

# Cost of Attendance

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FINANCIAL AID  
WARRIORS

TRANSFORMING STUDENT LIVES ONE AT A TIME

SPRING 2026



# Agenda

- Allowable Costs
- Living Expenses
- Other Costs

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2025-2026 FEDERAL STUDENT AID HANDBOOK, VOLUME 3,  
CHAPTER 2, [WWW.FSAPARTNERS.ED.GOV](http://WWW.FSAPARTNERS.ED.GOV)



# Allowable Costs

- Tuition and Fees
- Books, Course Materials, and Supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous Personal Expenses

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STATE GOVERNING AGENCY/BOARD OF DIRECTORS, INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, HIGHER EDUCATION ENTITIES



# Allowable Costs- Tuition & Fees

- Tuition and fees can include graduation fees and health insurance premiums, if incurred while the student is still enrolled and when required by the program and paid by all students.
- Through Professional Judgement a required conference can be added, but only if these costs are included in the standard cost of the program for which the conference is required.



# Allowable Costs- Tuition & Fees

(cont.)

- Average cost based full-time enrollment (research/reporting)
- Actual cost of tuition and fees (algorithmic rules)
- Different categories of students (in-state/out-of-state or program specific)
- Costs are assigned based on governing entities



# Allowable Costs- Books

- Must include costs required of all students in the same program, including a reasonable allowance for the rental or upfront purchase of a personal computer.
- If considered “Institutional Charges”, the cost of books, course materials, equipment, and supplies may be included as part of the tuition and fees component of the COA.



# Allowable Costs- Transportation

- Costs incurred by a student for transportation between school, residence, and place of work.
- Costs associated with operating and maintaining a vehicle.
- Costs for transportation that are required as part of a student's program of study.
- May not include costs for the purchase of a vehicle.

Average annual insurance for college student with an individual policy \$3,029 (moneygeek.com)

$4260$  (18 years) +  $2995$  (19 years) +  $2693$  (20 years) +  $2171$  (21 years) =  $\$3029.75$

$\$3029/12 = \$252$  per month

$\$252 \times 9$  months =  $\$2,268$



# Allowable Costs- Misc. Personal Expenses

- Allowance may be included in the COA **only for students who are enrolled on at least a half-time basis.**
- May include costs incurred by a student for a prior learning assessment (for example, an exam or a portfolio evaluation).

Additional expenses at 4-year institutions range from \$3,304 to \$4,551.

Students living on campus at a public 4-year institution pay an average of \$3,304 in additional annual expenses.

Students who live off campus may expect to pay \$4,551 if they do not live with family; for students living with family, additional expenses average \$4,467.

Personal Expenses = researched websites \$4,106 (see documentation)  
Avg.  $3304 + 4551 + 4467 = 12322/3 = \$4,107/12 = \$342.25/\text{month}$



- Bookstore Reports
- Student Surveys
- Higher Education Publications-  
Education Data Initiative, [www.EducationData.org](http://www.EducationData.org)  
CollegeBoard, [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- US Department of Energy



# Living Expenses

- Food and Housing
  - Dependent Care Costs
  - Exceptional Expenses
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# Living Expenses- Food and Housing

- Food and housing allowance is based on the student's situation and account for the equivalent of three meals per day.
- On-campus student housing allowance is the greater of the average amount or the median amount assessed to such students for housing charges.



Room Rate Type	Count of Rooms	Semesterly Room Rate						
1Bed/1Bath Suite	4	4036	16144			2339		
2 Bed/1Bath Shared Suite	64	3740	239360			2826		
2 Bed/1Bath Semi Suite (No Privacy Wall)	8	3583	28664			3378		
1Double Room/1Bath (2 person cluster)	40	3783	151320			3583		
2 Double Rooms/1 Bath (4 person cluster DBL)	86	3583	308138			3583		
4 Double Rooms/1 Bath (8 person cluster DBL)	30	2826	84780			3740		
8 Person Cluster, single	20	3378	67560			3740		
Community Assistants	10	2339	23390			3740		
1Bed/1Bath Suite	23	4036	92828			3740		
2 Bed/1Bath Shared Suite	302	3740	1129480			3783		
1Bed/1Bath Suite	9	4036	36324			3837		
2 Bed/1Bath Shared Suite	162	3740	605880			3838		
1Bed/1Bath Apartment	26	4378	113828			3918	$(3918 + 3923) / 2 = 3920.5$	
2 Bed/1Bath Apartment	117	4015	469755			3923		
2 Bed/1 Master Bath Apartments	117	4107	480519			4015		3920 Median
3 Bed/2 Bath Apartment	48	3918	188064			4015		
3 Bed/2 Master Bath Apartments	24	4015	96360			4036		
4 Bed/2 Bath Apartment	24	3837	92088			4036		
4 Bed/2 Master Bath Apartments	8	3923	31384			4036		
2 Bed/2 Bath Apartment	62	4040	250480			4036		
2 Bed/2 Bath Master Apartment	62	4141	256742			4040		
4 Bed/2 Bath Apartment	600	3838	2302800			4048		
2 Bed/2 Bath Apartment	36	4048	145728			4107		
1Bed/1Bath Apartment	24	4583	109992			4141		
1Bed/1Bath Suite	6	4036	24216			4378		
2 Bed/1Bath Shared Suite	98	3740	366520			4583		
	2010		7712344					

