



MAKE YOUR DECISION

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship, and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid, as well as different costs of attendance.¹ If you have more than two schools to compare, make copies of this page before starting.

		College (fill-in)					
		Sample college					
EVALUATE	Pros	Top-rated program, low cost of living					
	Cons	May need a car, limited housing options					
COST OF ATTENDANCE	Tuition and fees	\$14,000					
	Room and board ²	\$8,000					
	Books and supplies	\$1,000					
	Computer allowance	-					
	Transportation	\$600					
	Other costs	\$1,400					
	Total college costs (A)	\$25,000					
GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP AID	Federal Pell Grant	\$3,570					
	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	-					
	State Grant	\$1,000					
	Other grants	-					
	Scholarships	\$1,030					
	Institution-based aid	\$8,000					
	Work-Study (work to earn)	\$1,000					
	Total grant/scholarship aid (B)	\$14,600					
Your net price (A – B)	\$10,400						
LOANS		Offered	Accept/Declined \$	Offered	Accept/Declined \$	Offered	Accept/Declined \$
	Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500	Accept \$3,500				
	Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000	Accept \$2,000				
	Federal PLUS Loan	\$4,900	Declined -				
	Private loan	-	-				
	Total loan aid (C)	\$5,500					
SUMMARY	Total financial aid (B + C = D)	\$20,100					
	Your out-of-pocket costs (A – D)	\$4,900					

¹ Not all colleges participate in all of the financial aid programs listed above.

² If room and board aren't part of your housing contract, check with the college's housing office, or check the local paper or online for rental costs.



Make Your Decision worksheet is part of the 2021-2022 *Opportunities Preparing for College Guide and Workbook*. This free college planning publication provides students and families with important information and tools to guide their pursuit of postsecondary education. These books are available in English and Spanish. Full PDFs of each *Opportunities* booklet can be downloaded at www.ecmc.org/opportunities.