

Using Net Price to Compare Costs of Colleges

Step 1 – Determine the Cost of Attendance

Step 2 – Determine how much financial aid (Gift + Loans) you are being awarded

Step 3 – Subtract Gift Aid from the cost of attendance

Step 4 – Compare your true cost using the net price of each college

College Name	Cost of Attendance tuition & fees + books + supplies + room & board + living expenses (award letter and/or college website)	Gift Aid grants & scholarships (which can be need based or merit based) & work study	Loans federal student loan – max is \$5500 for freshmen, or parent loans up to cost of attendance minus any gift aid	Net Price subtract gift aid from the total Cost of Attendance: exclude any loans; this is what families will pay using student and parent loans or cash/savings