

# The Need for Need-Based Aid

**Georgia is one of only two states that lack broad need-based financial aid.**

**Nearly 112,000 students deal with unmet financial need, according to the University System of Georgia (USG).**

**42%** of students reported not receiving any financial support from parents or guardians; **39%** struggled with stable housing; **37%** had very low or low food security.

**Students from higher-income families are more likely to get state financial aid.**

- In USG, more than 90% of students with family income greater than \$120,000 were receiving either the HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- More than 30% of students with family income higher than \$120,000 received the Zell Miller Scholarship for at least one semester, compared to less than 10% of students with family income less than \$30,000.

**56% of Georgia college graduates carry debt, and of those who do, the average debt burden is \$28,081.**

**The state's current financial aid (HOPE) displays patterns that reflect the state's racial and ethnic inequalities.**

- Asian and white students are the most likely to get the scholarship, and Black and Native American students are the least likely.
- Black students are most underrepresented in Zell Miller Scholarships (6%) compared to their representation among undergraduate students (29%).

*For sources, go to [gbpi.org/the-need-for-need-based-aid](https://gbpi.org/the-need-for-need-based-aid)*

**75% of Georgians support funding a need-based aid scholarship for college students.**

**Students from more secure family financial backgrounds are more likely to graduate from college.**

**In Georgia, college students' families reflect a wide range of resources. The median family income for students at the most select public colleges and universities exceeds \$100,000; however, it is below \$40,000 in 17 of the 26 colleges in the university system.**

**Nearly half of undergraduates at Georgia Independent College Association institutions receive the need-based Pell Grant. After grants and scholarships, the average net price was \$23,528.**

**Less than 1% of students received school-funded need-based grants or scholarships in 23 of 28 schools in the university system; 12 schools did not award any need-based grants or scholarships.**



## Fact Sheet

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The total price to attend college far exceeds HOPE awards and family financial resources for most students.

Institution Name	Total price for in-state students living on campus 2019-20	Total price for in-state students living off campus (with family) 2019-20	HOPE Award (30 hours) B.A. / A.D., 2021-22	Median Income, 2017-18
Georgia State University	\$29,725	\$16,182 / \$10,235	\$7,680 / \$2,670	\$30,996
Georgia Institute of Technology	\$29,632	\$17,542	\$7,680	\$120,878
Georgia College & State University	\$28,851	\$15,716	\$6,870	\$110,059
University of Georgia	\$27,450	\$17,720	\$7,680	\$100,976
Kennesaw State University	\$27,253	\$14,306	\$5,010	\$54,125
University of West Georgia	\$25,529	\$14,695	\$5,010	\$45,114
Georgia Gwinnett College	\$25,332	\$11,752	\$3,540	\$31,802
Georgia Southern University	\$25,497	\$13,467	\$5,010	\$56,423
Augusta University	\$22,845	\$12,795	\$7,680 / \$6,090	\$47,154
Columbus State University	\$22,068	\$11,791	\$5,010	\$37,465
College of Coastal Georgia	\$21,629	\$11,301	\$2,940	\$35,872
Clayton State University	\$21,290	\$8,971	\$4,710	\$25,526
University of North Georgia	\$20,854	\$10,514	\$5,010 / \$2,940	\$62,404
Valdosta State University	\$20,745	\$12,473	\$5,010	\$39,809
Fort Valley State University	\$20,644	\$7,772	\$4,710	\$23,359
Georgia Southwestern State University	\$19,928	\$16,082	\$4,710	\$43,375
Albany State University	\$19,634	\$11,544	\$4,710 / \$2,670	\$25,949
South Georgia State College	\$18,562	\$9,922	\$2,670	\$30,909
East Georgia State College	\$17,324	\$7,540	\$2,670	\$31,399
Savannah State University	\$17,255	\$9,793	\$4,710	\$25,348
Gordon State College	\$17,116	\$8,074	\$2,940	\$31,527
Middle Georgia State University	\$16,339	\$9,616	\$3,180	\$34,595
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	\$15,479	\$7,665	\$2,940	\$34,762
Dalton State College	\$14,948	\$9,316	\$2,940	\$39,745
Atlanta Metropolitan State College		\$9,115	\$2,820	\$17,572
Georgia Highlands College		\$8,537	\$2,670	\$38,186

**Note:** Average 2017-2018 Pell Grant received by students attending public institutions in Georgia is \$4,025; for students in non-profit private institutions, \$4,460 (U.S. Department of Education); total price is the amount of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses that institutions report a student can expect to pay to go to college for an academic year.

Table Sources: Total price data from U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; HOPE Awards data from Georgia Student Finance Commission. When two prices are displayed, the first is for bachelor's, the second is for associate degree level.