Issues in Higher Education in South Carolina
South Carolina’s institutions of higher education have recently come under scrutiny for a number of key issues, including high tuition rates, declining African-American enrollment, and an outsized percentage of 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

1. Excessive Tuition Rates
   Average in-state tuition rates at 4-year colleges have escalated 266% over inflation since 1987 to $11,954.

2. Rapid Out-of-State Enrollment Growth
   Out-of-state student enrollments have grown 126% since 1993, while in-state students only grew 19%.

3. Shifting African-American Enrollment
   African-American student enrollment has shifted from Research Universities to Comprehensive Universities.

4. Increasing Abatements to Out-of-State Students
   During rapid enrollment expansion, the number and amount of tuition abatements to out-of-state students has grown to over $146M.
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.
Increase in out-of-state undergraduates, from 13,053 in Fall 1993 to 29,436 in Fall 2016.

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

Rapid Out-of-State Growth

126% 19%

Comprehensive

1993-94 2016-17

Out-of-State In-State

6,431 30,288

12,542 35,393

Research

1993-94 2016-17

Out-of-State In-State

6,622 22,146

16,894 27,261

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 S.C. high school graduates due to declines in graduate students and lackluster in-state growth.
Recent In-State Research 4-Year Enrollment Flat

4-Year Research Undergraduate Enrollments, 2013 - 2016

**In-State**
-37
(-0.1%)

**Out-of-State**
+3,081
(+23.9%)

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

Since Fall 2011, the number of in-state students at 4-year research institutions has flattened. Meanwhile, 6 of the 10 comprehensives have experienced 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

- **Research Institutions**
  - 1-year: 74.3% In-State, 16.6% Out-of-State
  - 5-year: 58.5% In-State, 31.4% Out-of-State

- **Comprehensive Institutions**
  - 1-year: 79.1% In-State, 42.3% Out-of-State
  - 5-year: 60.5% In-State, 21.0% Out-of-State

- **2-Year Regionals**
  - 1-year: 75.9% In-State, 36.8% Out-of-State
  - 5-year: 67.2% In-State, 26.3% Out-of-State

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

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

Out-of-state students at **2-Year Regionals** with S.C. employment records 5 years after graduation, versus 67.2% of in-state students.

**Notes:** Includes all students from certificates to doctorates. Employment records do not include federal employment, military service, self-employment, or independent contractors. Source: In-State Employment Outcomes for South Carolina College Graduates. 2017. SC Commission on Higher Education and SC Department of Employment and Workforce.
Shifting African-American Enrollment

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

Research Universities
African-Americans have declined as a share of undergraduate enrollment.

Of the 15,617 additional undergrads since 1997, only 109 are African-Americans.

African-American Enrollment Increase
+109

Total Undergraduate Enrollment Increase
+15,617

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.

African-American Enrollment Increase
+4,431

Total Undergraduate Enrollment Increase
+11,141


African-Americans as a Percent of Total Undergraduate Enrollment
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

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

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

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

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

Components of Tuition

- State Grants (Lottery Scholarships)
- Other Federal Grants
- Pell Grants
- Institutional Grants (Scholarships)
- Net Student Tuition

Total Tuition

Expanding Expenditure Gap

Between 1994 and 2015, expenditures grew 173% while state funding grew only 43%.

Expenditures vs. Tuition Revenues and State Appropriations, 1994–2015

Expanding Expenditure Gap

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 an excess of $499M.

Expenditures vs. Tuition Revenues and State Appropriations, 1994–2015

Expanding Expenditure Gap

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 an excess 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 ($291 million) than the excess expenditures.

Expanding Expenditure Gap

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 an excess 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.

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
3 Phases of Growth

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.

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Continued need to pay for expanded infrastructure and other inflationary increases drives larger shift toward out-of-state tuition revenues as college attendance rates begin to decline.

SOUTH CAROLINA Commission on Higher Education

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 S.C. 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.

Tuition Revenues, Net of Abatements and Scholarships (Real 2016 US$)

- **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 U.S., 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 U.S. high school graduates is expected to show virtually zero growth, pressuring the supply of out-of-state students. In S.C., 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 In-State Applicant Pool

Demographics and demand threaten the supply of in-state students.

