

# College Cost Worksheet

Use this worksheet to compare the cost of attendance, i.e. "sticker price", of your college choices.

Most of this information is available at each college website or from the college viewbook, catalogue or financial aid guide.

1. **Tuition** – available from college sources
2. **Fees** – include both the mandatory fees required of all students and any others that you know you will have to pay because of your field of study or extracurricular interests.
- 3/4. **Housing and Food** – Could be a stated room and board charge that you pay each term or an estimate for off-campus rent plus what you will pay to buy and prepare your own meals. Can vary considerably if you live at school or at home. You may pay only for one or both. Be sure that meal charges cover 19 to 21 meals per week.
5. **Books/Supplies** – Colleges provide estimates but they can vary substantially from institution to institution. Use a **minimum** of \$600 to \$800 regardless of any published amounts. It may be more for some courses of study (art, lab courses, etc.)
6. **Personal Expenses** – This can be dependent upon your lifestyle, extracurricular interests and college location. College estimates will help but include a **minimum** of \$1,500 for full time study.
7. **Transportation** – Varies by college location, use of a car or public transportation, number of trips home per year and/or commuting expense and local transportation while at school. Colleges usually, but not always, publish guidelines.

	College:	College:	College:
1. Tuition			
2. Fees			
3. Housing			
4. Food			
5. Books/Supplies			
6. Personal Expenses			
7. Transportation			
8. Estimated College Cost "sticker price"			

# College Aid Comparison Worksheet

Use this worksheet to compare the real cost of attending your college choices. Read the award letters and explanatory material that each college sends you. Colleges may define cost of attendance and financial aid differently so be sure that the real cost at each college is determined in the same way. The following directions are common to all colleges regardless of what terminology is used at each institution.

1. **Deadline for Accepting Aid Offer** – Date college specifies for accepting award. Usually found in award letter or supporting material; often the Candidate's Reply Date (about May 1).
2. **College cost ("Sticker price")** – Should be on financial aid award letter; may or may not be itemized. Use the **College Cost Worksheet** to be sure all costs are covered (line 8 above).
3. **Gift-Aid** – All grants & scholarships in college award letter regardless of source; could include federal aid (Pell Grant), state grants (if known or estimated) and institutional funds. May be lumped together or itemized separately. Be sure you get the correct amount. *Make sure that award clearly distinguishes between all Gift-Aid and Student Self-Help.*  
**Non-college Grants and Scholarships**– Gift-aid only (not loans) from any source outside the college itself. Can include state scholarships or grants and awards from local sources such as secondary schools, service organizations, employer, national or local foundations, trusts, etc. **Be careful that these amounts are not counted twice.** If you have received and reported these awards they may already be included and itemized on the college award letter; if not, or if you receive such awards later you will have to report them and this may have an effect on the financial aid the college has awarded.
4. **Remaining College Cost After Gift-Aid** – 2. minus 3. Total amount you and/or your family will have to pay now or later to cover all direct costs (semester bills for tuition, fees and room and board if applicable), plus what you will spend day to day for books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation (plus food and/or housing if not on a college rent or meal plan).
5. **Self-Help Aid** – Self-help may be presented and described differently from college to college. Although we have included all student loans and work here for comparison purposes, keep in mind that only the need based programs are truly financial aid (i.e. Perkins Loans, Subsidized Stafford Loans, and Federal Work Study).
6. **Family Costs** – What you and your family (parents) will pay next year to cover the college bill plus what you spend personally to attend the college.
7. **Resources to Cover Family Cost** – Resources you can use to cover the amount you will need from 6. above.

	College 1:	College 2:	College 3:
1. Deadline for Accepting Aid Offer			
2. College Cost			
3. Gift-Aid • Grants and Scholarships included in Aid Offer • Non-College Grants/Scholarships			
4. Remaining Cost after Gift Aid			
5. Self-Help Aid • Student Loans Federal Perkins Loans Federal Subsidized Stafford Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Federal PLUS Loans Federal Perkins Loans Private Loans • Work Federal Work Study Other Work			
6. Family Cost (4-5)			
7. Resources to Cover Family Cost Savings Other			