

Georgia

College Affordability Profile

The effect of the pandemic on state budgets has not yet peaked, but it will likely affect college affordability for years to come. In this year's SREB College Affordability Profiles, we examine data for the 2017-18 academic year, the most recent year that student financial aid and net price data are available. Although the data were collected prior to the pandemic, it shows that states continue to face challenges in making college affordable. In many states, students must spend a larger percentage of their family income to pay for college particularly at four-year institutions. In most states, two-year institutions and technical colleges and institutes offer the most affordable degree programs.

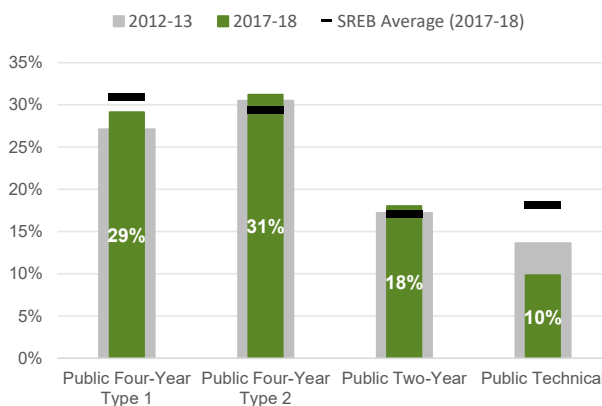
Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Pay the Net Price for Full-Time Students at Public Institutions

In 2017-18, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Georgia was **lower than the SREB average** for **four-year Type 1 and technical institutions**.

Families in Georgia paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2017-18 to send a full-time student to four-year and two-year institutions than in 2012-13.

Georgia's families needed, on average, 29% of their income in 2017-18 to pay educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 31% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2017-18 Georgia families needed to pay, on average, 18% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year and 10% at technical institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2012 and 2017. Institutional sectors based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Key terms:

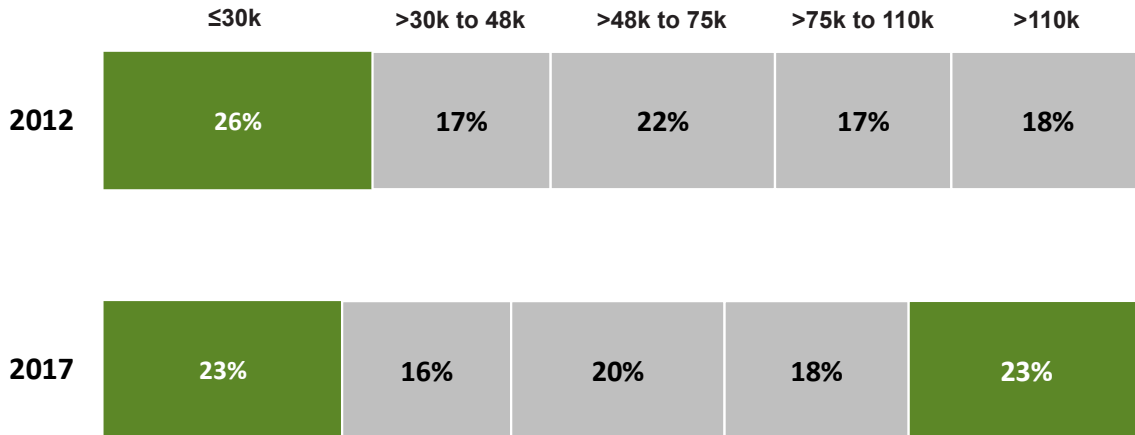
Four-Year Institution Type 1: four-year institutions that awarded at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.

Four-Year Institution Type 2: all other four-year institutions.

Net Price: total cost of attendance (includes tuition, fees, room & board, etc.) minus federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid.

Distribution of Average Family Income

Data on net price is collected using five income categories. In Georgia, families that **made less than \$30,000 or over \$110,000** accounted for **the largest percentage of families in 2017**.



