Issues in Higher Education in South Carolina

4-Year Public Institutions

SOUTH CAROLINA
Commission on Higher Education
South Carolina’s institutions of higher education have recently come under scrutiny for key issues, including high tuition rates, declining African-American enrollment, and an outsized percentage out-of-state students receiving tuition discounts. These issues are symptoms of a larger, underlying cause—the universities’ budgets and the current funding model. With future trends for increased competition for a dwindling pool of 4-year college applicants, these issues will worsen.
### Current Higher Education Issues in South Carolina

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excessive Tuition Rates</strong></td>
<td>Average in-state tuition rates at 4-year colleges have escalated <strong>266% over inflation</strong> since 1987 to $11,954.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rapid Out-of-State Enrollment Growth</strong></td>
<td>Out-of-state student enrollments have grown <strong>126%</strong> since 1993, while in-state students only grew <strong>19%</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shifting African-American Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>African-American student enrollment has shifted from Research Universities to Comprehensive Universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increasing Abatements to Out-of-State Students</strong></td>
<td>During rapid enrollment expansion, the number and amount of tuition abatements to out-of-state students has grown to over <strong>$146M</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since 1987, in-state tuition at 4-year public colleges has more than tripled, even after adjusting for inflation, from $3,265 to $11,954. Tuition rates do not include room and board, another $8,455 on average. Faster growth occurred among comprehensive colleges, which grew at 278%, while research universities increased 223%.
Since 1987, out-of-state tuition at 4-year public colleges has tripled, even after adjusting for inflation, from $6,526 to $26,299. Faster growth occurred among comprehensive colleges, which grew at 312%, while research universities increased 274%. These figures do not include abatements.
Among southeastern states, South Carolina has the second highest (behind only Virginia) average tuition rates among 4-year public colleges. South Carolina’s average rate is $4,042 higher than North Carolina’s average and $5,230 higher than Georgia’s.

Rapid Out-of-State Growth

126%

Increase in out-of-state undergraduates, from 13,053 in Fall 1993 to 29,436 in Fall 2016.

19%

Increase in in-state undergraduates, from 52,434 in Fall 1993 to 62,500 in Fall 2016.

SOUTH CAROLINA
Commission on Higher Education
Lopsided Enrollments 1993 – 2016

Despite rampant undergraduate growth due to out-of-state students, total student growth has not kept pace with state population or SC high school graduates due to declines in graduate students and lackluster in-state growth.
Recent In-State Research 4-Year Enrollment Flat

Since Fall 2013, the number of in-state students at 4-year research institutions has remained flat, driven by enrollment declines of 6.2% at USC, or 990 students. During the same time, the number of out-of-state students grew 23.9%, or 3,081 students.
Recent Flattening of Comprehensive 4-Year Enrollments

4-Year Comprehensive Undergraduate Enrollments, 2011 - 2016

Since Fall 2011, the number of in-state students at 4-year research institutions has flattened. Meanwhile, 6 of the 10 comprehensives have experience out-of-state student declines.
Graduates Working In SC

Number of students graduating from South Carolina Institutions in 2009-10 with South Carolina wage records after 1 year and 5 years.

Notes: Includes all students from certificates to doctorates. Employment records do not include federal employment, military service, self-employment, or independent contractors.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Type</th>
<th>1-Year In-State Employment</th>
<th>1-Year Out-of-State Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Institutions</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Institutions</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year Regionals</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out-of-state students at Research Institutions with SC employment records 5 years after graduation, versus 58.5% of in-state students.

Out-of-state students at Comprehensive Institutions with SC employment records 5 years after graduation, versus 60.5% of in-state students.

Out-of-state students at 2-Year Regional Institutions with SC employment records 5 years after graduation, versus 67.2% of in-state students.
Shifting African-American Enrollment

Between fall of 1997 and 2016, African-American undergraduate enrollments have undergone a gradual shift from research to comprehensive universities.

African-Americans have declined as a share of undergraduate enrollment. Of the 15,617 additional undergrads since 1997, only 109 are African-Americans.

Research Universities
African-Americans have increased in total number as well as in percentage of total undergraduates. Of the 11,141 new undergrads, 40% of them were African-American.

