

Q: What will I have to pay to go to college?  
It's just tuition, right???

A: Wrong, there's a bit more to it than that.  
College costs include:

- Tuition
- Fees
- Room and Board
- Transportation
- Books/Supplies
- Personal Expenses



All of the above are costs related to college. When added together, they are referred to as Cost of Attendance (COA), which means the entire amount it will cost you to go to college for one year.

### Other things to consider...

#### In-state vs. Out-of-state

Public colleges usually have two rates for tuition: one for students who live in that state and another (more expensive) rate for students from other states. Sometimes schools will waive the out-of-state portion of tuition for students from nearby states who have good grades.

#### On campus vs. Off campus

Some colleges do not offer the option of living off campus your first year, but if it's an option to do so that might allow you to save money.

#### Public vs. Private

Public colleges are typically less expensive, but private colleges can offer scholarships that can help cover the extra expenses.

#### Two year vs. Four year

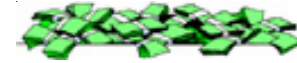
Depending on your major, you can attend four years to obtain a Bachelor's degree or two years for an Associate's degree. Two year colleges are often smaller in size and cost less than four year colleges. You could save money by getting the first two years of a Bachelor's degree at a two year college, then transferring to a four year institution to complete your degree.



How am I going to pay for all of this?

Scholarships, grants, student loans, and work-study are great ways to pay for college. Best of all, students can use all four types or any combination of financial aid.

#### Scholarships



There are lots of different scholarships, which is money awarded to students to help pay for college. You can receive them for having a *talent*, *good grades*, being in *school clubs*, participating in *community service*, *playing sports*, etc. Scholarships can be used for all college costs and do not have to be paid back.

#### Grants

A grant is money awarded to a student *based on financial need*. This means that multiple factors will be considered when determining if a student is eligible for a grant. A common one is the PELL. Grants do not have to be paid back and can be used for all college costs. Most are *renewable* for four years.

#### Student loans

Loans are available from banks as well as the federal government. Loan money can be used for all college expenses, but *must be paid back*, usually in monthly payments after college graduation. Some students who graduate with specific majors can be eligible for loan forgiveness, which means your employer or state pays the loan back for you.

#### Work-study

This is a great way to help pay for college. How it works: a student works *between classes* or *after*, typically up to 20 hours per week. There are lots of places to work on campus: residence halls, the library, student union, or you can even work some off-campus jobs. The money earned goes to you in a paycheck or helps pay your tuition.



What can I be doing RIGHT NOW?

That's a great question!  
Here's where you can

START

#1.

Study hard and keep making good grades. Make sure you are taking *college-prep* courses and doing well in all subjects.

#2.

Stay active in school *clubs* and *organizations*. If possible, hold a leadership position in at least one club. Showing yourself to be a leader will strengthen your college and scholarship applications.

#3.

Search online for *scholarships*. It's never too early to begin looking; some scholarships allow you to apply as early as your freshman year in high school.

4900-B Century St.  
Huntsville, AL 35816  
(256) 372-4600

# Cash For College...

## What's the "Big Deal?"

North Alabama  
Center for  
Educational  
Excellence

How Much???

**NACEE**  
(256) 372-4600  
[WWW.NACEE.NET](http://WWW.NACEE.NET)

Here is your guide to understanding the costs of college! Inside you'll find a breakdown of:

- What you can expect to pay.
- Some things to consider when choosing a college.
- Ways to help pay for college education.
- Things you can be doing right now to be prepared for your college career.