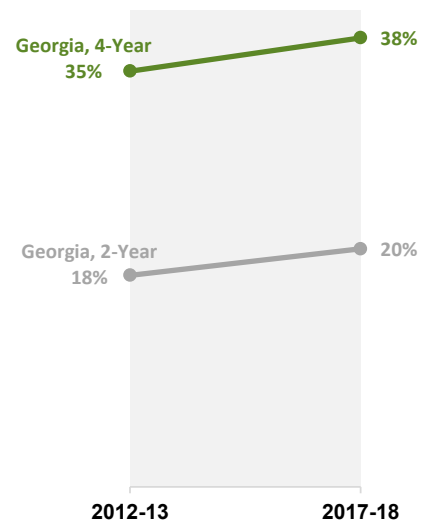
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017.

Percentage of Income Required for Median Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions for Families Making Less Than \$30,000

For Georgia families making less than \$30,000, the percentage of income required for **median tuition and fees** at public institutions **was higher at four-year institutions than two-year institutions in 2012-13 and 2017-18**.

For families making less than \$30,000, the cost of median tuition and fees at four-year institutions was 38% of income in 2017-18, compared to 35% in 2012-13.

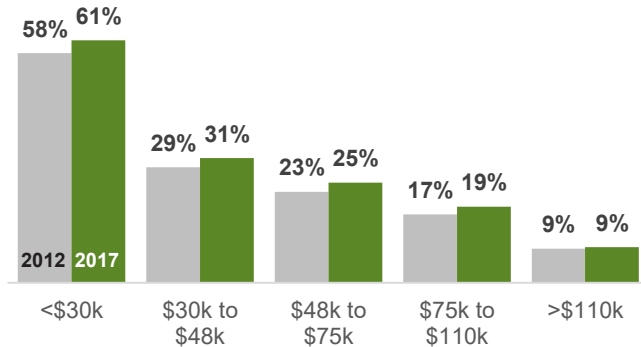
Families needed 20% of their income in 2017-18 to cover the state's median tuition at two-year institutions. In 2012-13 it was 18%.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2012 and 2017.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 1 Institutions

Georgia families in the **lowest income category** were the **most affected** by the increase in net price at four-year Type 1 institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2012 and 2017. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia was slightly larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2012 needed 58% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 61%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2012 and 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.

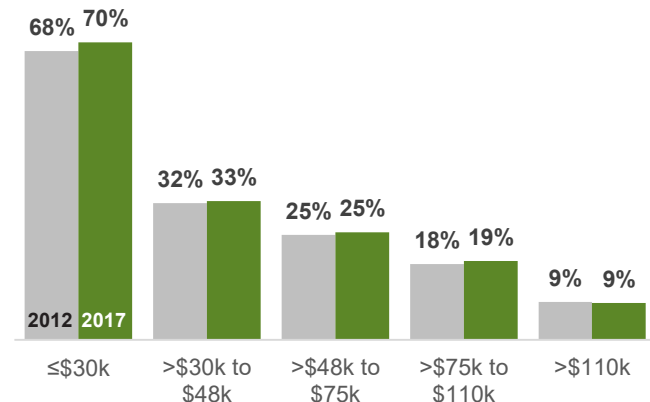
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

At four-year Type 2 institutions, Georgia families making less than \$30,000 were the most affected by the rising cost of attendance.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 2 institutions in Georgia was larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2012 needed 68% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 70%.

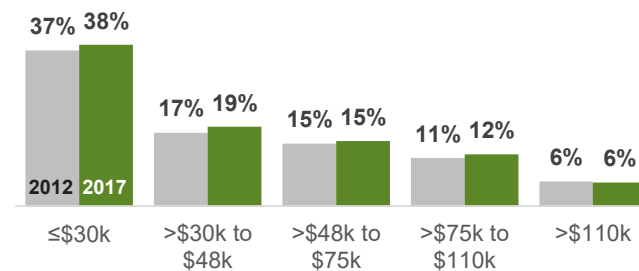
Families making over \$110,000 only needed 9% of their income in 2012 and 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2012 and 2017. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

The **percentage of income** that Georgia families needed to pay for educational **expenses at two-year institutions increased slightly from 2012 to 2017.**



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2012 and 2017. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The percentage of income needed to pay for two-year institutions in Georgia increased slightly or remained the same for families in all income categories.

