

Tennessee Board of Regents Summary of Affordability

Description:

The summary of affordability analyzes the factors that help determine the overall cost of attaining a higher education from a Tennessee Board of Regents institution. This summary begins by reviewing state appropriations for higher education and how this affects tuition for TBR universities and community colleges. The summary also reviews other resources the institutions have for generating revenue, such as private donations. Finally, the summary reviews pertinent financial aid data which indicates where students are receiving additional funding for higher education.

Definitions:

- SREB: The Southern Regional Education Board is comprised of sixteen states across the south and mid-atlantic region of the United States.

Findings:

- Revenue for higher education in the state of Tennessee has become increasingly reliant on tuition and fees. Since 2000, the amount of revenue derived from students has grown more than 100% while the amount of revenue from state appropriations has grown only 20%. Over the last two years, state appropriations only grew 0.1%, compared to a 6.6% average for SREB states.
- For universities, tuition has passed state appropriations as the main source of funding. State appropriations are still the main source of funding for community colleges, but the gap between the two sources is closing.
- Memphis is the only institution where annual tuition and mandatory fees is greater than six thousand dollars. No community college has an annual tuition and fees of more than three thousand dollars. Since 2000 tuition at both TBR universities and community colleges has almost doubled.
- Almost 90% of external dollars generated by universities are from the federal and state government. The institutions vary widely in the amount of external funding they receive. For the 2006-07 academic year Austin Peay received just under three million dollars while East Tennessee and Memphis both received over 43 million dollars.
- The largest amount (43%) of external funding is given for public service proposals. Middle Tennessee State University received the greatest amount of funds for public service activities in 2006-07. The University of Memphis received the greatest amount of funding for research, at almost 26 million dollars.
- The Tennessee Board of Regents Universities have been able to greatly increase the amount of external funding they receive. From 2000 to 2007, the amount of external funding received annually by the universities almost doubled. 2004 was the only year where the universities did not see a significant gain in external funds.
- In the 2007-08 academic year private gifts varied greatly by institution. For universities, the University of Memphis received almost 41 million dollars while Tennessee State did not reach 2 million dollars in private gifts. Walters State received the most donations for a community college with almost 6 million dollars worth of donations, more than three of the universities.
- Tennessee State University is the only university where at least 80% of students do not receive some type of financial aid. This is explained to some extent by the high out-of-state attendance rate.

- Community college students receive federal financial aid at a greater rate than university students, but the opposite is true for other types of financial aid. 76% of university students get state or local aid, but only 36% of community college students get this same type of aid. University students are also much more likely to use loans to finance their education.

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Sources:

- Tennessee Board of Regents
- Grapevine National Database of Tax Support for Higher Education