



Surviving your Annual Cost of Attendance Development

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(GEN-22-15) FAFSA® Simplification Act Changes for Implementation in 2023-24

What has changed?

- Language regarding costs for rental or purchase of equipment, materials, or supplies has moved out of the definition of “tuition and fees” and into a broader definition of “books, course materials, supplies, and equipment.”
- Transportation expenses may include transportation between campus, residences, and a student’s place of work.
- “Room and board” are now known as “food and housing,” although the meaning of the terms remains the same. Food and housing are grouped as “living expenses.”
- Living expense categories now break out costs associated with specific housing and food situations and require standard allowances within certain categories, such as on or off campus and with or without a meal plan.
- Institutions may no longer include loan fees for non-Federal student loans borrowed by students.
- The costs of obtaining a license, certification, or first professional credential are no longer restricted to a one-time allowance.
- “Course materials” and “the cost of obtaining a license, certification, or a first professional credential” were added to the types of expenses that an institution may include in a confined or incarcerated individual’s COA.
- The types of expenses that an institution may include in the COA for a student who is enrolled less than half time has been broadened to include components not otherwise prohibited by the law.

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Other Changes

- The Act expands existing consumer information requirements by explicitly stating that each institution must make COA information publicly available on its website. The disclosure must include a list of all COA elements and must appear on any portion of the website that describes tuition and fees.

Cost of Attendance Questions

- When do you start your calculations?
- What categories are used (At home, away from home, dependent, independent, with dependents, on campus)?
- What data sources do you use?
- Who is involved? (FA, Business office, Bookstore, Inst. Research, others?)
- Do other departments/administrators have to approve your COA?
- Where is this information published? Do you include this information in your offer letters?
- Other considerations?