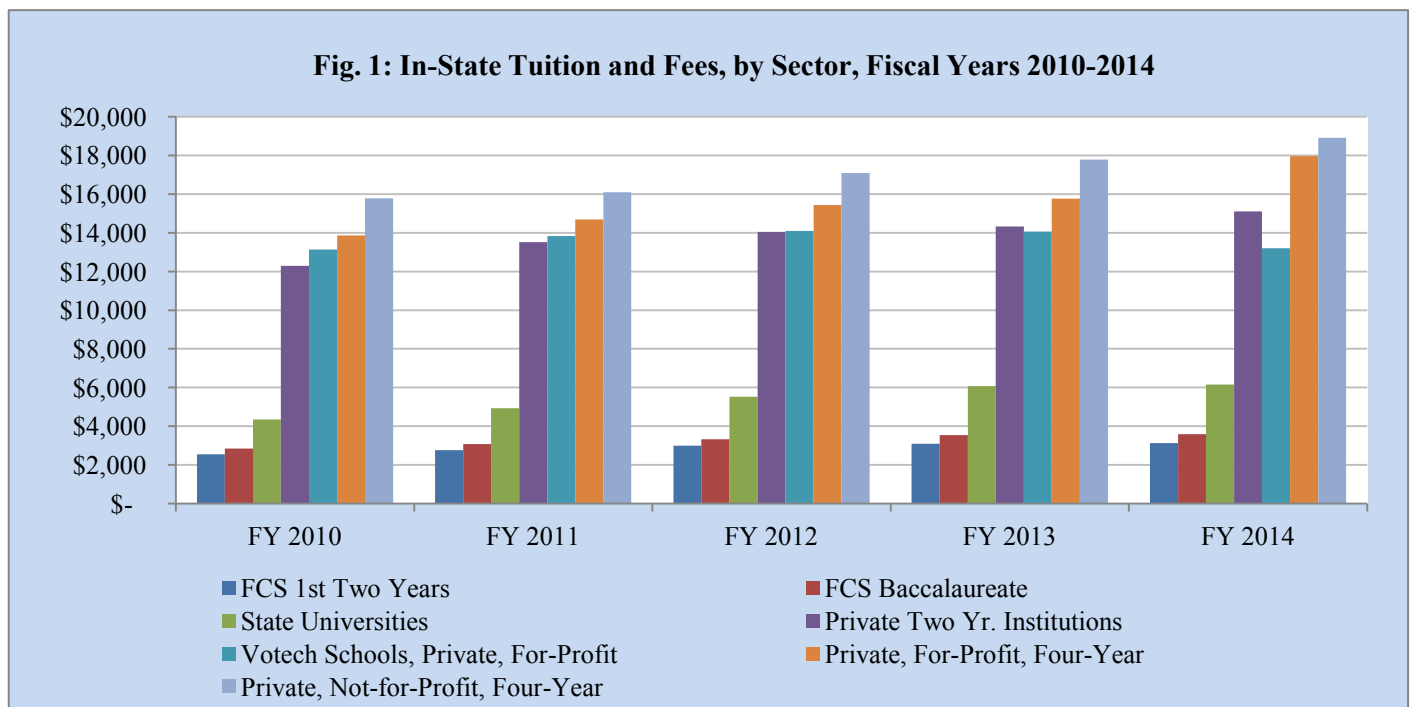


The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

What does it cost to attend a Florida College System credit program and how does that compare with other college options?

The Florida College System (FCS) provides a first-rate education that is the most affordable in the state and, in some cases, the nation. For the current year, the average tuition and required fees for full-time, in-state students enrolled in credit programs for the **first two years is \$3,124** (based on 30 credits). This is an increase of 1.1 percent (\$33) from the previous year and 22.4 percent (\$571) from 2010. Florida College System costs for upper-division instruction are also affordable at **\$3,585** (30 credits), which is a 6.4 percent (\$44) increase from last year and a 26 percent (\$704) increase since 2010.

Figure 1 shows the average tuition and fees for the FCS compared to other institution types available in Florida (2010-2014). **This chart illustrates that tuition and fees at FCS institutions are the lowest in the state.** Additional details for individual colleges and universities are included in report attachments. These figures represent what a student would be charged and may not be the same for all students at an institution. Students can receive federal, state, local or institutional grants, which reduce what they actually pay for college.



Public Institutions As shown in Table 1 on the following page, Florida College System institutions and public state universities provide relatively low-cost, higher education opportunities to Floridians. Average in-state tuition and fees for the first two years at a Florida College System institution are **about half** (50.8 percent) the average rate charged by state universities (\$6,155). For 2014, that's an **average annual savings of \$3,031** for a full-time student who starts at a Florida College System institution. Average in-state tuition and fees for upper-division, baccalaureate-level courses offered by Florida College System institutions are **58.2 percent (\$2,570 less for upper division)** of the average tuition and fee rates for state university undergraduate instruction. State university baccalaureate-level tuition and fees increased 1.6 percent (\$86) compared to last year and 41.5 percent (\$1,804) versus 2010. All FCS institutions offer the first two years of a baccalaureate degree. Upper-division majors are more limited in the FCS and concentrate on workforce fields. Many two-year and four-year public colleges and universities have experienced reduced state support, which contributes to increased tuition and fees.

