

2024-2025
Financial Aid Cost of Attendance
Understanding Your Cost of Attendance

What is the "cost of attendance"?

The cost of attendance (COA) also referred to as the "student budget", is an estimate of what it costs a typical student to attend a college or university for one academic year. Don't be startled by the COA you see on your financial aid offer. Your cost of attendance doesn't only include tuition and fees; it also takes your basic living expenses into account. Providing each student, a COA is necessary for awarding financial aid, it is also used to set the limit on the amount of financial aid students can receive during the academic year which is required by the Department of Education for all schools who award federal aid.

What's included in the COA?

Your actual expenses will vary from the amounts provided on your COA. Your cost of attendance is made up of two different types of costs: direct and indirect.

Direct costs are items that appear on your Park U student account statement, such as tuition, fees and housing & meals (if you live on campus).

Indirect cost will not appear on your student account statement but are estimated costs associated with going to college and are required to be listed in your COA. These include books, transportation and personal expenses.

Where do the COA numbers come from?

Direct costs are determined by the University each academic year and are subject to change from year to year. For indirect costs, we use market research and recommended guidelines published by the Department of Education to determine a reasonable student budget for indirect costs. Direct cost for room and board for Cost of Attendance purposes, are an average of Park Universities dorm rates and meal plans. The direct charge, that will show up on your student bill, will reflect the price of your dorm assignment and meal plan.

What if my budget does not reflect my actual expenses?

Students can file a Cost of Attendance Professional judgement form if the student wishes to have other school related expenses add into their budget. An example would be paying daycare while you are attending class or attending a study group. Students can also request a time-one COA increase for up to \$1000 for the purchase of a computer. Other qualifying PJ requests would be to reconsider required books and/or supplies that exceed the books and supplies COA of \$40 per credit hour.

*An increase in COA does not increase federal grant eligibility however it can increase federal work study eligibility and loan eligibility.

Example of a "Cost of Attendance" budget for a Traditional, Parkville Student, Living on Campus.

Direct Charges for Parkville or Gilbert	Semester	Year
Traditional Campus Tuition & Fees	\$8,250	\$16,500
Estimated Housing & Food (on campus)	\$5,400	\$11,080
Indirect Personal Expenses	Semester	Year
Estimated Books & Supplies	\$600	\$1,200
Estimated Personal Expenses	\$2,000	\$4,000
Estimated Transportation		