

USING NET PRICE CALCULATORS (NPCs) TO ESTIMATE YOUR COSTS OF ATTENDING A PARTICULAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Know the definition of net price.

Net price = cost of attendance – grants and scholarships

Make sure all costs are included.

Cost of attendance = tuition and fees + room and board + books and supplies + transportation + personal expenses

Institutions are supposed to estimate these costs as part of the process of determining financial aid awards.

Know the difference between grants and loans.



Read the fine print.

- What **assumptions** are built into the cost of attendance (e.g., double-occupancy room or particular major field)?
- Do the estimates **reflect your circumstances** (e.g., citizenship and enrollment status)?
- Do the estimates use **data from the current or prior academic year**?

Take the next step.

1. Complete the **FAFSA**.
2. Meet all **deadlines**.
3. Contact the **financial aid office**.

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

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