

Financial Aid Explained

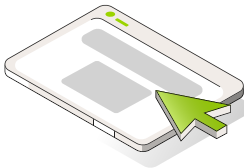
1



Cost of Attendance

An **estimate of the total cost of one year at a college or university**. Cost of attendance includes: tuition (cost of your classes), campus fees, on-campus housing (dorms), on-campus meal plan, transportation and parking, and books.

2



FAFSA or CASFA

An annual form that students and contributors complete to be eligible for federal and/or state funding for college. This form needs to be completed every year until graduation!

3



State & Federal Grants

Pell grants and Colorado State grants are awarded to students who demonstrate financial need based on their FAFSA information. **These do not need to be repaid!**

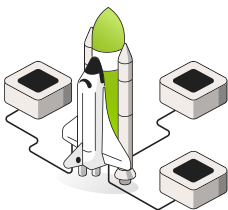
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Scholarships

Money awarded to a student based on academic merit (GPA), financial need, background (first-generation), or specific interests. **These do not need to be repaid!** Students should apply annually to scholarships!

5



Loans

Money offered to students based on FAFSA information. This money is offered by the U.S. Department of Education at rates lower than private loan companies like Sallie Mae. **Loans must be repaid on various terms accrue interest.**

Other Questions?

Call the IRIS Desk!
970-248-1177

Call the FAFSA Desk
1-800-433-3243

Cost-Saving “Hacks” for College

Cost of Attendance

1



Consider Where You're Living

Housing, whether on-campus in a dorm or off-campus, is a big expense! **Choosing a more affordable dorm** (community bathrooms, less updated) or **living with roommates** is a great way to minimize cost and make your money go further!

2



Use Your Dining Dollars Wisely!

Most on-campus meal plans come with “dining dollars” that can be used on campus. **Don't blow through this at Starbucks in the first week!** Instead, spread it out over time and don't use it for something you could get in the caf!

3



Know Your Meal Plan

If you're living on campus, know your meal plan! If you purchased a plan that provides 14 meals a week, use every single one of those meals! You already paid for them, so don't let them go to waste.

4



Find an On-Campus Job

Most colleges award work study funds to students which allows you to work an on-campus job for up to 10 hours a week. This money can help **off-set your bill, build work skills, and help pay for any unexpected costs.**

5



Capitalize on Campus Events

Most colleges will offer free or deeply discounted events, tickets, outdoor gear, and activities. Go to these and save your money instead of paying for a similar event or activity out of your own pocket!