

Cost of Attendance | Financial Aid Guide

Cost of attendance refers to the estimated expenses associated with college attendance that a student can expect to accrue for a specified period of enrollment. Each college / university awarding federal financial aid is required to establish and publish an estimated cost of attendance to help students and families financially prepare for and understand the expenses associated with college attendance. A student's assigned cost of attendance is also the foundation for determining **financial need** and the amount of qualified aid that can be offered.

Components and Costs

UC Berkeley's Financial Aid and Scholarships Office updates students' cost of attendance annually. Through student surveys and research, cost estimates are assigned to students. **Cost of attendance components** include *tuition and fees; books, course materials, supplies, and equipment; living expenses (food and housing); miscellaneous and personal expenses; transportation; and health insurance.*

These components can be categorized as **direct costs** and **indirect costs**.

Direct costs are expenses charged directly by the university. For example, tuition and campus fees are charged by the university and therefore, are considered **direct costs**. These charges can be viewed in CalCentral.

Indirect costs are student expenses that are charged by other sources. For example, items purchased for living on campus, like storage boxes and bed linens, are considered **indirect cost**.

Depending on a student's selected housing type, some expenses can be either a direct or indirect cost. For students living in a university residence hall, the housing and food expense is a **direct cost** and the charge would be viewable on CalCentral. For students living in an off-campus apartment, this expense is an **indirect cost**.

Adjustments and Appeals

- If a student's actual expenses exceed their assigned cost of attendance, a **Cost of Attendance Adjustment** may be considered on a case-by-case basis (typically for unexpected budgetary needs).
- Students can make an **Economic Hardship Appeal** for extenuating financial circumstances or a substantial decrease in the family's

income since filing for aid (typically for one-time special circumstance expenses).

RESOURCES

- [Student Budgets \(Cost of Attendance\)](#)
- [Fee Schedule](#)
- [Tuition & Fees](#)
- [Fee Referenda](#)
- [SHIP Insurance](#)

For additional information, visit financialaid.berkeley.edu

Direct Costs Charged by UC Berkeley	Campus Residence Hall	Campus Apartment	Off-Campus Apartment	Living with Relatives
Tuition and Fees	\$16,608	\$16,608	\$16,608	\$16,608
Housing and Food	\$21,508	\$18,760	—	—
Student Health Insurance Plan	\$4,028	\$4,028	\$4,028	\$4,028
Total Direct Undergraduate Cost	\$42,144	\$39,396	\$20,636	\$20,636
Indirect Expenses for the Academic Year	Campus Residence Hall	Campus Apartment	Off-Campus Apartment	Living with Relatives
Housing and Utilities	—	—	\$12,300	\$3,256
Food/Snacks	\$2,036	\$5,614	\$6,122	\$4,476
Books and Supplies	\$1,132	\$1,132	\$1,132	\$1,132
Personal	\$2,584	\$2,584	\$2,728	\$2,816
Transportation	\$742	\$742	\$1,072	\$2,444
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$48,638	\$49,468	\$43,990	\$34,760