Weighted Avg	3836.987065
Use Median because higher amount	3920



# Living Expenses- Food and Housing (cont.)

- Off-campus student housing needs a standard allowance for rent or other housing costs.
- For dependent students living at-home with parents, their living expenses allowance cannot be zero.
- Military-affiliated students receiving a Basic Allowance for Housing (or “BAH”) are allowed an expense for food, but not for housing costs.



# Living Expenses- Food and Housing (cont.)

- Student enrolled less than half-time may receive an allowance for food and housing in the COA for a limited period (up to three semesters or the equivalent) with no more than two semesters or the equivalent being consecutive at any one school.



# Living Expenses- Dependent Care Costs

- Covers actual costs expected to be incurred for dependent care during periods that include class time, study time, field work, internships, and commuting time for the student.
- Based on the number and age of the student's dependents and should not exceed reasonable cost in the community for the type of care provided.



# Living Expenses- Exceptional Expenses

- The law does not specify what documentation you must collect.
- You can document these expenses in any reasonable way, such as documenting an interview with the student or obtaining a written statement from the student or other appropriate source.



- Campus Housing/Meal Plan Options
- HUD Fair Market Rent
- Official USDA Food Plans
- USDA Food Plans
- Cost of Living Comparisons-  
Numbeo, [www.numbeo.com](http://www.numbeo.com)  
Economic Policy Institute, [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)



# Other Costs

- Costs of a License, Certification, or First Professional Credential
- Cooperative Education and Study Abroad Programs
- Disability-Related Expenses
- Fees for Federal Student Loans



# Other Costs- Costs of a License,

## Certification, or First Professional Credential

- Programs that require professional licensure, certification, or a first professional credential to practice or participate in the occupation the program is preparing the student to enter.
- The costs must be incurred during (not after) a period of enrollment, even if the exam is after the end of the period.



# Other Costs- Costs of a License,

## Certification, or First Professional Credential (cont.)

- May use either actual or average costs when determining the amount of this allowance.
- If a school chooses to use average costs, there must be a reasonable basis for the average amount (using the actual costs of a first professional credential) that the school is aware of for the profession that a program prepares a student to enter.



# Other Costs- Cooperative Education and Study Abroad Programs

- Cooperative education is for students engaged in a work experience. The allowance accounts for reasonable costs associated with such employment.
- Study abroad program approved for credit by the student's home school and includes reasonable costs associated with such study as determined by the home school.



# Other Costs- Disability-Related Expenses

- Includes an allowance for expenses related to the student's disability (special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies) that are reasonably incurred and not provided by other agencies.
- Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; such as student has a hearing/vision/speech impairment, has a mental disability, or has specific learning disabilities that require special education and related services.



# Other Costs- Fees for Federal Student Loans

- Fees required to receive the loans (origination fees).
- May use either the actual loan fees charged to the student or an average of fees charged to borrowers of the same type of loan at your school.
- Fees for non-federal student loans may not be included.

Loan fees (Misc. Fees)

\$31 per semester/\$62 per academic year

Total Net Loans = \$19,304,679 (sub, unsub, PLUS) Total students = 2,534 recipients

\$6,882,529 (sub) + \$8,169,533 (unsub) = \$15,052,062

Total: \$15,052,062 + 1.057% loan fees = \$15,211,162 gross

$\$15,211,162 / 2,534 = \$6,002$  avg. loan

$\$6,002 \times 1.057\% \text{ loan fees} = \$63$  rounded down  $\$62/2 = \$31$



- Campus Housing/Meal Plan Options
- HUD Fair Market Rent
- Official USDA Food Plans
- USDA Food Plans
- Cost of Living Comparisons-  
Numbeo, [www.numbeo.com](http://www.numbeo.com)  
Economic Policy Institute, [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)



# Thanks for participating!

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