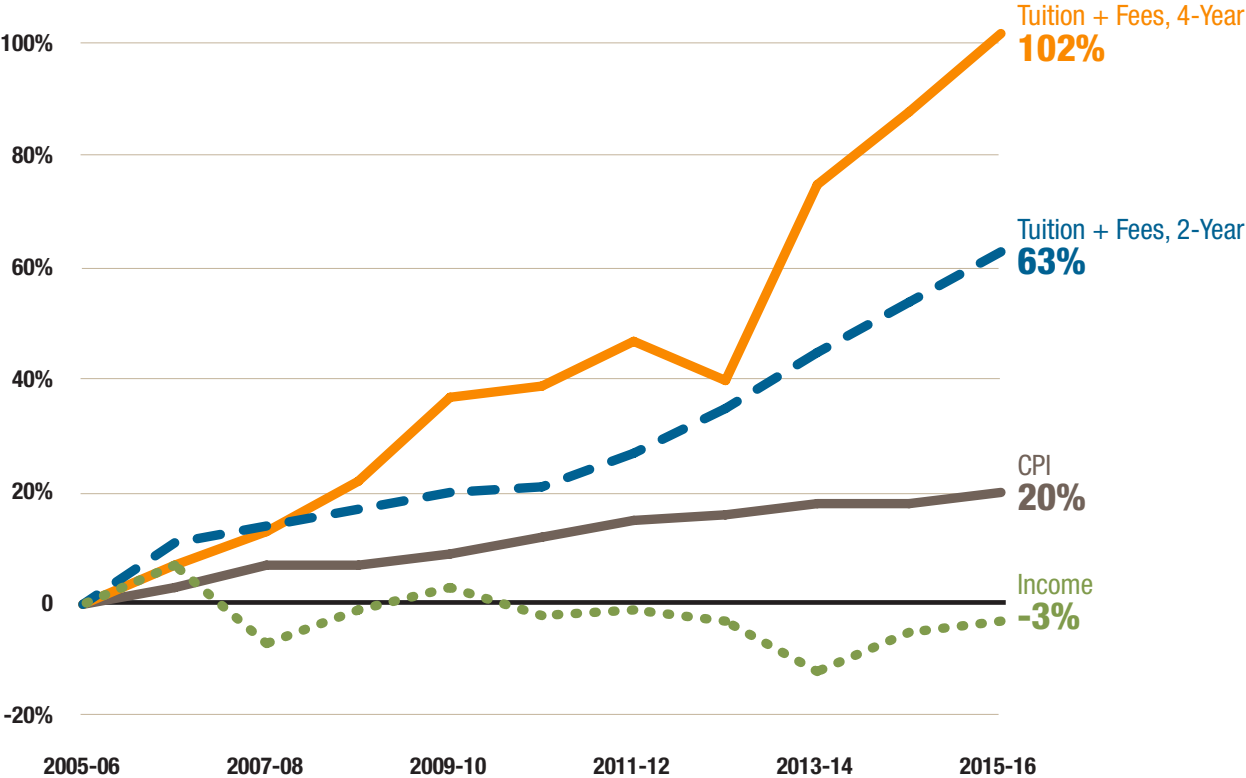
At public two-year institutions in West Virginia, families making less than \$30,000 in 2015 needed 39 percent of their income for educational expenses compared to 31 percent in 2010. Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 in 2015 needed 17 percent of their income for a full-time student, slightly higher than the 15 percent needed in 2010.

Family Income	Average in This Income Level, 2015	Percentage of Families in This Income Level, 2015	Net Price, 2015-16	Percentage of 2010 Income Needed	Percentage of 2015 Income Needed
Income \$0 - \$30,000	\$16,927	27%	\$6,526	31%	39%
Income \$30,000 - \$48,000	\$39,123	20%	\$6,738	15%	17%
Income \$48,000 - \$75,000	\$60,646	22%	\$8,386	13%	14%
Income \$75,000 - \$110,000	\$90,632	17%	\$10,401	10%	11%
Income \$110,000 and above	\$174,104	14%	\$11,373	6%	7%

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Directory files 2010 and 2015, Student Financial Aid files and 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2011 and 2016; American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2010 and 2015. Institutional sectors are based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

# Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI, and Income

Compared to the Consumer Price Index and household income, tuition and fees at West Virginia public colleges and universities increased substantially between 2006 and 2016. Over that decade, the CPI increased by 20 percent and household income declined by 3 percent, while tuition and fees at four-year institutions increased by 102 percent and by 63 percent at two-year institutions.

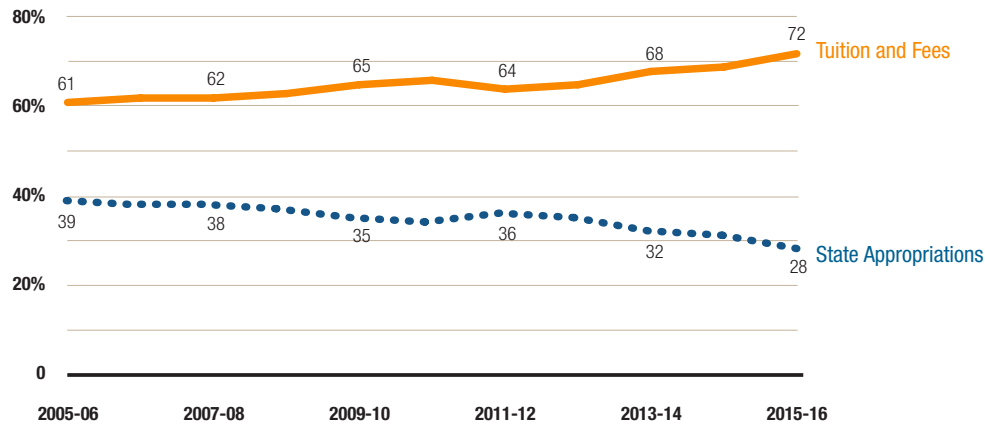


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2016. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics files, 2005 to 2015. Median household income retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, 2018.

