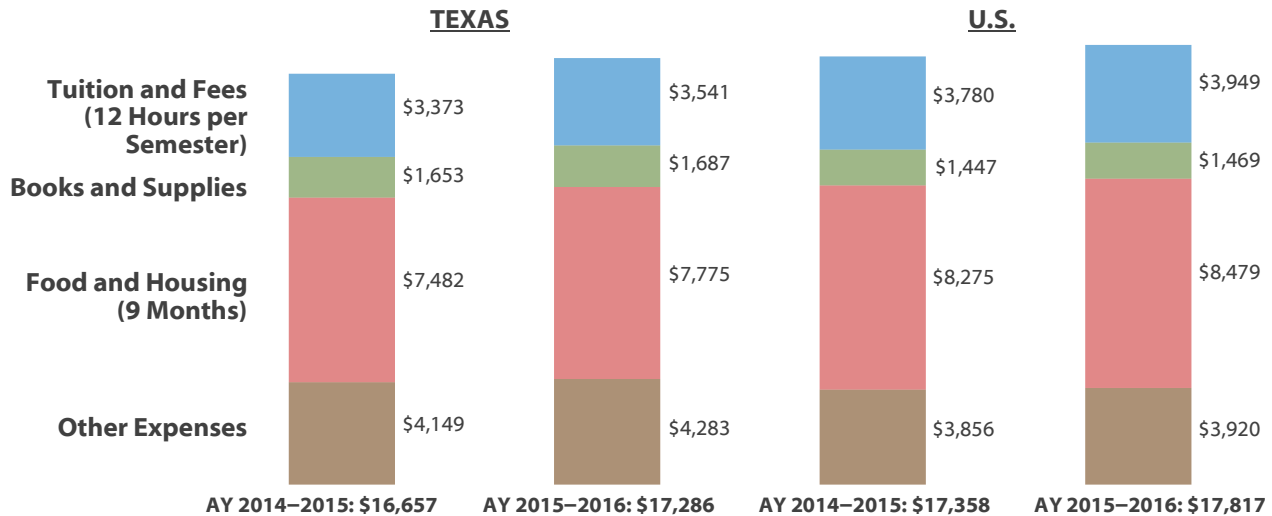


Texas Public Two-year Colleges Cost Less Than National Average

Weighted Average Public Two-year College Cost of Attendance for Two Semesters for Full-time Undergraduates Living Off Campus in Texas and the U.S. (AY 2014–2015 and AY 2015–2016)



Forty-three percent of Texas postsecondary students were enrolled in public two-year colleges in Award Year (AY) 2014–2015. The cost for two full-time* semesters at Texas public two-year colleges, weighted for enrollment,** averaged \$17,286 in AY 2015–2016. This is an increase of \$629 over the Texas average in AY 2014–2015 and is \$531 less than the AY 2015–2016 national average. Costs in all categories have increased in Texas and nationally since AY 2014–2015, with the largest increases occurring in the food and housing category in Texas and the nation.

The total cost of attendance for a student includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, and living expenses. The student’s financial need is calculated by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC)*** from the cost of attendance, which is the basis for determining the financial aid package. This package consists primarily of grants and loans. The actual amount that students pay for college depends upon factors such as how much and what type of aid they receive, how frugally they live, and the number of credit hours they take. To save money, students may enroll in school part time, work long hours, or both — but these strategies may increase their chance of dropping out of school without completing their program of study.

* 12 semester hours or more.

** An institution’s costs are multiplied by its enrollment. The sum of costs for all schools is then divided by full-time, undergraduate enrollment, such that schools with higher enrollments are given greater weight. See glossary for clarification.

*** EFC is determined through a federal formula that takes into account family income and size as well as the number of children in college, among other factors. The average amount that families actually contribute to educational expenses is unknown. In AY 2011–2012, 31 percent of dependent undergraduates enrolled in public two-year colleges nationwide reported that they received no help from their parents in paying tuition and fees.

Sources: All Costs and Enrollments for 2015–2016: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2015 (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>); All Costs and Enrollments for 2014–2015: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2014 (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>); All other: U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) 2012 (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/das>).