At Georgia’s two-year institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2012 needed 37% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 38%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2012 and 2017 to cover these expenses.

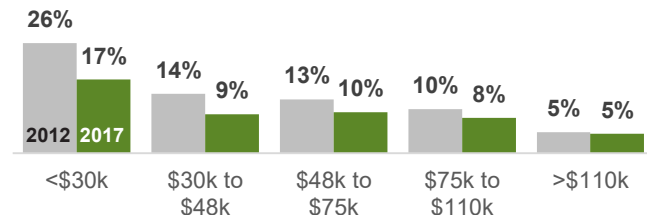
Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Technical Institutions

Georgia’s **technical institutions** required a **lower percentage of family income** to pay for education expenses in 2017 than 2012.

The decrease in the percentage of income needed to pay for technical institutions in Georgia was larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

At Georgia’s technical institutions, families making less than \$30,000 in 2012 needed 26% of their income to pay educational expenses. In 2017 it was 17%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 5% of their income in 2012 and 2017 to cover expenses at these institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2012 and 2017, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2013 and 2018. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2012 and 2017. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

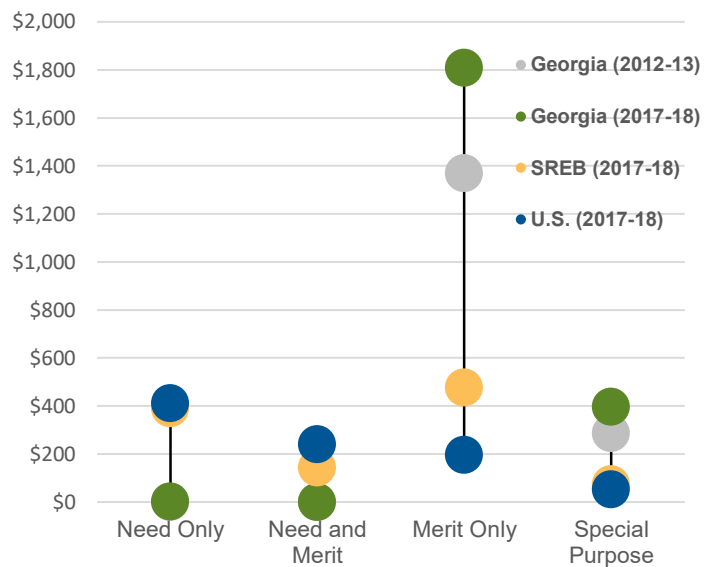
State Financial Aid Per Student

Georgia awarded **more merit-based aid in 2017-18** per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student than the SREB and national averages. **Merit-based aid also increased** from 2012-13 to 2017-18.

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
Georgia (2012-13)	\$0	\$0	\$1,370	\$287
Georgia (2017-18)	\$0	NA	\$1,807	\$396
SREB Average (2017-18)	\$389	\$143	\$476	\$74
U.S. Average (2017-18)	\$411	\$241	\$195	\$53

The state spent \$1,807 on average per undergraduate FTE student on merit-based aid in 2017-18, compared to \$1,370 in 2012-13. The SREB average in 2017-18 was \$476 and the national average was \$195.

Georgia spent \$396, on average, per FTE for special purpose financial aid in 2017-18, much more than the SREB average of \$74 and the national average of \$53.



National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2013 and 2018 annual survey (results for public institutions only). U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity File, 2013 and 2018, and Directory File, 2012 and 2017.