Comprehensive Universities
African-American students have increased in total number as well as in percentage of total undergraduates. Of the 11,141 new undergrads, 40% of them were African-American.

### Total Number of Abatements Granted (Full and Partial) 2014-5 to 2016-17*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17*</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>2,769</td>
<td>8,604</td>
<td></td>
<td>614%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Columbia</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Citadel</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina University</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Charleston</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
<td>-14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Marion University</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>387</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lander University</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>317</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC State University</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Aiken</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Beaufort</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>317</td>
<td></td>
<td>-6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Upstate</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winthrop University</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: 2016-17 figures are preliminary and not fully reported. No 2016-17 data exists for Coastal Carolina or Lander University.

### Increasing Number of Abatements to Out-of-State Students

Amid increasing competition for out-of-state students and rapidly increasing advertised tuition rates, the number of abatements granted by institution has increased year-over-year at most institutions. In 2016-17, over 14,000* abatements have been given to out-of-state students.

Increasing Amounts of Abatements to Out-of-State Students

Amid increasing competition for out-of-state students and rapidly increasing advertised tuition rates, the number of abatements granted by institution has increased year-over-year at most institutions. In 2016-17 over $146M was granted in abatements, with $94M attributed to USC – Columbia.
These issues are symptoms of a larger, underlying cause...

Unsustainable Expenditures

Excessive Expenditure Growth

Expenditures have grown 173% since 1993, a rate that is 1.5 times greater than student body plus inflation growth.
Expenditures outpaced population plus inflation by 182%

Total Growth, 1994 – 2015

- Student Growth + HEPI: 115%
- Expenditures: 173%
- State Funding: 43%
- Net Tuition: 402%

Growth of total student enrollments was 23%, while CPI inflation grew 62% and HEPI grew at 92%.

Growth in university expenditures has grown 173% since 1994, outpacing both student growth and HEPI inflation.

State funding, including both appropriations and lottery scholarship funding, has not kept pace with inflation or student growth.

Revenue from tuition (net of federal and state scholarships and abatements). In other words, what students paid out-of-pocket.

Components of Tuition
Between 1994 and 2015, expenditures grew 173% while state funding grew only 43%. If expenditures had continued to grow at the rate of students plus HEPI inflation, there would still be a gap of $499M. If state funding had continued to grow at the rate of in-state students plus HEPI inflation, $208M more would have been appropriated in 2015, which is 239% less than the excess expenditures. Finally, if tuition had also grown at population plus HEPI inflation, students would collectively pay $590M less. In-state tuition would be $7,157 in 2017.
Expanding Expenditure Gap

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The result is an unsustainable financial model.
Unsustainability and the Laws of Supply & Demand

With a **dwindling pool of potential undergraduate students**, the laws of supply and demand will require even **further abatements** and scholarships and tuition discounts to attract students away from other schools. The **result, ultimately, will be declining revenue**.

“Something that can’t go on forever, won’t.”

– Herbert Stein
SOUTH CAROLINA Commission on Higher Education

Expenditures start to increase each year as tuition rates begin their rise at a faster rate than inflation.

High Growth 1994-2002
Expenditures start to increase each year as tuition rates begin their rise at a faster rate than inflation.

Rapid Expansion 2002-2012
Lottery funding, extensive increases in tuition rates, and enormous additions of out-of-state students fuel rapid expenditure expansion.

Momentum Expansion 2012+
Continued need to pay for expanded infrastructure drives larger shift toward out-of-state tuition revenues as college attendance rates begin to decline.

3 Phases of Growth

**High Growth 1987-2002**
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Undergraduate Enrollment Growth Phases

**High Growth 1994-2002**
Undergraduate enrollment increases 4% over this period, with a 31% increase in out-of-state and a 3% decrease in SC students.

**Rapid Expansion 2002-2012**
As lottery funds flow into the system, in-state students increase by another 19%. Out-of-state students continue their outpaced expansion, increasing 48% more.

**Momentum Expansion 2012+**
A slow down in in-state student enrollments is offset by a more rapid increase in out-of-state student enrollments, facilitated by increasing abatements.

Net Tuition Growth Phases

Net tuition revenues can be dissected into three components: 1.) the amount from adding more students; 2.) the amount due to raising tuition rates; and 3.) the amount due to increasing the percentage of out-of-state students.

