

Fact Book

on Higher Education

U.S. Regions and 50 States in Perspective

Susan Campbell Lounsbury
Christiana Datubo-Brown
Hannah Bartlebaugh

Published May 2022

Southern Regional Education Board
592 10th St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318-5776
(404) 875-9211
SREB.org

Copies of the *Fact Book on Higher Education* are available from the SREB publications office. SREB continuously monitors new comparative data and makes it available on the SREB website: www.sreb.org. The website also features an online edition of the *Fact Book* with links to the latest updates of the tables and individual *Featured Facts* reports for each of the 16 SREB states.



Message from the SREB President

Since I was a small child, I've loved a good story. Stories change, but all the good ones allow a reader to "see" it unfold, to grasp how the parts fit together. One of the purposes of the *Fact Book on Higher Education* is to help states understand their own, and the region's, story of education.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the *2021 Fact Book on Higher Education* shows the South at a critical juncture. The setting is a region poised for growth but challenged by the need for many more people to achieve higher levels of education and thus to power our workforce and economy.

The story opens as the SREB region's slow, gradual gains in education attainment continue. Six-year graduation rates for bachelor's degree-seeking students rose four percentage points. Meanwhile, the three-year graduation rates for two-year degree and certificate-seeking students increased nearly eight percentage points. These improvements will contribute to education attainment and help meet workforce demand for skilled employees with postsecondary credentials.

But looking ahead, college *enrollment* has begun to decline, thanks in part to declining birth rates and rising costs. Undergraduate enrollment in the SREB region decreased overall by almost two percentage points from 2014 to 2019, even before the pandemic. Enrollment changes differed by type of institution, with a four percentage point increase at four-year colleges and universities and a seven percentage point decrease at two-year colleges.

Affording college, and shouldering the resultant debt, continues to be a high hurdle for many students — making it more difficult for colleges to maintain enrollment. The cost of attendance has risen steadily over the last couple of decades, with a short reprieve during the pandemic. And rising student loan debt disproportionately affects students from those population groups historically underrepresented in postsecondary education.

To be clear, we need all students to get to, and through, postsecondary education. Fact Book data sheds light on the elements of access and student success we must focus on to help them do so, which will in turn help the South and the U.S. remain competitive.

Few things are certain these days, but I feel confident that postsecondary education is an engine of economic growth that will help lead our recovery. The *Fact Book* shows us where the story can go from here. It is important to note that much of the data in this edition was collected just before or at the beginning of the pandemic, so annual updates will tell us more about how the region was affected by, and is recovering from, the pandemic. The *Fact Book* can help chart our path to a brighter future.

We continue to make the Fact Book and data updates available at SREB.org/FactBook, though we are not providing print copies this year. You can download the book in its entirety or choose the chapters most relevant to you. Also, keep in mind that you can download over 100 *Fact Book* spreadsheets at SREB.org/FactBook for your own analyses.

At SREB, we believe in the power of data to answer important questions and monitor progress on education goals. We trust that you continue to find the Fact Book a reliable and comprehensive source of insight on the trends we face in improving education. The north star that guides us should be the opportunity for each and every student to follow a path to those rewarding careers that drive our states' stories — and our economies — forward.

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
President

The *Fact Book* helps leaders understand the story of education in their states.



Acknowledgments

The data collected with the SREB-State Data Exchange survey continues to serve as the foundation for the *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*. SREB-State Data Exchange coordinators from all 16 SREB states are essential to the process of gathering high-quality comparative data on degrees and certificates awarded, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, full-time-equivalent enrollment, distance education, dual enrollment, state funding, and tuition and mandatory fees. Without the assistance of the coordinators listed in Appendix B, we would be unable to produce the *Fact Book*.