# Ratio of State Appropriations and Tuition and Fee Revenues

## Public Four-Year Institutions

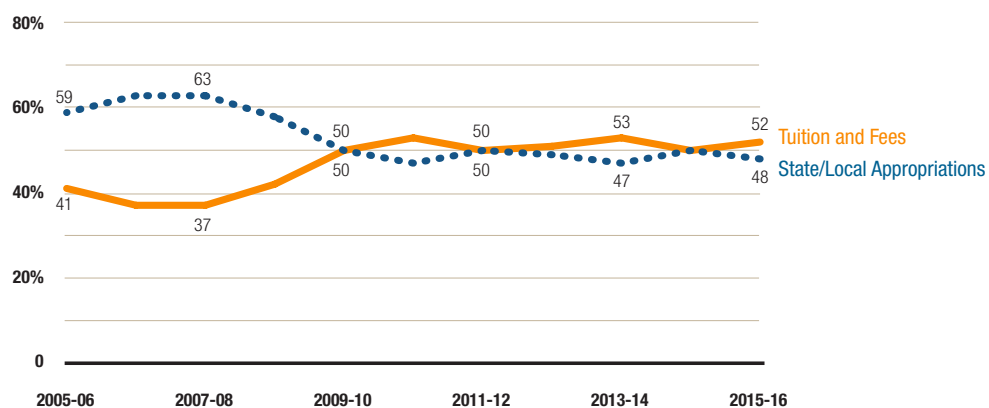
In 2015-16, net tuition and fees at West Virginia’s four-year institutions made up 72 percent of total funds available for operations of the state’s public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 28 percent. In comparison, state appropriations provided 39 percent in 2005-06.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

## Public Two-Year Institutions

West Virginia’s two-year colleges are moving closer to equal funding between tuition and fees and state and local appropriations for operational revenue. Although appropriations provided 59 percent of revenues in 2005-06, that share had dropped to 48 percent by 2015-16; tuition and fees made up 52 percent of revenues that year compared to 41 percent in 2005-06.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange.

## Additional Context

**Attainment** — In 2016, nearly 35 percent of West Virginia’s working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. The state’s educational attainment goal is to reach 60 percent by 2030.

**Poverty** — In 2016, 24 percent of children in West Virginia were living in poverty. This was down from 2010, when 26 percent were living in poverty. The SREB region and the nation saw overall declines in this rate from 26 to 23 percent and from 22 to 20 percent during this time period, respectively.

**FAFSA** — Through June 2018, approximately 61 percent of West Virginia’s 2017-18 12th grade class had completed a FAFSA application, a one-year decrease of around 3 percent. Nationwide, the FAFSA completion rate was nearly 61 percent.

**Enrollment** — In 2015-16, 36 percent of students in West Virginia were enrolled in public four-year category 1 institutions, nearly 40 percent were enrolled at public four-year category 2 institutions and close to 22 percent were enrolled in public two-year colleges.

**Automation** — A recent study has found that individuals face a reduced risk of job automation if they have achieved a higher level of educational attainment and that “Artificial Intelligence puts more low-skilled jobs at risk than previous waves of technological progress.” According to this study, approximately 10 percent of the jobs in the United States can be considered at high risk of automation (in that they have an over 70 percent probability of being automated), with roughly an additional 25 percent of jobs at risk of significant change due to automation.

Sources: Educational attainment: State higher education master plans and Lumina Foundation, “A Stronger Nation,” 2017. Children in poverty: U.S. Census Bureau. FAFSA completion: National College Access Network. Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2016. Automation: Nedelkoska, L. and G. Quintini, “Automation, skills use and training,” OECD, 2018.

## 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

Glennville State College

Marshall University

Shepherd University

West Virginia State University

West Liberty University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

### Public Two-Year

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Potomac State College of West Virginia  
University

Southern West Virginia Community and  
Technical College

West Virginia Northern Community College

Eastern West Virginia Community and  
Technical College

Pierpont Community and Technical College

Mountwest Community and Technical  
College



Blue Ridge Community and Technical College  
New River Community and Technical College  
BridgeValley Community & Technical College

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## Notes and Sources

**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 category** includes institutions that primarily award associate degrees; the list may include two-year institutions that award bachelor's degrees.

Institutions are listed as they were categorized in the 2015-16 Data Exchange Survey and if they submitted the data required for this profile.

This profile is based on data reported to IPEDS by institutions during the 2010-11 and 2015-16 academic years. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2015-16 Student Financial Aid survey reports data for 2014-15.

Institutions or states may update data that were previously reported to an organization or adjust the methodology to calculate a statistic. As a result, some data reported in past Affordability Profiles may differ from data in the current profile, even though the data are for the same time period.

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).*