In-State Enrollment Growth

Declining applicant pool
South Carolina High School Graduate Growth

Declining demand

Annual percentage of South Carolina high school graduates attending a South Carolina higher education institution

(Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education)
Declining Out-of-State Applicants

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

2542
Students
4-Year Colleges
Fall 2016

Massachusetts

1380
Students
4-Year Colleges
Fall 2016

New York

1735
Students
4-Year Colleges
Fall 2016

New Jersey

2480
Students
4-Year Colleges
Fall 2016

Pennsylvania

1827
Students
4-Year Colleges
Fall 2016
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.

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

Sources:
- Institute for College Access and Success. Project on Student Debt, 2015

The Diminishing Returns of a College Degree – June 4, 2017
The Wall Street Journal
Increasing Search For Affordable Alternatives

As the cost of college soars amidst declining returns on 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 U.S. 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.
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**

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**: $275M (+$51M)
- **Net Tuition**: $1,059M (+$414M)

**COMPREHENSIVE (MILLIONS OF US$)**

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

*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**

- In-State Undergraduates (+17%)
- Out-of-State Undergraduates (+46%)
- In-State Graduates (+1%)
- Out-of-State Graduates (+29%)

**Comprehensive**

- In-State Undergraduates (+7%)
- Out-of-State Undergraduates (+12%)
- In-State Graduates (+7%)
- Out-of-State Graduates (+7%)

*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**

**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)**.

![Graphs showing Projected Values, 2026 for Research and Comprehensive categories.](image)

**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)

*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: 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$)

- Net Tuition (+38%)
- State Grants (Lottery Scholarships) (+38%)
- State Appropriations (+21%)
- Expenditures (+36%)

**COMPREHENSIVE** (MILLIONS OF US$)

- Net Tuition (+33%)
- State Grants (Lottery Scholarships) (+26%)
- State Appropriations (+21%)
- Expenditures (+32%)

**BUDGET GAP**

- **GREY CLOUDS**
  - +$145M (+29%)
- **COMPREHENSIVE**
  - +$132M (+36%)

**Projected Values, 2026**

- **Expenditures**
  - **RESEARCH**: $2,017M (+$527M)
  - **COMPREHENSIVE**: $1,187M (+$331M)
- **State Appropriations**
  - **RESEARCH**: $275M (+$51M)
  - **COMPREHENSIVE**: $147M (+$28M)
- **Net Tuition**
  - **RESEARCH**: $923M (+$278M)
  - **COMPREHENSIVE**: $536M (+$143M)

*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: GREY CLOUDS

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.

**ENROLLMENTS**

**RESEARCH**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>In-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>Out-of-State Undergraduates</th>
<th>In-State Graduates</th>
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<td>300,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>29,718 (+2,460)</td>
<td>17,687 (+2,819)</td>
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**COMPREHENSIVE**

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<td>2018</td>
<td>36,155 (+1,731)</td>
<td>12,994 (+317)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Projected Values, 2026

- **In-State Undergraduates**: 29,718 (+2,460)
- **Out-of-State Undergraduates**: 17,687 (+2,819)
- **Out-of-State as % of All Students**: 40%
- **In-State Graduates**: 36,155 (+1,731)
- **Out-of-State Graduates**: 12,994 (+317)
- **Out-of-State as % of All Students**: 27%

*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: 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

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Projected Values, 2026

- In-State Tuition: $16,558 (+4,256)
- Out-of-State Tuition: $41,752 (+11,301)

COMPREHENSIVE

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Projected Values, 2026

- In-State Tuition: $14,299 (+32%)
- Out-of-State Tuition: $30,394 (+31%)

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$)*

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

**BUDGET GAP**

- **+$305M (+61%)**

**COMPREHENSIVE** *(MILLIONS OF US$)*

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

**BUDGET GAP**

- **+$217M (+83%)**

*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

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></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></td>
<td>29,718</td>
<td>15,873</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Values, 2026</td>
<td>(+2,460)</td>
<td>(-1,057)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPREHENSIVE

<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></td>
<td>36,155</td>
<td>11,854</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Values, 2026</td>
<td>(+1,731)</td>
<td>(-823)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

COMPREHENSIVE

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

$26,701
(+$4,036)
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.
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 at each school individually, 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
S.C. 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.