

Comparing Your Financial Aid Awards

We hope that this worksheet will serve as a tool to help you sort through the financial aspects of your college decision.

STEP 1: List each school you're considering and its deadline for responding.

	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
Name of college	_____	_____	_____	_____
Response deadline	_____	_____	_____	_____

STEP 2: Estimate each school's charges. If you have not yet received an award letter, refer to the college catalog, call the financial aid office, or visit each school's website.

Total Charges	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
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STEP 3: For each school you're considering, list the components of the "package" you're offered. Remember: Grants and scholarships don't have to be repaid; all loans must be repaid; work-study funds are earned. *Please see the note on work-study below.

Grants and scholarships

University/College grant	_____	_____	_____	_____
State grant	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pell grant	_____	_____	_____	_____
SEOG	_____	_____	_____	_____
Private Scholarships	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Grants and Scholarships	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Loans

Fed. Direct (subsidized)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fed. Direct (unsubsidized)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Perkins	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Loans	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Total Financial Aid Offered*	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
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STEP 4: Determine your cost. Subtract the total financial aid offered from the total charges. That's your "net cost," or what it will cost you to attend that school.

Total charges	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
minus				
Total financial aid offered*	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
equals				
YOUR COST TO ATTEND	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____