



Compare your financial aid award letters

After you've filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), any colleges that you included on your information and have accepted you will use your FAFSA to calculate your financial aid. They'll follow up with a financial aid award letter that includes the financial aid that's being offered to you. This can help you get an idea 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	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4
Tuition and fees	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Room and board	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Books and supplies	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Personal expenses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Financial aid				
Grants	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Scholarships	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other gift aid	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Federal Direct subsidized loans	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Federal Direct unsubsidized loans	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other student loans	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Federal work-study	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Summary (cost of attendance minus the total financial aid to determine the remaining gap)				
Total cost of attendance (COA)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total financial aid	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Remaining gap	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Learn more at [SallieMae.com/AwardLetters](https://www.SallieMae.com/AwardLetters)

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