



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 publishes an estimated cost of attendance to help students and families understand the expenses associated with college attendance. A student's assigned cost of attendance is the foundation for determining **financial need** and the amount of qualified aid that can be offered.

Components and Costs

Cost of attendance is updated annually with input from student surveys and research. **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. Tuition and campus fees are charged by the university and are considered **direct costs**. Charges can be viewed in CalCentral.

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

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

Adjustments and Appeals

- If a student's actual expenses exceed their assigned cost, a [Cost of Attendance Adjustment](#) may be considered (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 \(Student Health Insurance Plan\)](#)

For additional information, visit financialaid.berkeley.edu

Cost of Attendance for Students First Enrolled in 2025–26

Direct Costs (Charged by UC Berkeley)	RESIDENCE HALLS	ON-CAMPUS APARTMENTS	OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENTS	LIVING WITH RELATIVES
Tuition & Fees	\$17,106	\$17,106	\$17,106	\$17,106
University Food & Housing	\$22,398	\$19,560	—	—
Student Health Insurance Plan	\$4,834	\$4,834	\$4,834	\$4,834
TOTAL DIRECT UNDERGRADUATE COSTS	\$44,338	\$41,500	\$21,940	\$21,940
Indirect Costs (Personal Expenses)	RESIDENCE HALLS	ON-CAMPUS APARTMENTS	OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENTS	LIVING WITH RELATIVES
Housing & Utilities	—	—	\$13,120	\$3,646
Food/Snacks	\$2,162	\$5,818	\$6,530	\$5,012
Books & Supplies	\$1,438	\$1,438	\$1,438	\$1,438
Personal & Miscellaneous	\$2,738	\$2,738	\$2,904	\$3,008
Transportation	\$828	\$828	\$1,180	\$2,996
TOTAL INDIRECT UNDERGRADUATE COSTS	\$7,166	\$10,822	\$25,172	\$16,100
Total Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$51,504	\$52,322	\$47,112	\$38,040

2025–26 ESTIMATED COSTS for undergraduate students. Actual tuition, fees, and charges are subject to change by the Regents of the University of California. Final approved 2025–26 tuition and fee levels may be higher or lower than the amounts presented here. For updated figures: financialaid.berkeley.edu/cost-attendance

2025–26 ESTIMATED AVERAGE BUDGET for undergraduate students based on a reasonable cost of completing an academic year at UC Berkeley. New out-of-state students pay an additional Nonresident Supplemental Tuition of \$37,602.