Many federal agencies and professional organizations are also important sources of data for the *Fact Book*. These include the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine; the American Medical Association; the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources; the Institute for College Access and Success; the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs; the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems; the National Science Foundation; the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association; the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; the U.S. Census Bureau; the Washington Office of The College Board; and various offices of the U.S. Department of Education, especially the National Center for Education Statistics, the Office of Postsecondary Education and the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

A team of dedicated, detail-oriented SREB staff work diligently to produce the *Fact Book*. The authors of this year's edition are Susan Lounsbury, Christiana Datubo-Brown and Hannah Bartlebaugh. They drafted the various pieces of the *Fact Book*, paying attention to the accuracy of the data displayed while crafting the book's story. Dave Raney, Chief Editor at SREB, provided valuable input on drafts and contributed to the accuracy and readability of the book. Senior Designer and Production Manager, Lety Jones, was responsible for the design and layout of the book. Research Associate Tiffany Harrison helped with the finishing touches on the 2021 edition.



Table of Contents

Message from the SREB President.....	i
Acknowledgments.....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
Introduction.....	ix

Population, Economy, Schools and Government.....1

Graphs

Proportion of Total Growth by Region.....	1
Population Growth by Region.....	2
Percent of 25- to 64-Year-Olds With an Associate Degree or Higher.....	3
Percent of Racial and Ethnic Groups 25 Years and Older With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, SREB States.....	4
Public High School Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, SREB States.....	6

Tables

1. Total Population and Changes.....	8
2. Education Attainment of the Adult Population.....	9
3. Education Attainment of Working-Age and Young Working-Age Adults.....	10
4. Education Attainment of the Working-Age Population by Race/Ethnicity.....	11
5. Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population.....	12
6. Age Distribution of the Population.....	14
7. Education Attainment of the Adult Population by Race/Ethnicity.....	16
8. Public Prekindergarten, Elementary and Secondary School Enrollment.....	17
9. High School Graduation Rates.....	18
10. Per Capita Income.....	20
11. Median Annual Income of Households.....	21
12. Poverty Rates in the Population and Among Children.....	22
13. Employment and Unemployment in the Civilian Labor Force.....	23
14. Nonagricultural Employment.....	24
15. Percent Distribution of State and Local Government General Expenditures.....	26
16. Percent Distribution of State and Local Government General Revenues.....	28
17. State and Local Government General Revenues and Personal Income.....	30
18. State and Local Government General Expenditures.....	31

College Participation..... 33

Graphs

Percent of First-Time Freshmen Attending College in Their Home State, 2018.....	33
Percent of Full-time Undergraduate Students Ages 24 or Younger, Two- and Four-Year Institutions, 2015 and 2019	35
Percent of Total Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, 2019.....	36
College Enrollment Rates of 18- to 24-Year-Olds by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 2014 and 2019.....	36
Change in Two-Year College Students as a Percentage of Undergraduate Enrollment, 2014 and 2019.....	37
Enrollment in Online-Only Colleges by Region Where College Headquartered, 2019	38

Tables

19. Migration of First-Time Freshmen	40
20. Freshman Merit Scholars	41
21. Total Enrollment in Higher Education.....	42
22. Enrollment Changes by Student Level and Type of Attendance	43
23. Enrollment Changes by Gender and Race/Ethnicity	44
24. Enrollment Changes by Type of College and University.....	45
25. Undergraduate Enrollment.....	46
26. Graduate and Professional Program Enrollment.....	47
27. Part-Time Enrollment.....	48
28. Age Distribution of College Students	49
29. College Enrollment Rates by Age	50
30. Enrollment of Women	51
31. Enrollment of Men.....	52
32. Enrollment of Black Students	53
33. Enrollment of Hispanic Students.....	54
34. Enrollment of White Students.....	55
35. Enrollment in Four-Year Colleges and Universities	56
36. Enrollment in Two-Year Colleges.....	57
37. Enrollment in Predominantly Black and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.....	58
38. Enrollment in Online-Only Colleges and Universities	59
39. Enrollment in Non-Degree-Granting Postsecondary Education Institutions.....	60
40. Medical School Enrollment	61
41. Full-Time-Equivalent Enrollment in Public Colleges and Universities, SREB States.....	62
42. Percent of Undergraduate Credit-/Contact-Hours Taken by High School Students, SREB States, 2019-20	64
43. Percent of Instruction Through E-Learning.....	65

