

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MUST DO MORE TO PROVIDE USEFUL AND USABLE INFORMATION ABOUT COSTS TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Have a findable, workable Net Price Calculator (NPC)

Be transparent...



DISCLOSE FULL CURRENT COSTS

- **Define** net price as cost of attendance less grants.
- **Specify** assumptions used to estimate costs and note how costs may vary based on these assumptions (e.g., meal plan, housing, major, and course load).
- **Use** data from the current or previous academic year.

Include all costs in the cost of attendance (e.g., books and food are not optional).

DEFINE AND DESCRIBE MECHANISMS TO PAY COSTS

Be transparent about the differences between loans and grants.

Loans

- **Disclose** that loans are optional and must be repaid.
- **Do not include** Direct PLUS Loans.
- **Specify** the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

Grants

- **Specify** that grants do not require repayment.
- **Disaggregate** by source (federal, state, and institution).
- **Report** eligibility and renewability requirements.

...especially about grants and loans



Encourage next steps



SHARE KEY INFORMATION WITH STUDENTS

- **Provide** only one net price that meets the federal definition.
- **Align** cost-related information across all institutional websites.
- **Provide** estimates for particular populations (e.g., financially independent students, non-US citizens, and part-time students).
- **Share** the email and phone number of the financial aid office.

To learn more about *Questioning the Calculations*, visit www.ahead-penn.org/research-projects/questioning-net-price-calculators.

@PennAHEAD

PennAHEAD