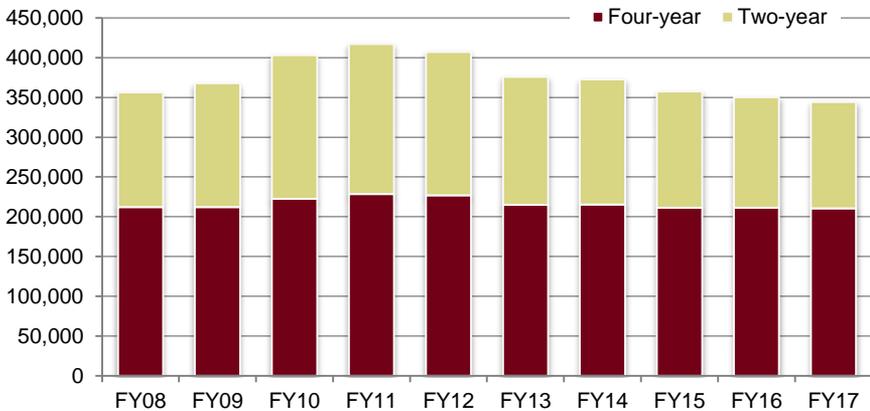


## Higher Education Enrollment Continues Decline

Total Subsidy-Eligible FTE Students\*



\*An FTE (full-time equivalent) student is based on one student taking 15 credit hours per semester or the equivalent. Subsidy-eligible FTEs include all but out-of-state undergraduate students.

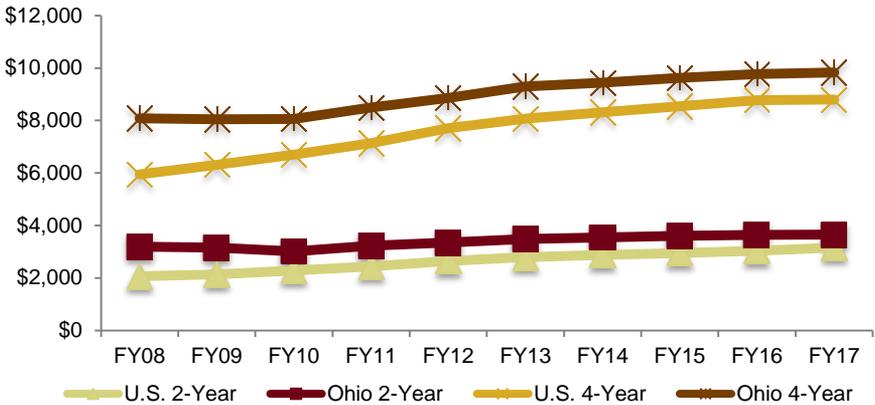
Sources: Ohio Department of Higher Education; State Higher Education Executive Officers

- Total student enrollment at public colleges and universities reached a peak of 416,931 in FY 2011 and has decreased every year since, falling by a total of 72,696 (17.4%) to 344,235 in FY 2017.
- Over 75% of this decrease occurred on the two-year campuses (community colleges and university branches) where enrollment fell by 54,892 (29.1%) since FY 2011. Over this same time period, enrollment at four-year campuses (universities) fell by 17,805 (7.8%).
- The annual enrollment decreases beginning in FY 2012 came after strong enrollment growth between FY 2008 and FY 2011, especially on two-year campuses. Total enrollment increased by 60,672 FTEs (17.0%) during that period, of which 44,414 (73.2%) occurred at two-year campuses.
- The FY 2008 to FY 2011 enrollment growth at two-year campuses may be partly due to the Great Recession. High growth in the two-year sector also occurred in prior periods of economic slowdown.
- According to a measure published by the State Higher Education Executive Officers, all but seven states<sup>1</sup> experienced a decrease in public higher education FTE enrollment from FY 2012 to FY 2017. The decrease in Ohio's enrollment was the 19th largest among the states.

<sup>1</sup> The states with positive enrollment growth during this period are Utah, Nevada, Connecticut, Arizona, Delaware, Texas, and California.

## Gap Between Ohio's Average Public Higher Education Tuition and the Nation's Narrows in Recent Years

In-State Public Higher Education Tuition and Fees for Ohio and U.S.

