Total Cost of a 4-year Public University as a Percentage of Median Household Income by State in the US from 2010-2018

The topic explored by my final project visualization is the total cost of a 4-year public university as a percentage of median household income by state in the United States from 2010-2018; the accompanying visualizations include the total cost of a 4-year public university in the US and the median household income in the US for the years 2010-2018. The changes are observed at a 2-year interval for the selected years to ensure that changes between the intervals are visible and data is accessible for the respective years.

My main inspiration for the creation of my geovisualization can be found at this [this link.](http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/index.php?submeasure=75&year=2018&level=nation&mode=map&state=) The visualization displays the “percent of family income needed to pay” for the cost of a 4-year public university’s tuition and fees. I was determined to use the total cost of a 4-year public university (opposed to just tuition and fees) to ensure my data was representative of the true amount of money coming out of a family’s pockets to pay for one year of university.

Creating my visualizations were by no means an easy journey. As most students in our class, many of my challenges rested in working through how to translate my idea into an html using JavaScript code. When I decided that I wanted my topic to relate to the increasing cost of college in the US, I considered displaying the cost of college overtime. My idea developed into not only showing this data, but showing it as the percent of a household’s income to put the cost into a more tangible context.