TUITION AND FINANCES

On April 16, 2019, the Board of Regents approved a 2.5% tuition increase for all 26 of its institutions. This increase ranges from $35 per semester at state colleges to a maximum of $125 per semester at Georgia Institute of Technology. It is the first increase in three years and is projected to raise $41 million in additional revenue. Overall, the cost of attending USG institutions has increased by 5.8% in the last five years compared to 10.9% for the United States. For the 2019-2020 school year, tuition will range from $1,425 to $5,129 per semester.

Cost of Higher Education in the Southern Regional Education Board

When compared to all other states, Georgia appropriates the 12th highest percentage of its revenue for higher education according to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. Due to this commitment to higher education, USG ranks as one of the most affordable university systems in the region and the country. In addition to tuition and fee rates being lower relative to neighboring states, the Southern Regional Education Board’s most recent report says that during the 2015-16 school year Georgia provided financial aid to its students at almost four times the regional average and 10 times the national average.

Compared to Our Neighbors

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**Total Funds and Additional Efforts**

Although it is has been over a decade since the Great Recession, USG continues to feel the impact while striving to provide students with top-tier educational opportunities. Prior to Fiscal Year 2009, Georgia funded 66% of the costs of attendance for USG students through state appropriations; as of Fiscal Year 2019, the state covers about 49% of those same costs. Due to the decrease in state funds over time, the system has accrued nearly $1.2 billion in austerity cuts.

To compensate for the changes in revenue from the state, the Board of Regents has undertaken initiatives to streamline services for the state and students. Since 2012, the system consolidated from 35 institutions down to 26 institutions to create $30 million in savings that were redirected into the system to offset austerity. The system is also concluding a comprehensive administrative review of all its institutions in order to continue to identify efficiencies and to reduce costs while delivering the best education possible.

USG and the state are also executing other strategies to help students reduce what they spend out-of-pocket on higher education. Complete College Georgia began in 2011 as an effort between Georgia's higher education stakeholders to improve preparation and realize academic achievement within four years. Another tactic is Momentum Year, a plan to encourage students to take a full and targeted course schedule, which is increasing the number students with credentials while decreasing the time it takes and cost to achieve them. The Georgia Student Finance Commission is working to improve completion rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which allows students to apply for Pell Grants, which average $4,010 per award. When combined with HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarships, these resources improve college affordability.

### State's Share of Student Instruction Costs

![Graph showing the state's share of student instruction costs from 2009 to 2019. The share starts at 67% in 2009 and decreases to 49% in 2019.](data:image/png;base64,iVBORw0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAABAgAAABQCAYAAAAfS76AAAABGdBTUEAALGPC/xhBQAAAAA尔.jpg)

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