**High Growth**
1994-2002
Net tuition revenues increase relatively equal to inflation.

**Rapid Expansion**
2002-2012
As lottery funds flow into the system, tuition rates skyrocket and out-of-state students grow as a percentage of undergraduates.

**Momentum Expansion**
2012+
As abatements increase to attract out-of-state students in a declining market, more out-of-state students are added to maintain revenue growth.

Future higher education trends will further pressure the system.

Shrinking Applicant Pool
Combined with declining state and national Higher Ed enrollments, the projected decreasing number of high school graduates will further shrink the pool.

Increasing Costs, Declining Returns
Student debt levels are at all time highs, while the financial returns to a 4-year degree have been diminishing.

Increased Search for Affordable Alternative Opportunities
As costs at 4-year colleges soar and the nation faces a skilled worker shortage, government searches for less costly, practical alternatives.
Declining Applicant Pool

Higher Ed Enrollments Down Overall, Leveling at 4-Year Institutions

Across the US, overall Higher Ed enrollments have been declining since 2011, largely driven by drops in 2-year and for-profit students. At the same time, enrollment changes in 4-year public and private non-profits have been hovering between -0.6% and 1%, the lowest level in recent history. South Carolina’s in-state enrollments at 4-year public universities have been leveling off since 2013.

High School Student Growth Stagnating Nationally

Until 2022, the number of US high school graduates is expected to show virtually zero growth, pressuring the supply of out-of-state students. In SC, growth is projected to be only 2.8% over the entire period, significantly lower than the preceding period. Both the state and nation expect large declines beginning in 2026.
Declining Applicant Pool

Outside of the South, the 5 top feeder states (making up roughly 1/3 of out-of-state students at S.C. colleges in 2016) are expecting declining or stagnant high school graduates.


Maryland

Students 4-Year Colleges Fall 2016

2542

New Jersey

Students 4-Year Colleges Fall 2016

2480

New York

Students 4-Year Colleges Fall 2016

1735

Pennsylvania

Students 4-Year Colleges Fall 2016

1827

Massachusetts

Students 4-Year Colleges Fall 2016

1380
Increasing Costs, Declining Returns

Falling Return on Investment
After rising significantly during the 1980’s and 1990’s to $32,900, the earnings premium for a 4-year college degree had fallen by 2015 to $29,867.

Rising Student Debt
In 2014, 59% of South Carolina 4-year graduates left school with an average of $29,163 in student debt, ranking 14th in the nation. In 2001, that figure was $13,531 for 49% of the state’s 4-year graduates.

“The mid-1970s, far less than 1 percent of taxi drivers were graduates. By 2010 more than 15 percent were.”

The Diminishing Returns of a College Degree – June 4, 2017
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Annual Average Additional Amount Earned by a 4-Year College Graduate Than a High-School Graduate (Inflation-adjusted 2015 US$)

Average Student Debt of 4-Year College Graduates in South Carolina

As the cost of college soars amidst declining returns to degrees, multiple alternative career and education paths are being proposed and implemented throughout the nation.

Apprenticeships
In June, the President signed an executive order increasing apprenticeships in the US. Apprenticeship Carolina has over 14,475 active positions.

Online Education
Colleges, schools, and other organizations are increasingly offering online education for credit at an exceptionally reduced cost.

Free Education
New York recently announced free tuition at CUNY and SUNY schools for families making less than $125,000.

Community Colleges
With a shortage of skilled labor across industries, a national effort has arisen to develop tradespeople through 2-year education.
Three future growth scenarios.

**BLUE SKIES**

All values (expenses, in and out-of-state enrollments, tuition, lottery scholarships, and abatements) continue their 10-year growth trend. In-state graduate students stop their decline and flatten. State Appropriations grow at the value of CPI (inflation).

**GREY CLOUDS**

Expenditures and lottery scholarships continue their 10-year growth trend. State appropriations grow at CPI (inflation). Increasing price competition from other colleges, combined with declining nationwide enrollments, slow tuition increases to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). Out-of-state enrollment flattens. In-state enrollments across all 4-years follow their more recent 5-year trend of slowing enrollments. Net tuition grows at HEPI plus student growth.

