

# The Cost of Going to College Continues to Rise Each Year

**Change in Costs for Students Living Off Campus: Dollar and Percentage Change  
(AY 2014–2015 to AY 2015–2016, Costs Weighted for Enrollment\*)**

Texas	Public Four-Year		Public Two-Year		Private Four-Year	
	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage
Tuition and Fees (12 Hours/Semester)	\$221	3%	\$168	5%	\$1,430	5%
Books and Supplies	\$24	2%	\$34	2%	-\$20	-2%
Food and Housing	\$214	2%	\$293	4%	\$327	4%
Other	\$6	0%	\$134	3%	\$251	8%
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>\$465</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$629</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$1,988</b>	<b>4%</b>

U.S.	Public Four-Year		Public Two-Year		Private Four-Year	
	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage
Tuition and Fees (12 Hours/Semester)	\$245	3%	\$169	4%	\$1,112	3%
Books and Supplies	-\$7	-1%	\$22	2%	-\$6	0%
Food and Housing	\$182	2%	\$204	2%	\$267	3%
Other	-\$24	-1%	\$64	2%	\$36	1%
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>\$396</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$459</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$1,409</b>	<b>3%</b>

Weighted for enrollment,\* the total cost of attendance in all sectors in Texas and nationally increased between two and four percent between Award Year (AY) 2014–2015 and AY 2015–2016. By percentage, Texas had roughly equivalent or larger increases in all sectors compared to the nation.

The cost of attendance is the starting point for determining financial aid. What students actually pay for college depends on a number of factors, including the aid they receive and how frugally they live, as well as their enrollment and work patterns. To cut costs, many students enroll part time, work long hours, or both. In AY 2011–2012, 62 percent of all undergraduates nationwide attended less than full time/full year — that is, they either took fewer than 12 hours per semester or did not attend at least two semesters — and 66 percent worked while enrolled (27 percent of which worked full time\*\*). Full-time work and part-time enrollment are associated with each other and also with lower completion rates: 79 percent of U.S. undergraduates who work full time while enrolled attend less than full time/full year, slowing their academic progress.

\* 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.

\*\* 35 or more hours per week; includes work-study/assistantship.

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>).

