

2016/2017 “APPLES-TO-APPLES” COLLEGE COST COMPARISON

Use each college’s Net Price Calculator program to determine its Tuition & Fees, Room & Board, and Total Grants. The annual cost of Books & Supplies and Personal Expenses, along with the value of Student Work, are about the same at all schools nationwide, so start with my estimates. For Travel Costs, start with \$1,000 per year for each school in your basic comparison, and get more specific later. Loans really aren’t financial aid, so don’t list loans of any kind in Total Grants. If you need loans to pay the costs at a particular school, similar loan programs are available everywhere. The amount shown for Student Work assumes a 25 hr/wk summer job and an 8 hr/wk Work Study job during the school year with both paying \$10/ hr. The Remaining Balance is the amount that’s left for parents to pay or for students and parents to borrow.

College or University	Tuition & Fees	Plus Room & Board	Plus Books & Supplies	Plus Personal Expenses	Plus Travel Costs	Equals Total Costs	Minus Total Grants (Include no loans.)	Equals Unmet Need	Minus Student Work	Equals Remaining Balance
			\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,000				\$5,000	
			\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,000				\$5,000	
			\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,000				\$5,000	
			\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,000				\$5,000	
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