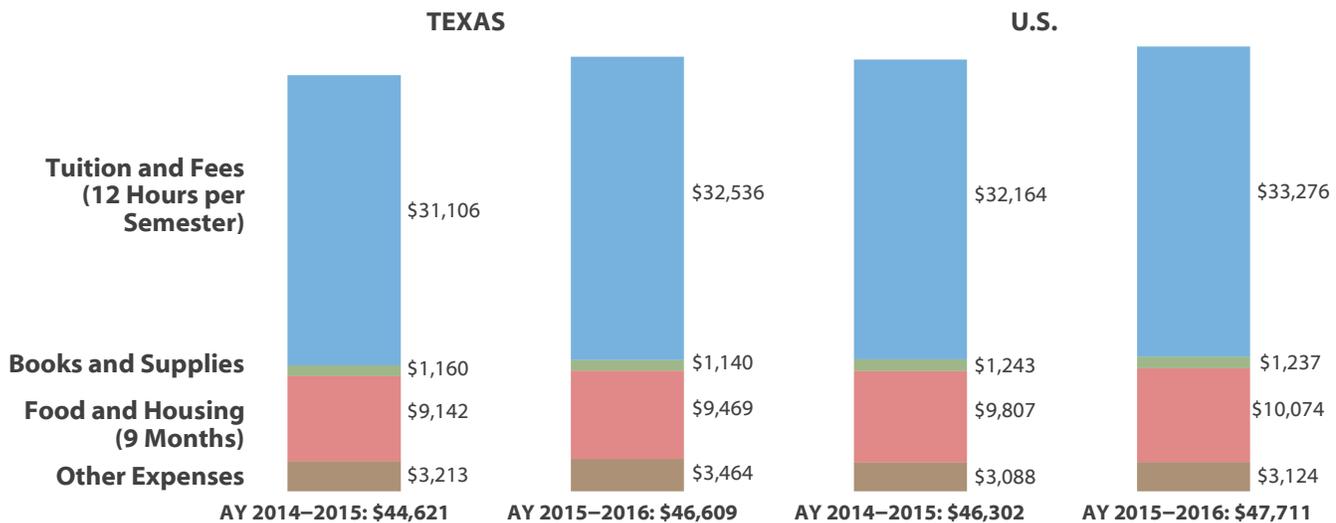


Costs at Texas Private Four-year Universities Still Less Than National Average

Weighted Average Private Four-year University Cost of Attendance for Two Semesters for Full-time Undergraduates Living Off Campus in Texas and the U.S. (AY 2014–2015 and AY 2015–2016)



The increase from Award Year (AY) 2014–2015 to AY 2015–2016 of the average cost of attendance at private four-year universities in Texas, at \$1,988, was due almost entirely to an average \$1,430 increase in tuition and fees. Weighted for enrollment,* the total cost of attendance for undergraduates at Texas private four-year universities for two full-time** semesters averaged \$46,609 in AY 2015–2016. This is lower than the national cost of attendance for the same year, at \$47,711. The difference is mainly because tuition and fees in Texas are \$740 lower than the national average and food and housing costs in Texas are \$605 lower than the national average. Approximately nine percent of students in higher education in Texas in AY 2014–2015 enrolled in private four-year universities, versus 43 percent who enrolled in public four-year universities.

As with public institutions, students who enroll in private four-year universities may receive an aid package, which primarily consists of grants and loans. A student’s need is calculated by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC)*** from the cost of attendance in order to determine what kind of financial aid package they should receive. The total cost of attendance includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, and living expenses. To save money, students may choose to enroll in school part time, work long hours, or both — but these strategies may increase their chance of dropping out of school without a degree.

* 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.

** 12 semester hours or more.

*** EFC is determined through a federal formula that takes into account family income and size as well as the number of children in college, among other factors. The average amount that families actually contribute to educational expenses is unknown. In AY 2011–2012, 15 percent of dependent undergraduates enrolled at private four-year universities nationwide reported that they received no help from their parents in paying tuition and fees.

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>).

