

TEST YOUR MONEY



No doubt you know the price of going to the movies, buying a CD or a cup of gourmet coffee. But how about the costs of items you'll need to buy as a college student? And do you know what you'll be getting into when you set up your own apartment?

See how close you come to what you'll have to spend once you're in college and later on your own.

- What is the average cost of a college textbook?
 - \$45
 - \$65
 - \$100
- What is the average cost of a used 1996 Honda Civic?
 - \$3,000
 - \$5,000
 - \$7,000
- How much should you expect to pay for utilities (gas and electricity) in your apartment each month?
 - \$55
 - \$115
 - \$200
- How much does the average young adult spend on food per month?
 - \$300
 - \$400
 - \$500
- How much does it cost to do one load of laundry at a Laundromat?
 - \$2
 - \$4
 - \$6
- At the end of a year, how much will the average young adult have spent on gasoline, oil, insurance and the other costs of operating a car?
 - \$1,250
 - \$2,250
 - \$3,350
- How much does the average young adult spend on household cleaning supplies in a year?
 - \$25
 - \$125
 - \$225

Answers

- B. The average cost of a textbook is \$61.66 and you can expect to spend about \$300 to \$400 each semester on books. By the time you graduate, your total book bill could be as much as \$3,200.
- A. Other used cars cost more or less. The cheapest cars, however, may not be a bargain if you're always having to pay for repairs.
- B. According to a federal government report, adults under 25 spent almost \$115 per month for utilities, or about \$1,350 per year.
- A. The same report found that young adults spent about \$300 per month on food, including eating out at fast food places.
- B. The average washer takes about \$2 in quarters for a single load and drying can cost another \$2. The \$4 adds up over time—even if you only do one load a week, that's more than \$200 a year, without even counting laundry detergent.
- B. And the current answer is much higher since this statistic is from a 2002 report, well before gas prices started skyrocketing.
- C. Even the most frugal person still needs to buy soap, dishwashing detergent, paper towels and other essentials.

NINE-MONTH STUDENT EXPENSE BUDGET 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR

Allowance	with parents	on-campus housing	off-campus housing
Tuition and Fees ¹	Actual institutional charges		
Books and Supplies ²	\$1,242 per academic year		
Food ³	per month per year	\$ 358/month \$3,222/year	Actual institutional charges \$ 294/month \$2,646/year
Housing ⁴	per month per year	—	\$ 658/month \$5,922/year
Transportation ⁵	per month per year	\$ 100/month \$ 900/year	\$ 68/month \$ 612/year
Personal/Miscellaneous ⁶	per month per year	\$ 300/month \$2,700/year	\$ 220/month \$1,980/year
Child/Dependent Care	Reasonable expenses with adequate documentation provided by the student, depending upon age and number of dependents.		
Loan Fees	For student loan borrowers, actual or average loan origination and insurance fees.		
Total, excluding allowances based on actual institutional charges	per month per year	\$ 896/month \$8,064/year	\$ 440/month \$3,960/year
			\$ 1,462/month \$13,158/year

1 Includes all mandatory fees.

2 Includes books (\$729), educational supplies (\$171), course material fees (\$162) and computer-related expenses (\$180), excluding the costs associated with the purchase of a personal computer.

3 Includes food, snacks, meals on campus, household supplies.

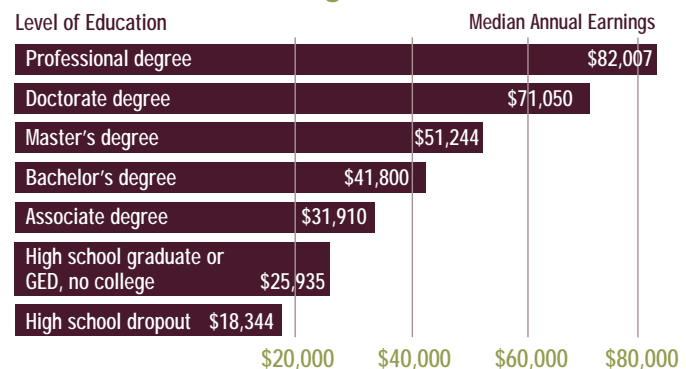
4 Includes dorm charges, rent and utilities.

5 Includes travel to and from parents' residence and transportation costs to and from classes and work—bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking.

6 Includes clothing, laundry and dry cleaning, personal care, gifts, recreation, medical costs.

Source: California Student Aid Commission

The Value of a Higher Education



Note: Employment earnings are for full-time workers age 25 and over
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2003 data

Excerpted with permission from the publication *2006-2007 Fund Your Future Workbook*, by the California Student Aid Commission and the EdFund.

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This workbook is also available in Spanish. A national version will be available soon.