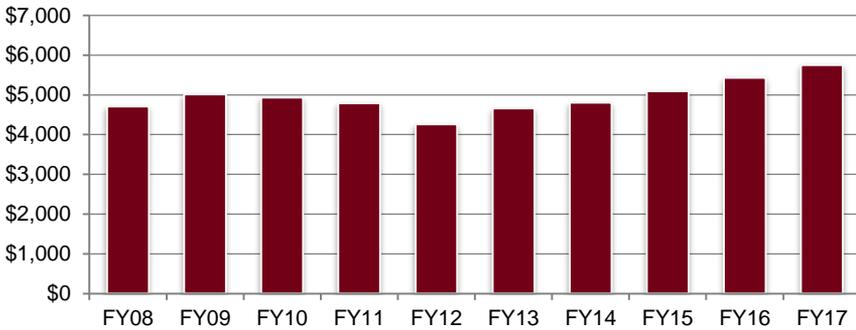


Source: National Center for Education Statistics

- The gap between Ohio's average public higher education tuition and fees and the nation's average narrowed steadily from FY 2008 to FY 2017. As a result, Ohio's ranking in the nation has dropped from 5th and 7th highest in FY 2008 to 15th and 29th highest in FY 2017 for four-year and two-year institutions, respectively.
- In FY 2008, Ohio's average tuitions were \$2,140 (36.0%) and \$1,139 (55.3%) higher than the nation's averages for four-year and two-year institutions, respectively.
- Ohio's averages remained above the nation's in FY 2017, but both the gap of \$1,023 (11.6%) for four-year institutions and the gap of \$499 (15.8%) for two-year institutions, were much smaller.
- From FY 2008 to FY 2017, average tuition and fees at four-year institutions in Ohio increased by \$1,744 (21.6%), from \$8,083 to \$9,827. Tuition and fees at Ohio two-year institutions increased by \$455 (14.2%), from \$3,200 to \$3,655, during the same period.
- The General Assembly has imposed caps or freezes on annual increases in tuition and general fees every year in the past decade. For FY 2016 and FY 2017, tuition and general fees were frozen at FY 2015 levels for all state-assisted institutions. The freeze did not apply to institutions participating in an Undergraduate Tuition Guarantee Program, which guarantees a cohort of students a fixed rate for general and instructional fees for four years.

## SSI Funding Per Student Reached a Decade High in FY 2017

SSI Per FTE Student\*



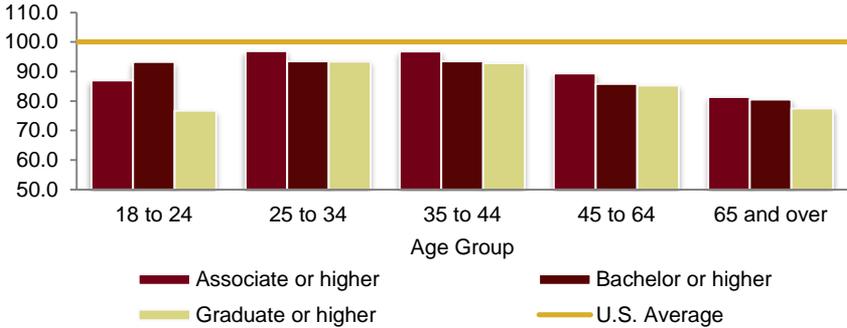
\*An FTE (full-time equivalent) student takes the equivalent of 15 credit hours per semester. Out-of-state undergraduate students are not included as they are not eligible for state subsidy.

Source: Ohio Department of Higher Education

- On a per FTE student basis, FY 2017 State Share of Instruction (SSI), the main state subsidy to public colleges and universities, increased 5.8% (\$316) over FY 2016 and reached a decade high of \$5,750. The increase in FY 2017 was mainly due to increased SSI funding. Overall, total SSI funding increased by 4.0% from FY 2016 while enrollment at public higher education institutions decreased by 1.7%.
- The increase in SSI per FTE student was not equal across higher education sectors. From FY 2016 to FY 2017, SSI per FTE student increased by 4.7% (\$282) to \$6,236 at four-year universities and their regional campuses and by 8.5% (\$357) to \$4,563 at community colleges. Community colleges experienced a greater enrollment loss (-4.1%) than did four-year universities and their regional campuses (-0.7%) in that year.
- In FY 2017, total SSI funding was \$1.98 billion, \$76.1 million (4.0%) more than FY 2016 and \$300.8 million (17.9%) more than FY 2008. Total SSI funding peaked in FY 2011 at \$2.0 billion, including \$287.8 million in federal stimulus funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With the loss of federal stimulus funding in FY 2012, SSI funding decreased in that year, on both a total and per-student basis.
- SSI, which helps support public institutions' core academic activities, is allocated to campuses mostly through formulas primarily based on institutional outcomes, such as student course and degree completion. Prior to FY 2010, SSI was allocated largely based on each campus's enrollment and courses offered.

