

AWARD COMPARISON WORKSHEET

Once you have received a financial aid award letter from more than one school, use this worksheet to compare costs. While cost alone shouldn't determine which college you choose, this worksheet will help you compare financial aid packages side-by-side and determine your out-of-pocket expense.

	School #1	School #2	School #3
Cost of Attendance	University of Denver	_____	_____
Tuition & Fees			
Room & Board	+	+	+
Books & Supplies	+	+	+
Transportation Expenses	+	+	+
Personal Expenses	+	+	+
Other (if applicable)	+	+	+
TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE	=	=	=

Financial Aid - The amount of aid indicated on the financial aid award letter you received from each school. <i>(Note: You may not have been offered every type of aid listed below.)</i>			
Federal Pell Grant			
Federal SEOG Grant	+	+	+
State Grants & Scholarships	+	+	+
College Grants & Scholarships	+	+	+
Other Grants & Scholarships	+	+	+
Work-Study*	+	+	+
Direct Subsidized Loan	+	+	+
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	+	+	+
Other Aid	+	+	+
TOTAL FINANCIAL AID	=	=	=

Total Cost of Attendance - Total Financial Aid = UNMET COST	=	=	=
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*Work-study is a resource for personal expenses and books and will not post a credit to your student account. You will receive a paycheck as you work.

Focus on unmet cost, not total aid.

It's tempting to compare the amount of one school's grants and scholarships to the grants and scholarships from another school. However, the most important figure is the bottom line—how much you will have to pay or borrow in order to attend each school. An institution that has offered you a larger grant or scholarship may be a more expensive choice if they also have a higher sticker price. On the other hand, a school with a high sticker price may be the most affordable after all grants and scholarships are applied.

Remember that your unmet cost is not equal to what you will owe to the University of Denver.

The Cost of Attendance listed on your award letter includes indirect costs such as personal and transportation expenses. These are estimated costs associated with going to school, but will *not* appear on your University bill. To determine what you will owe DU after your financial aid is applied to your charges, go to www.du.edu/financialaid/resources/award and click on the "Estimated Billing Worksheet" link.

Look carefully at the types of aid offered.

What is the proportion of grants, scholarships and loans for each package? Some colleges will include a Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan in their award letter, which can make the unmet cost seem very low (or even \$0). While qualified borrowers may get this credit-based loan for expenses up to the cost of attendance, it's not guaranteed financing and should not be used when determining unmet cost.

Take note of the requirements to keep your aid.

Is the aid listed on your award letter renewable for four years? Could it change? Will your financial aid package from each school remain consistent from one year to the next? Knowing this will help you determine if your unmet cost could change in future years.

Plan for all four years.

As you compare your award letters, be sure to plan for all four years of your education. Remember that your unmet cost for the 2017-2018 school year will likely be similar to the unmet cost for the next three years as well. If your family financial situation remains the same, DU will make every effort to provide you with a similar financial aid package each year, provided you apply for aid on time and there are not significant changes in available federal and state funding. Find out if other schools will make a similar effort.

Be sure to also consider the time it will take to complete your degree. Many colleges and universities are struggling with impacted class schedules and students are not always able to finish in four years. At the University of Denver, 93% of our 2015 graduating students finished in four years or less. You can be confident you won't have to pay for an extra year in order to finish your degree at DU.

Consider value as well as cost.

We recognize that cost and award packages vary from institution to institution, and that certainly justifies consideration. However, we also believe in the value of a DU education, and that should warrant your consideration as well. Learn more at www.du.edu/why-du.

Want a fillable, electronic version of the award comparison worksheet?

Visit The College Board's online worksheet at http://bit.ly/compare_aid.