

## NC Universities Flunk Affordability Test

Written by Adam Hicks

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An independent report on American higher education flunks all but one state when it comes to affordability, and North Carolina was not the one that passed.

The Associated Press reports North Carolina received grades of B-minus in the categories of preparation and completion, a D-plus for college participation and a C-plus in benefits from higher education. That's a solid C average for North Carolina, but the state got a big F written in red ink at the top of its affordability rating.

In-state tuition and fees at Appalachian State run a little more than \$2,250.00 per semester, at UNC-Chapel Hill tuition and fees cost nearly \$2,700, and tuition and fees at UNC-Charlotte cost students around \$2,140 per semester.

Low-income families have been hardest hit. The A.P. says nationally, enrollment at a local public college costs families in the top fifth of income just 9 percent of their earnings, while families from the bottom fifth pay 55 percent.

Out of all 50 states, only California received a passing grade in affordability. The Golden State received a C, thanks to its relatively inexpensive community colleges.

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