## Postsecondary Educational Attainment of Younger Ohioans Approaches National Average

Index of Ohio's Educational Attainment, 2016  
(U.S. Average = 100)

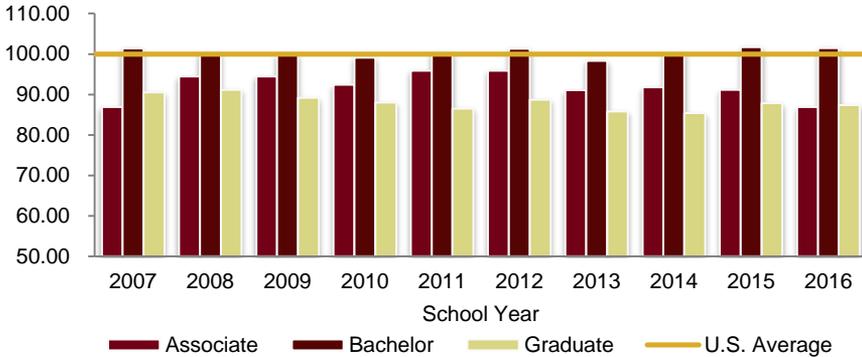


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- This index compares Ohio's educational attainment to the national average. An index score of 95 indicates that Ohio is 5% below the national average.
- Although the percentage of Ohioans with postsecondary degrees is below the national average for all age groups, the percentages for younger Ohioans (ages 25 to 44) are closer to the national average than those for older Ohioans (45 and older).
- For each age group shown in the chart above (beginning with 18 to 24 year olds), the index for Ohioans with at least a bachelor's degree is 93.2, 93.5, 93.5, 85.8, and 80.5, respectively.
- The percentage of Ohioans within each age group who hold at least a bachelor's degree is 10.1%, 32.6%, 32.8%, 25.9%, and 21.5%, respectively, compared to national averages of 10.8%, 34.9%, 35.1%, 30.2%, and 26.7%.
- Compared to all states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, Ohio's percentage of people with at least a bachelor's degree ranks 23rd for ages 18 to 24, 28th for ages 25 to 34, 33rd for ages 35 to 44, 40th for ages 45 to 64, and 42nd for ages 65 and over.
- Ohio's relatively low educational attainment for older age groups may reflect the state's strong industrial and agricultural economic history. These industries often did not require a college education for many types of jobs.
- Aggregating over all age groups, 25.4% of Ohioans had at least a bachelor's degree in 2016. Ohio ranks 37th in this percentage; the national average is 28.7%. Compared with contiguous states, Ohio's percentage is higher than Indiana (23.5%), Kentucky (21.6%), and West Virginia (19.4%), but lower than Pennsylvania (28.6%) and Michigan (25.9%).

## Ohio Above National Average in Bachelor's Degrees Granted Per Capita

Index of Degrees Granted Per Capita  
(U.S. Average = 100)



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau

- This index compares degrees granted by Ohio's colleges and universities to the national average on a per capita basis. An index score of 105 indicates that Ohio is 5% above the national average; an index score of 95 indicates that Ohio is 5% below the national average.
- In 2016, the number of bachelor's degrees granted per capita in Ohio was slightly (1.5%) above the national average. In the last ten years, Ohio has hovered closely around the national average on this indicator.
- In 2016, the number of associate degrees granted per capita in Ohio was 13.1% below the national average, the same percentage difference as in 2007. Ohio had moved closest to the national average on this indicator in 2011 and 2012, when Ohio was 4.1% below the national average in both years. However, Ohio's average moved away from the national average by 9.0 percentage points from 2012 to 2016.
- In 2016, the number of graduate degrees granted per capita in Ohio was 12.6% below the national average. Overall, the state has moved away from the national average on this indicator over the past decade. Ohio's graduate degrees per capita were 9.5% below the national average in 2007.
- On a per capita basis, Ohio ranked 29th, 27th, and 28th highest among the states in 2016 for associate, bachelor's, and graduate degrees granted, respectively. Aggregating all postsecondary degrees granted, Ohio ranked 31st in the nation.
- In 2016, Ohio granted 31,495 associate degrees, 70,052 bachelor's degrees, and 30,259 graduate degrees. Public institutions accounted for 78.1%, 68.0%, and 67.9%, respectively, of the various degrees granted in the state.