

Financial Aid Offer Letter Comparison Sheet

It's important to compare financial aid offer letters to identify which institution best meets your needs. Just grab your letters, plug in the numbers in the worksheet below, and see which institution is right for you!

Step 1: List your top three colleges

Name of College:			
------------------	--	--	--

Step 2: What is the cost of attendance?

Tuition and Fees			
Room & Board	+	+	+
Books & Supplies	+	+	+
Transportation Expenses	+	+	+
Miscellaneous Expenses	+	+	+
Total Cost of Attendance	=	=	=

Step 3: What are you receiving in gift aid?

Tip: Gift aid does not have to be paid back. Certain restrictions apply.

Federal Grants (Pell, SEOG, etc.)			
State Grants (Next NC or NC Need-Based)	+	+	+
Institutional Scholarships (Academic, Athletic, etc.)	+	+	+
Outside Scholarships	+	+	+
Total Gift Aid	=	=	=

Step 4: What would your cost be after applying your gift aid?

Total Cost of Attendance			
Total Gift Aid	-	-	-
Total Cost After Gift Aid	=	=	=

Step 5: What work-study/loan options have you been offered?

Tip: Loans do have to be paid back. Pay close attention to interest rates and do not take out more money than you need.

Federal Work-Study*			
Student Loans	+	+	+
Parent Loans/PLUS	+	+	+
Total Work-Study/Loan Aid	=	=	=

*The totals that you may see on your award letters for federal work-study are not awarded to students upfront. You will have to work up to that amount, and you are responsible for finding an eligible work-study job.

Step 6: What would your remaining cost be if you chose to take out loans and applied for work-study jobs?

Total Cost After Gift Aid			
Total Work-Study/Loan Aid	-	-	-
Total Remaining Cost	=	=	=

Step 7: When is the deadline to accept your aid?

Tip: Talk to the admissions and financial aid counselors at each college to make sure you stay up-to-date with any deadlines.

Aid Acceptance Deadline			
College Decision Deadline			
Other Important Deadlines			

Step 8: Who can you contact for more assistance?

Tip: If the financial circumstances used in your FAFSA application have changed, you can reach out to each financial aid office to ask about your options.

Financial Aid Office Contact Information

Phone Number			
Email			
Physical Address			

If you would like more help on understanding some of the financial aid terminology mentioned, you can view our [Understanding Financial Aid Handout](https://www.cfnc.org/C2C) found at [CFNC.org/C2C](https://www.cfnc.org/C2C) under the “For Students” tab.