

Paying for College Quick Reference Guide

Cost of Education (COA)

- An estimate of the total costs for attending a particular college/university for a period of one year. Included in this are:
 - Tuition
 - Room and Board
 - Books and Supplies
 - Personal Expenses
 - Transportation Expenses
- COA will vary by type of institution:
 - Community College – Northern Virginia Community College - \$17,806.00
 - Public In-state University – University of Virginia - \$34,560.00
 - Private In-state University – Marymount University - \$54,416.00
 - Public Out-of-State University – Clemson University - \$59,042.00

Applying for Financial Aid

- Forms required
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – required by most public, private and community colleges and technical schools
 - VASA – for students unable to complete the FAFSA (undocumented, DACA)
 - CSS Profile – required by around 400 colleges nationally
 - UVA, W&M, University of Richmond, Washington & Lee, Patrick Henry College, Christendom College
 - Specific Institutional Forms
- Application period begin October 1st of the student’s senior year
- Deadlines vary by institution (November – March)
- Student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC) determined by financial information included on the FAFSA
 - EFC sent to all colleges included on their FAFSA submission

Determination of Financial Need

- COA minus EFC equals Student’s Financial Need
- Financial need will vary by institution
- Student will receive a Financial Award Letter from individual institutions once they are accepted for admission

Financial Awards

- Types of Financial Aid
 - Grants
 - Pell, VTAG, Virginia Commonwealth
 - Scholarships
 - Merit/based, need-based, or other
 - College Specific or Generic
 - Automatic Consideration or specific deadlines
 - Work-Study
 - Institution helps student find a job on campus
 - Loans
 - Stafford or Parent Plus Loans

Scholarship Resources

- Naviance



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- High School Career Center Specialist