**DARK STORMS**

Expenditures continue their 10-year growth trend. Lottery scholarships slow to CPI plus student growth. State appropriations are flat. Under increasing price competition from other colleges, combined with declining nationwide enrollments, out-of-state enrollment declines, and tuition increases flatten. In-state enrollments across all 4-years follow their more recent 5-year trend of slowing enrollments. Net tuition grows at CPI plus student growth.
Growth Scenarios: BLUE SKIES

**FINANCIALS**

All values (expenses, in and out-of-state enrollments, tuition, lottery scholarships, and abatements) continue their **10-year growth trend**. State Appropriations grow at the value of **CPI (inflation)**.

### RESEARCH (MILLIONS OF US$)

- **Expenditures**: $2,017M (+$527M)
- **State Appropriations**: $1,059M (+$414M)
- **Net Tuition**: $275M (+$51M)

**Budget Gap: +$9M (+2%)**

### COMPREHENSIVE (MILLIONS OF US$)

- **Expenditures**: $1,187M (+$331M)
- **State Appropriations**: $147M (+$28M)
- **Net Tuition**: $620M (+$227M)

**Budget Gap: +$48M (+18%)**

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*Notes: Budget Gap is the difference between total expenses and revenues from net tuition, state appropriations, and lottery scholarships that must be filled with federal grants, other grants, sales and services. Sources: University of South Carolina System Abatement 10-Year Report, 2007-08 to 2016-17. FY2016 Abatement Dataset, provided by University of South Carolina. South Carolina Higher Education Statistical Abstracts, 1987-2016. Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), Commonfund Institute, 2016.*
Growth Scenarios: **BLUE SKIES**

**ENROLLMENTS**

All values (expenses, in and out-of-state enrollments, tuition, lottery scholarships, and abatements) continue their **10-year growth trend**. State Appropriations grow at the value of **CPI (inflation)**.

### RESEARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>In-State Graduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projected Values, 2026</strong></td>
<td>31,962 (+4,668)</td>
<td>23,257 (+8,389)</td>
<td>43% Out-of-State as % of All Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMPREHENSIVE

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projected Values, 2026</strong></td>
<td>37,628 (+3,205)</td>
<td>14,138 (+1,461)</td>
<td>27% Out-of-State as % of All Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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Growth Scenarios: BLUE SKIES

TUITION

All values (expenses, in and out-of-state enrollments, tuition, lottery scholarships, and abatements) continue their 10-year growth trend. State Appropriations grow at the value of CPI (inflation).

**RESEARCH**

- In-State Tuition: $16,871 (+$4,569)
- Out-of-State Tuition: $43,414 (+$12,965)

**COMPREHENSIVE**

- In-State Tuition: $14,564 (+$4,054)
- Out-of-State Tuition: $31,503 (+$8,838)

Growth Scenarios: GREY CLOUDS

FINANCIALS

Expenditures and lottery scholarships continue their 10-year trend. State appropriations grow at inflation. Competition from other colleges, plus declining nationwide enrollments, slow tuition increases to the rate of HEPI. Out-of-state enrollment flattens. In-state enrollments grow at more recent 5-year trend.

RESEARCH (MILLIONS OF US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>State Appropriations</th>
<th>Net Tuition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$2,017M (+$527M)</td>
<td>$275M (+$51M)</td>
<td>$923M (+$278M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPREHENSIVE (MILLIONS OF US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$1,187M (+$331M)</td>
<td>$147M (+$28M)</td>
<td>$536M (+$143M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growth Scenarios: GREY CLOUDS

ENROLLMENTS
Expenditures and lottery scholarships continue their 10-year trend. State appropriations grow at inflation. Competition from other colleges, plus declining nationwide enrollments, slow tuition increases to the rate of HEPI. Out-of-state enrollment flattens. In-state enrollments grow at more recent 5-year trend.