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2017-18, Georgia graduates **borrowed more than the SREB and national averages to earn degrees at four-year Type 2 and two-year institutions.**

	Georgia, 2012-13	Georgia, 2017-18	SREB Average, 2017-18	U.S. Average, 2017-18
Four-Year Type 1	\$18,813	\$20,749	\$21,600	\$21,232
Four-Year Type 2	\$20,532	\$23,231	\$22,677	\$19,510
Two-Year	\$10,442	\$14,949	\$10,798	\$10,171

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2012 and 2017. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2013 and 2018 and Directory Files 2012 and 2017.

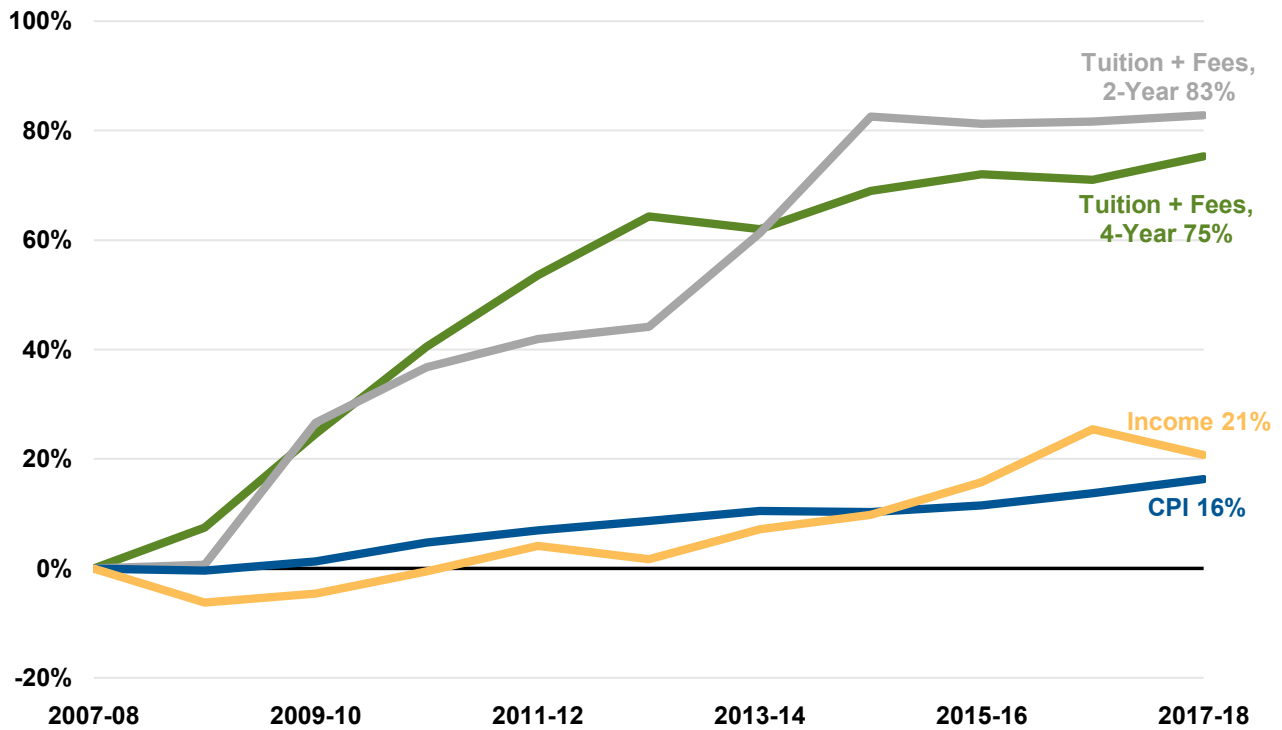
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in Georgia in 2017-18 borrowed, on average, \$20,749 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$23,231. These amounts were noticeably higher than average amounts borrowed in 2012-13 and the SREB and national averages for four-year Type 2 institutions in 2017-18.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$14,949 in 2017-18, much more than the average amount in 2012-13 and higher than the SREB and national averages in 2017-18.

Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI and Household Income

Compared to the Consumer Price Index and household income, **tuition and fees** at Georgia public colleges and universities **increased substantially** between 2007-08 and 2017-18.

Over that decade, both the CPI increased by 16% and median household income in Georgia increased by 21%, while tuition and fees increased by 75% at four-year institutions and 83% at two-year institutions.

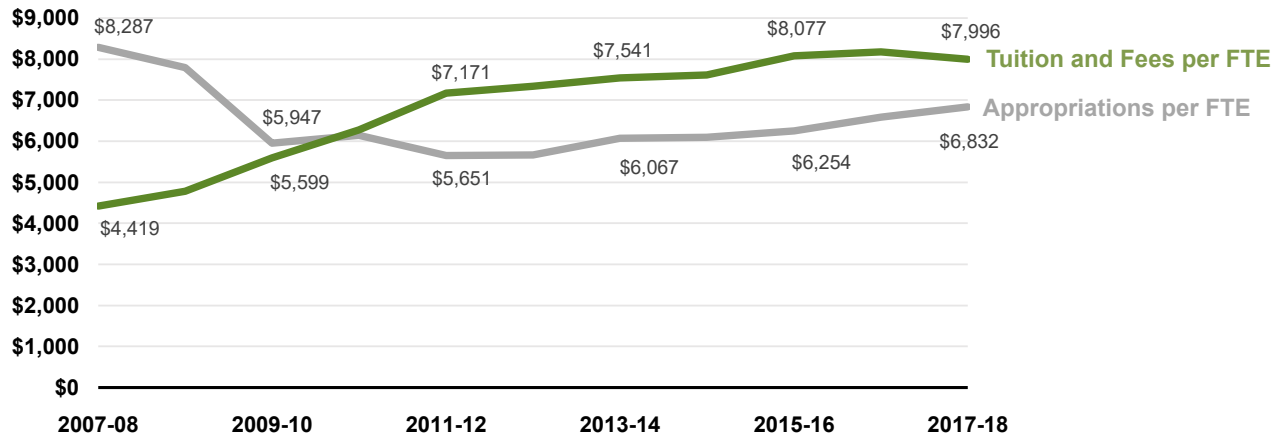


Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2017. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2007 to 2017. Median 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, 2020.

Dollars per FTE Student from State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Operational funds per FTE student consisted **mostly of tuition and fees** for Georgia's **public four-year institutions** in 2017-18.

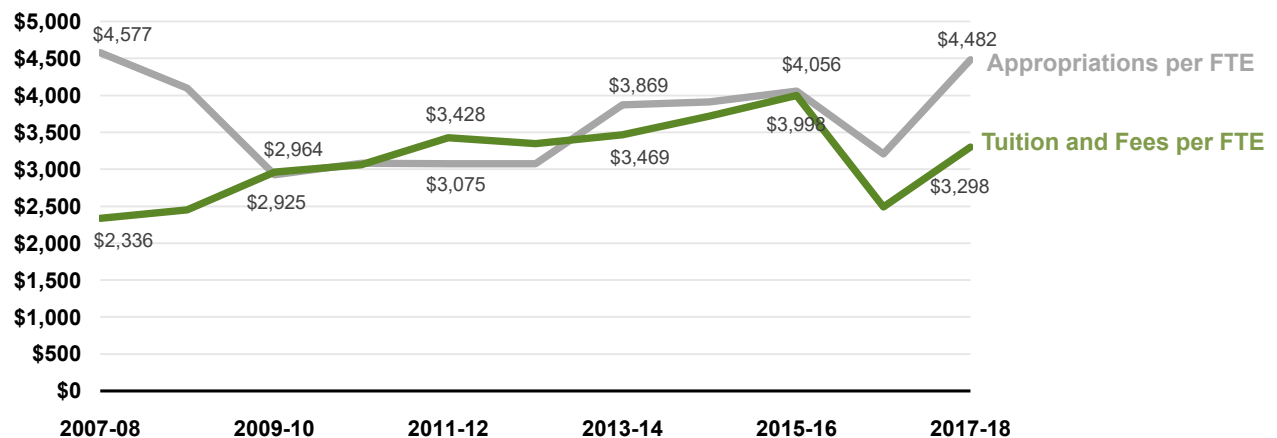
Net tuition and fees per FTE student at Georgia's four-year institutions increased from \$4,419 in 2007-08 to \$7,996 in 2017-18. In comparison, state appropriations per FTE student dropped from \$8,287 in 2007-08 to \$6,832 in 2017-18. Students and families paid a larger share of the total funding per student.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

State and local appropriations per FTE student accounted for **most of the operating expenses** at Georgia's **public two-year institutions** in 2017-18.

Although state and local appropriations per FTE student dropped from \$4,577 in 2007-08 to \$4,482 in 2017-18 at Georgia's two-year institutions, they have increased in recent years. Net tuition and fees per FTE student increased from \$2,336 in 2007-08 to \$3,298 in 2017-18. The state paid a larger share of the total funding per student.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Additional State Context

Postsecondary Enrollment. In 2017-18, 21% of students in Georgia were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, close to 45% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, almost 13% were enrolled in public two-year colleges, and 21% were enrolled in public technical colleges.

First-Year Retention. For the 2017 cohort, 93% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia were still enrolled one year later, 80% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 54% were retained at public two-year and technical colleges.

Pell Grants. In 2017-18, 17% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in Georgia was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 22% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions, 29% of costs in public two-year colleges, and 31% of costs in public technical colleges.

Education Attainment. In 2018, over 52% of Georgia'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% by 2025.

Student Debt. In Georgia, 56% of the class of 2019 graduated from four-year colleges with debt, owing an average of \$28,081.

Sources: Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2017. Retention: SREB-State Data Exchange. Pell: U.S. Department of Education: 2017-2018 Award Year Grant Volume by School (2019) and SREB analysis of National Center for Education Statistics student financial aid database, 2017-18. Educational attainment: State Higher Education Master Plans and Lumina Foundation, "A Stronger Nation," 2019. Student debt: The Institute for College Access & Success. College Insight, <https://college-insight.org>. Student debt and undergraduate financial aid data are licensed from Peterson's Undergraduate Financial Aid and Undergraduate Databases, © 2020 Peterson's LLC, all rights reserved. All data may be reproduced, with attribution, subject to restrictions under this Creative Commons license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>.

Georgia Institutions by Type

Public Four-Year Type 1

Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

Public Four-Year Type 2

Albany State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Southern University
Savannah State University

Valdosta State University
University of West Georgia
Georgia Gwinnett College
Middle Georgia State University
University of North Georgia
Kennesaw State University

Public Two-Year

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Atlanta Metropolitan State College
East Georgia State College
Georgia Highlands College
Gordon State College
Georgia State University-Perimeter College
South Georgia State College
Georgia Military College

Technical Colleges

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Grady Health System Professional Schools
Southern Crescent Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College

North Georgia Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Athens Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College

Notes

Type 1 four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas. **Type 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. The **technical college category** includes postsecondary institutions that offer programs of less than two-years duration below the baccalaureate level and occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1800 contact hours. This profile does not report data for the technical college category if less than 3% of students are enrolled in this sector.

Institutions are listed as they were categorized in the 2017-18 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 2017-18 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2017-18 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for the 2016-17 academic year.

Institutions or states may have updated data previously reported, or adjusted methodology to calculate a statistic. As a result, some data in the current profile may differ from data reported in past Affordability Profiles for the same time period.

See the technical guide at [SREB.org/Affordability](https://www.sreb.org/Affordability) for detailed sources and explanatory notes.

SREB College Affordability Profiles detail data and trends specific to each SREB state to assist policy-makers 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 <https://www.sreb.org/Affordability>.