College Completion 67

Graphs

Average Annual Earnings of Adults Ages 25 or Older, by Highest Level of Education, United States, 2019	67
Projected Increases in Employment by Education Required, United States, 2019 to 2029.....	68
Trends in Student Progression Rates, SREB States	69
Graduation Rates, 150 Percent of Normal Time by Race and Ethnicity, Public Colleges and Universities, 2019 ...	70
Graduation Rates, 100 and 150 Percent of Normal Time, Public Colleges and Universities.....	71
Programs Completed, Public and Private Colleges, SREB States	72
Student Status at Entry, Associate Degree Graduates, Public Two-Year Colleges Participating SREB States, 2018-19	73
Student Status at Entry, Bachelor's Degree Graduates, Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities Participating SREB States, 2018-19	74
Women Graduates as a Percent of Total Graduates, SREB States.....	76
Black Graduates as a Percent of Total Graduates, SREB States	76
Hispanic Graduates as a Percent of Total Graduates, SREB States.....	77

Tables

44. First-Year Persistence and Progression Rates Within 150 Percent of Normal Time to Graduation in Public Higher Education Institutions.....	79
45. Three- and Six-Year Graduation Rates in Public Universities and Colleges, by Race and Ethnicity.....	80
46. Two- and Four-Year Graduation Rates in Public Universities and Colleges	82
47. Sub-Bachelor's Certificates Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	83
48. Awards Earned at Online-Only Colleges and Universities, 2018-19	84
49. Associate Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	85
50. Associate Degrees Awarded in Selected Fields.....	86
51. Percent Distribution of Associate Degree Graduates and Time- and Credits-to-Degree, Public Two-Year Colleges, 2018-19	87
52. Percent Distribution of Bachelor's Degree Graduates and Time- and Credits-to-Degree, Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, 2018-19	88
53. Bachelor's Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	89
54. Bachelor's Degrees Awarded in Selected Fields	90
55. Master's Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	91
56. Master's Degrees Awarded in Selected Fields	92
57. Research and Scholarship Doctoral Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities ...	93
58. Research and Scholarship Doctoral Degrees Awarded in Selected Fields	94
59. Professional Practice Doctoral Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	95
60. Professional Practice Doctoral Degrees Awarded in Selected Fields	96
61. Other Doctoral Degrees Awarded by Public and Private Colleges and Universities	98

College Affordability 99

Graphs

Annual Undergraduate Costs of College Attendance, United States.....	99
Percent of Average Annual Household Income Required to Pay for One Year at a Public Four-Year College, United States	100
Percent of Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Covered by Maximum Federal Pell Grant, United States	102
Student Financial Aid and Loan Trends, United States	103
What Students and Their Families Pay, Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, 2018-19	104
Percent of Bachelor's Degree Graduates with Debt, Public Four-Year Colleges, 2018	105

Tables

62. Median Annual Tuition and Required Fees for Full-Time Undergraduate Students.....	106
63. Percent of Median Family Incomes Required to Pay Median Annual Tuition and Fees	108
64. Median Annual Tuition and Required Fees for Full-Time Undergraduate Students at Public Universities, Colleges, and Technical Institutes or Colleges	110
65. Federal Pell Grants.....	112
66. Federal Student Loan Programs.....	114
67. State Scholarships, Grants and Other Financial Aid Funds.....	116
68. First-Time Students' Participation in Student Financial Aid and Loan Programs at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	118
69. First-Time Students' Participation in Student Financial Aid and Loan Programs at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	120
70. Cost of Attendance and Net Price for Fall-Term, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Undergraduates Who Paid In-State or In-District Tuition at Public Colleges and Universities	122
71. Federal Campus-Based Financial Aid to Students	124
72. Average Minimum Debt of College Graduates at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities.....	125

Faculty and Administrators 127

Graphs

Women Faculty and Administrators, SREB States.....	127
Black and Hispanic Faculty and Administrators, SREB States	128
Projected U.S. Job Growth, 2019 to 2029.....	129
Part-Time Faculty, SREB States.....	129
Student-to-Faculty Ratios, Four-Year Colleges and Universities, 2019.....	130
Changes in Annual Pay, 1989 to 2019.....	131
Average Salaries, Full-Time Instructional Faculty at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, 2019-20	132
Average Salaries, Full-Time Instructional Faculty at Public Two-Year Colleges, 2019-20.....	133

Tables

73. Full-Time Faculty at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities.....	135
74. Full-Time Faculty at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	136

75.	Part-Time Faculty and Graduate Assistants as a Percent of Total Instructional Faculty	137
76.	Full-Time Administrators at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	138
77.	Full-Time Administrators at Public Two-Year Colleges	139
78.	Staff at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	140
79.	Staff at Public Two-Year Colleges	142
80.	Percent Distribution of Full-Time Instructional Faculty by Rank at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	144
81.	Median Student-to-Faculty Ratios.....	145
82.	Average Salaries of Full-Time Instructional Faculty at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities.....	146
83.	Average Salaries of Full-Time Instructional Faculty at Public Two-Year Colleges and Technical Institutes or Colleges.....	147
84.	Average Salaries of Full-Time Instructional Faculty by Rank at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities.....	148
85.	Average Salaries of Full-Time Instructional Faculty by Type of Public Four-Year College or University ..	149
86.	Median Salaries of Full-Time Faculty by Discipline and Rank at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, United States, 2019-20	150
87.	Unweighted Median Salary by Classification, All Institutions, 2019-20	151

Revenues and Expenditures 153

Graphs

Changes in Per Student Funding Adjusted for Enrollment Changes and Inflation, Public Colleges and Universities, SREB States, 2016-17 to 2019-20.....	153
Components of Funding Growth, SREB States, 2016-17 to 2019-20.....	154
Ratio of State Appropriations and Tuition and Fee Revenues, SREB States.....	155
Funding Sources for Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, SREB States	156
Funding Sources for Public Two-Year Colleges, SREB States.....	157
Spending Patterns at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities, SREB States.....	158
Spending Patterns at Public Two-Year Colleges, SREB States	158
Sources of Scholarship and Fellowship Spending at Public Colleges and Universities, SREB States, 2018-19.....	159

Tables

88.	Funds for Educational and General Operations Per Full-Time-Equivalent Student at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	161
89.	Funds for Educational and General Operations Per Full-Time-Equivalent Student at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	162
90.	Funds for Educational and General Operations Per Full-Time-Equivalent Student at Public Technical Institutes or Colleges.....	163
91.	Appropriations of State Tax Funds for Operating Expenses Related to Higher Education.....	164
92.	State Appropriations Related to Higher Education as Percentages of State Taxes	165
93.	Percent Distribution of Funds for Operations Related to Higher Education, 2019-20	166

94.	Percent Distribution of Revenues at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	168
95.	Percent Distribution of Revenues at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	169
96.	Percent Distribution of Spending at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities.....	170
97.	Percent Distribution of Spending at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	171
98.	Percent Distribution of Scholarships and Fellowships at Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	172
99.	Percent Distribution of Scholarships and Fellowships at Public Two-Year Colleges.....	173
100.	Federal Support for Research and Development at Universities by State	174
101.	Top-Ranked Universities' Spending on Research and Development	175
102.	Federal Support for Research and Development at Universities, Top 100.....	176
103.	University Endowments.....	178

Appendix A

SREB-State Data Exchange Definitions of Institutional Categories and Listing of Public Universities, Four-Year and Two-Year Colleges, and Technical Institutes and Colleges	181
--	-----

Appendix B

SREB-State Data Exchange Agencies.....	193
--	-----