RESEARCH
In-State Undergraduates (+9%)
Out-of-State Undergraduates (+11%)
In-State Graduates (+1%)
Out-of-State Graduates (+29%)

COMPREHENSIVE
In-State Undergraduates (+3%)
Out-of-State Undergraduates (+3%)
In-State Graduates (+3%)
Out-of-State Graduates (+7%)

Projected Values, 2026

29,718 (+2,460)
In-State Undergraduates

17,687 (+2,819)
Out-of-State Undergraduates

40%
Out-of-State as % of All Students

36,155 (+1,731)
In-State Undergraduates

12,994 (+317)
Out-of-State Undergraduates

27%
Out-of-State as % of All Students

Growth Scenarios: **GREY CLOUDS**

**TUITION**

Expenditures and lottery scholarships continue their **10-year trend**. State appropriations grow at **inflation**. Competition from other colleges, plus declining nationwide enrollments, slow tuition increases to the rate of **HEPI**. Out-of-state enrollment **flattens**. In-state enrollments grow at more recent **5-year trend**.

**RESEARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In-State Tuition ($)</th>
<th>Out-of-State Tuition ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected Values, 2026

$16,558 (+$4,256)

**In-State Tuition**

$41,752 (+$11,301)

**Out-of-State Tuition**

**COMPREHENSIVE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</table>

Projected Values, 2026

$14,299 (+$3,778)

**In-State Tuition**

$30,394 (+$7,729)

**Out-of-State Tuition**

*Notes: Budget Gap is the difference between total expenses and revenues from net tuition, state appropriations, and lottery scholarships that must be filled with federal grants, other grants, sales and services. Sources: University of South Carolina System Abatement 10-Year Report, 2007-08 to 2016-17; FY2016 Abatement Dataset, provided by University of South Carolina. South Carolina Higher Education Statistical Abstracts, 1987-2016. Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), Commonfund Institute, 2016.*
Growth Scenarios: DARK STORMS

FINANCIALS
Expenditures continue their 10-year trend. Lottery scholarships slow to CPI plus student growth. State appropriations are flat. Price competition from other colleges, combined with declining nationwide enrollments, cause out-of-state enrollment declines, in-state enrollment leveling, and tuition rate slowing.

RESEARCH (MILLIONS OF US$)

$2,017M (+$527M)
Expenditures
$224M (+$0M)
State Appropriations
$832M (+$187M)
Net Tuition

Projected Values, 2026

COMPREHENSIVE (MILLIONS OF US$)

$1,187M (+$331M)
Expenditures
$120M (+$0M)
State Appropriations
$487M (+$94M)
Net Tuition

Projected Values, 2026

Growth Scenarios: DARK STORMS

ENROLLMENTS

Expenditures continue their 10-year trend. Lottery scholarships slow to CPI plus student growth. State appropriations are flat. Price competition from other colleges, combined with declining nationwide enrollments, cause out-of-state enrollment declines, in-state enrollment leveling, and tuition rate slowing.

RESEARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>In-State Graduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>29,718 (+2,460)</td>
<td>15,873 (-1,057)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPREHENSIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>In-State Graduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>36,155 (+1,731)</td>
<td>11,854 (-823)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected Values, 2026

-6% Out-of-state

Growth Scenarios: DARK STORMS

TUITION

Expenditures continue their 10-year trend. Lottery scholarships slow to CPI plus student growth. State appropriations are flat. Price competition from other colleges, combined with declining nationwide enrollments, cause out-of-state enrollment declines, in-state enrollment leveling, and tuition rate slowing.

RESEARCH

In-State Tuition (+15%)
Out-of-State Tuition (+16%)

Projected Values, 2026

$14,546 (+$2,244)
In-State Tuition

$36,679 (+$6,228)
Out-of-State Tuition

COMPREHENSIVE

In-State Tuition (+16%)
Out-of-State Tuition (+15%)

Projected Values, 2026

$12,562 (+$2,051)
In-State Tuition

$26,701 (+$4,036)
Out-of-State Tuition

Refocusing the Mission of Higher Education in South Carolina

A market that is regulated and subsidized by government, to the degree higher education is, cannot be operated as a free-market business. Instead of focusing on maximizing tuition revenues, we should realign higher education institutions with the statewide mission to provide our citizens with the highest quality education for the lowest possible cost to prepare them for the workforce of the future.

The state needs a discussion to give the institutions guidance and determine a sustainable path ahead.
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  Columbia, SC 29201
T (803) 737-2260, F (803) 737-2297
che.sc.gov

Mission
SC CHE is committed to promoting quality, efficiency, and affordability in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly.