

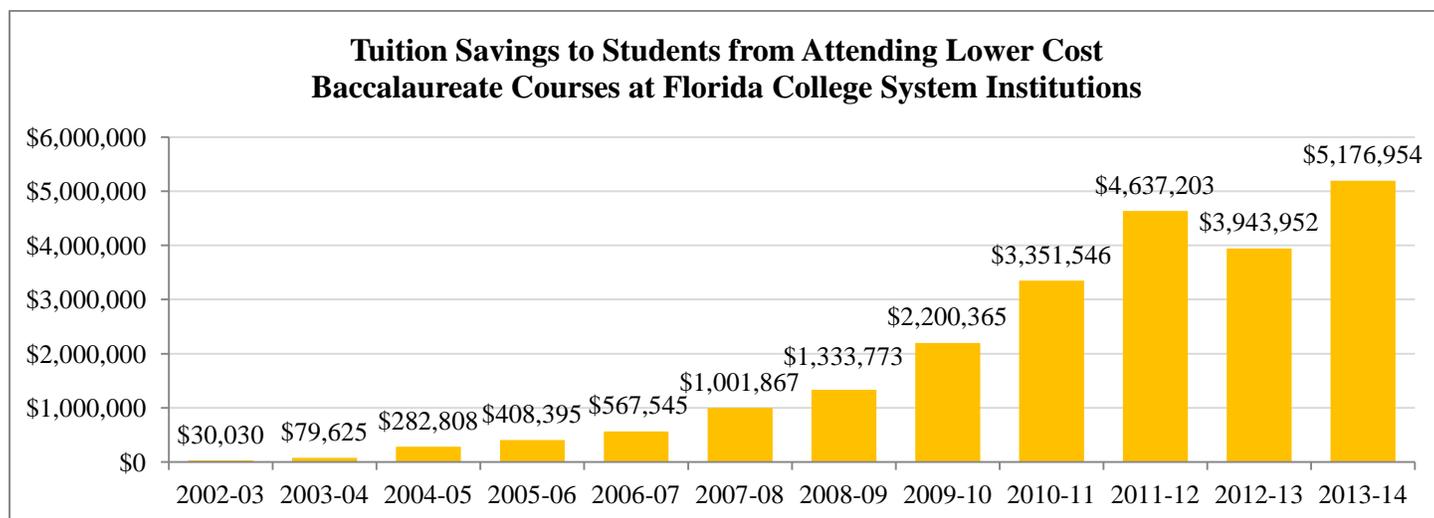
## The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

### Are there savings to both students and taxpayers when individuals participate in Florida College System baccalaureate-level coursework?

**Yes. Students and taxpayers enjoy substantial savings from Florida College System (FCS) baccalaureate programs compared to the same students being educated by other public in-state higher education options.** This statement is based on a focused look at tuition costs\cost avoidance. Generally the Florida College System and State University System of Florida baccalaureate programs serve different and complementary populations. The Florida College System primarily serves Florida residents. To deliver a straightforward comparison, calculations used in-state resident tuition rates. The process started with annual trend data on the number of junior- and senior-level credit hours taken in the Florida College System between 2002-03 and 2013-14. The 2013-14 data are early estimates. Then corresponding local Florida College System institutional tuition rates were multiplied by the number of upper-level credits taken at each college. Next, State University System of Florida statewide average tuition rates were multiplied by the number of upper level credits taken at each college. Finally, the difference between tuition costs in the Florida College System and the State University System of Florida was calculated by college and statewide to arrive at the savings\cost avoidance figures.

Both the Florida College System and State University System of Florida provide students with affordable options to earn quality baccalaureate degrees. Florida College System institutions are focused on instruction – learning and teaching – as well as public service. They offer selected workforce-oriented baccalaureate programs but do not have the same emphasis on research and graduate-level offerings delivered by State University System institutions. **Having baccalaureate degree programs available to students in the Florida College System as well as the State University System of Florida promotes economic development, provides a broader array of higher education options and strengthens both delivery systems.**

A dozen years have passed since St. Petersburg College offered the first Florida College System workforce baccalaureates in 2002-03. Today, a total of 24 Florida College System institutions are approved to deliver 175 baccalaureate programs, providing students with high-quality, low-cost workforce options. **Over the past 12 years, Florida College System baccalaureate students saved an estimated \$23 million in reduced tuition costs compared to students enrolled at State University System institutions, based on the SUS system average tuition rate.** Tuition savings\cost avoidance has picked up in recent years as additional colleges are addressing emerging community workforce needs by delivering needed baccalaureate instruction. **In 2013-14 alone, early estimate data show that nearly \$5.2 million will be saved.** Student tuition savings would register several times greater if non-public institutional averages were used as the point of comparison. Since many FCS students have established close ties to their communities, they frequently live at home, which can produce additional savings for the student.



Estimates indicate that tuition covers approximately one-half of the total investment that is made to support public higher education. Hence, the savings to taxpayers is similar to the savings that were calculated for students. **Taxpayers saved an additional estimated \$23 million by supporting FCS baccalaureate programs versus SUS average tuition rates.** The Florida College System offers a variety of workforce [baccalaureate programs](#). To find which programs are available near you, please visit the [Florida College Directory](#).