



# Cost of Attendance Adjustments | Financial Aid Guide

Your financial aid eligibility is based on your estimated **cost of attendance (COA)**. Cost of attendance is the *estimated cost of completing an academic year at UC Berkeley*. Its components include tuition and fees, books, course materials, food, housing, personal expenses, transportation, and health insurance. It is also the foundation for determining financial need and the amount of qualified aid that can be offered. If your *actual expenses exceed your estimated cost of attendance*, your cost of attendance may be increased through a **Cost of Attendance Adjustment**.

## Which cost of attendance expenses are considered?

Expenses often considered for adjustments include:

- **Housing (off-campus rent and utilities, on-campus housing costs),**
- **Computer purchase (you can only request this once every three years),**
- **Medical, dental, or optical expenses not covered by insurance,**
- **Transportation,**
- **Childcare expenses,**
- **Special books and supplies, and**
- **Relocation expenses (entering students living off campus only).**

Your actual expense must exceed your estimated expense for an increase to be considered. Approved increases will reflect the difference between your actual and estimated expenses.

*Please note: Expenses that take place outside your period of enrollment cannot be considered.*

## How to Request an Adjustment

1. Complete the **Cost of Attendance Adjustment Request (COAAR) form**, available on the Berkeley Financial Aid Forms Portal.
2. Include required documentation with your form. Proper documentation can be found on the Cost of Attendance Adjustment webpage and on the Cost of Attendance Adjustment form. Only properly documented requests will be considered.
3. The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office will review your request (6-8 weeks processing time). If additional information is needed, you will be contacted via email.
4. Once a decision is made, you will receive a notification. If approved, your estimated cost of attendance will be adjusted. **Most approved cost of attendance adjustment requests are funded with additional loans, work-study, or outside scholarships that you bring with you to Berkeley and not with UC-funded grants or scholarships.**

## RESOURCES

- [Financial Aid & Scholarships Office](#)
- [Cost of Attendance](#)
- [Cost of Attendance Adjustment](#)
- [Berkeley Financial Aid Forms Portal](#)