



WORKSHEET: MAKE YOUR DECISION

A quick way to compare offers and determine your net costs is to subtract all your grant, scholarship, and other free aid from your cost of attendance. Keep in mind that colleges have different ways of awarding financial aid, as well as different costs of attendance.¹ If you have more than two schools to compare, make copies of this page before starting.

		College (fill-in)					
		Sample college					
EVALUATE	Pros	Top-rated program, low cost of living					
	Cons	May need a car, limited housing options					
COST OF ATTENDANCE	Tuition and fees	\$654					
	Room and board ²	\$10,872					
	Books and supplies	\$1,638					
	Computer allowance	-					
	Other fees	\$3,096					
	Other costs	\$1,170					
	Total college costs (A)	\$17,430					
GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP AID	Federal Pell Grant	\$2,770					
	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$765					
	TEACH Grant	\$2,000					
	State Grant	\$4,000					
	Other grants	-					
	Scholarships	-					
	Institution-based aid	-					
	Total grant/scholarship aid (B)	\$9,535					
Your net costs (A – B)	\$7,895						
LOANS		Offered	Accept/Declined \$	Offered	Accept/Declined \$	Offered	Accept/Declined \$
	Federal Subsidized Loan	\$3,500	Accept \$3,500				
	Federal Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000	Accept \$395				
	Federal PLUS Loan	\$2,500	Declined -				
	Private loan	-	-				
	Total loan aid (C)	\$7,895					
SUMMARY	Total financial aid (B + C = D)	\$17,430					
	Your out-of-pocket costs (A – D)	\$0					
	Work-study or student employment (E)	-					

¹ Not all colleges participate in all of the financial aid programs listed above.

² If room and board aren't part of your housing contract, check with the college's housing office, or check the local paper or online for rental costs.



Make Your Decision worksheet is part of the 2018-2019 *Opportunities Preparing for College Guide and Workbook*. This free college planning publication provides students and families with important information and tools to guide their pursuit of postsecondary education. These books are available in English and Spanish. Full PDFs of each *Opportunities* booklet can be downloaded at www.ecmc.org/opportunities.