The College Board's 2014 comparative data show that in-state tuition and fees for the **first two years at Florida College System institutions (\$3,124) rank 38th nationwide and \$140 less (4.3 percent) than the national average (\$3,264).** Regionally, FCS in-state tuition and fees are \$237 less (7.1 percent) than average tuition and fees at southern state public two-year colleges (\$3,361). Average tuition and fees for **upper-division coursework/baccalaureate degrees offered by Florida College System institutions (\$3,585) are the lowest in the country and less than one-half the cost (55.1 percent or \$4,392 less) of the southern state public four-year average (\$7,977).** Comparative figures

show that **Florida public university in-state tuition and fee rates (\$6,155) rank 8th lowest in the nation and provide a solid value** at \$1,822 (22.8 percent) less than the southern state average (\$7,977). (See [Trends in College Pricing](#).)

Private, Two-Year Institutions & Votech Schools Average tuition and fees for the first two years at a Florida College System institution are less than one-quarter of the average rate charged by private two-year institutions (\$15,107) and Votech schools (\$13,200). For the 2013-14 academic year, on average, it is approximately 4.5 times more expensive to attend a private two-year institution than a Florida College System institution. For 2014, that's an **average savings of \$11,000 per year** for full-time students who enroll at Florida College System institutions. Reporting among private institutions varies from one year to the next, making the analysis of statewide trend data problematic.

Table 1. Florida Colleges, Two-Year Private Schools, and State Public & Private University Undergraduate Average Full-Time Tuition & Fees (in-state, based on 30 credit hours) Fiscal Years 2010-2014					
	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>
Florida Colleges First Two Years	\$2,553	\$2,765	\$2,987	\$3,091	\$3,124
Florida Colleges Baccalaureate	\$2,845	\$3,083	\$3,328	\$3,541	\$3,585
State Universities	\$4,351	\$4,936	\$5,531	\$6,069	\$6,155
Private, Two-Year	\$12,287	\$13,519	\$14,054	\$14,333	\$15,107
Votech Schools	\$13,138	\$13,823	\$14,097	\$14,058	\$13,200
Private, For-Profit Four-Year	\$13,858	\$14,689	\$15,430	\$15,772	\$17,969
Private, Not-For-Profit Four-Year	\$15,790	\$16,104	\$17,091	\$17,779	\$18,905
<i>Tuition and fees for Florida private institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs are self-reported figures provided by the institutions.</i>					
<i>SOURCE OF DATA: Florida College System, State University System Board of Governors and Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance.</i>					

Private Four-Year Institutions Tuition and fees at Florida private, for-profit four-year institutions for the 2013-14 academic year averaged \$17,969. Not-for-profit four-year universities and college annual tuition and fees averaged over \$900 more at \$18,905 (2013-14). Tuition and fee rates at Florida private, not-for-profit institutions **compare favorably** with other southern state options in this sector. According to [Trends in College Pricing \(2013\)](#), the average tuition and fees for Florida private not-for-profit institutions are over one quarter lower (28.9 percent or \$7,385 less) than the southern state average for their counterparts (\$26,590). The College Board does not provide for-profit, four-year institution comparative data.

It is approximately 5.8 times more costly on average to attend a Florida private, for-profit four-year institution during 2013-14 than a Florida College System college for the first two years (\$3,124). Upper-division coursework is approximately 5.0 times more at private, for-profit four-year institutions than Florida Colleges (\$3,585). **For 2014, that's a potential average savings of about \$14,845 per year** for the first two years and **\$14,384 less each year for upper-division coursework** for full-time students who enroll in the Florida College System. The total savings in four years amounts to nearly \$60,000.

Similarly, 2013-14 not-for-profit four-year universities and college tuition and fees average 6.1 times higher than completing the first two years at a Florida College System institution. Upper-division coursework is approximately 5.2 times more at private, not-for-profit four-year institutions than Florida colleges. **Potential average savings for full-time students who choose to enroll in the Florida College System in 2014 are about \$15,781** for the first two years and **\$15,320 annually for the last two years**. The total savings in four years amounts to just over \$62,000.

Florida residents can substantially reduce the cost of higher education—tuition and fees—by enrolling in the Florida College System. Note that the figures provided here are published annual tuition and basic fees. Students who qualify may receive financial assistance or discounts to help narrow the net price of attendance. An institution's financial aid office can furnish additional details. To locate a college near you, please see the Florida College System [directory](#).