

“APPLES-TO-APPLES” COST COMPARISON FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS

Use each college’s Financial Aid Offer 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 nationwide, so start with my estimates. For Travel Costs, assume four one-way air tickets per year. A high estimate would be \$2,000 from coast to coast, \$1,500 from the central U.S. to any coast, and \$1,250 from north to south. Loans really aren’t financial aid, and some colleges are loan free, so keep your comparison valid by not listing loans of any kind in Total Grants. If you need loans to pay the costs at a particular school, you will find that similar loan programs are available everywhere. This form assumes that the family’s EFC is the most support it can provide per year and that any remainder will be borrowed.

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	And Minus EFC	Equals Expected Loans
			\$1,150	\$1,350					\$5,000		
			\$1,150	\$1,350					\$5,000		
			\$1,150	\$1,350					\$5,000		
			\$1,150	\$1,350					\$5,000		
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