

Compare your financial aid offers

After you've filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), any colleges that you have included, and have accepted you, will use your FAFSA[®] to calculate your financial aid. They'll follow up with an offer letter that includes the aid being offered to you. This can help you get an idea of what each college may cost you—and start the discussion of how you'll pay any remaining costs.

Line up how much financial aid you're getting in grants, scholarships, work-study, and federal student loans from each school. Once you know the amount of financial aid you're eligible for from a school, you want to subtract that number from the cost of attendance. The remainder is sometimes called "the gap" or your out-of-pocket costs. It's the amount you may need to pay on your own-by using your income, savings, a 529 savings account, a tuition payment plan, finding more scholarships, or taking out private student loans.

Cost of attendance							
Tuition and fees							
Food and housing							
Books and supplies							
Personal expenses*							
Financial aid							
Grants							
Scholarships							
Other gift aid							
Federal Direct Subsidized Loans							
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans							
Other student loans							
Federal work-study							
Summary (cost of attendance minus the total financial aid to determine the remaining gap)							
Total cost of attendance (COA)							
Total financial aid							
Remaining gap							

Learn more at sallie.com/financial-aid/offers

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