



Paying for College:

Understanding
Financial Aid,
Scholarships,
and more!

Jerry Cebrzynski
Associate Vice-President for Financial Aid
Lake Forest College

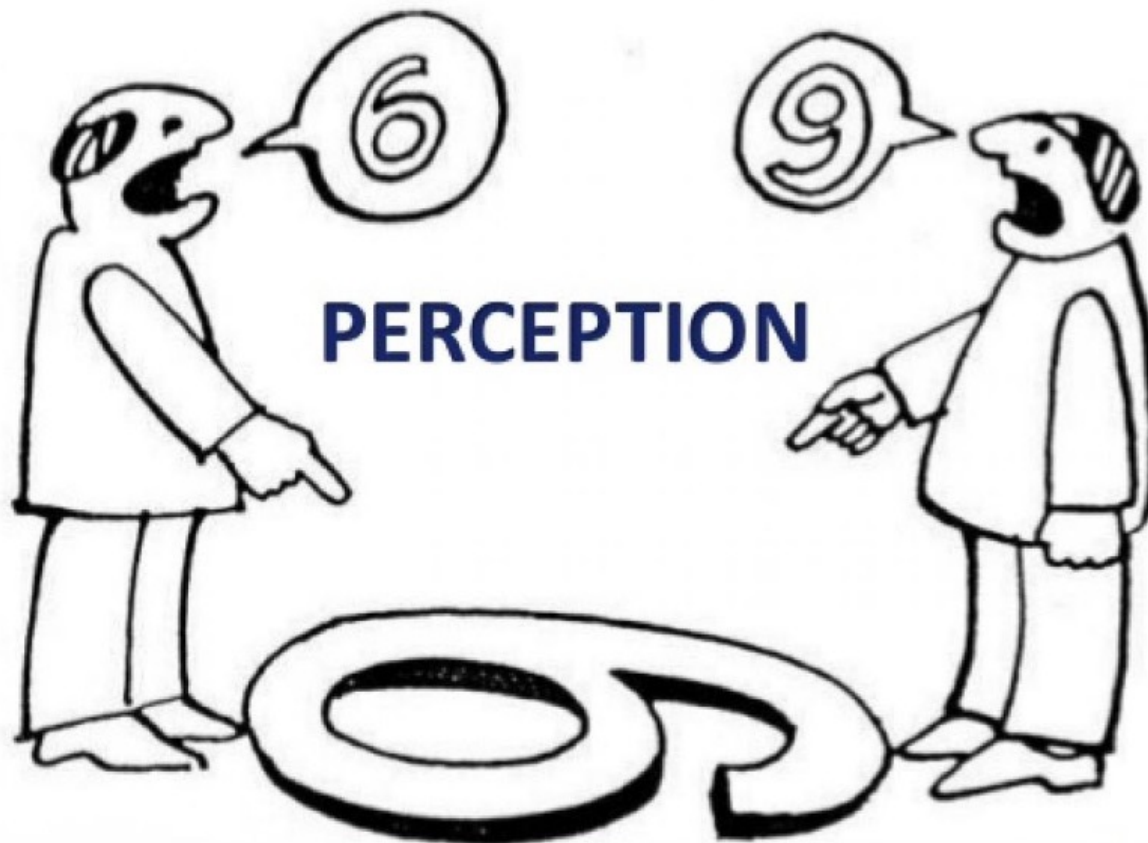
Finding the Best Fit - Financially

- *The Real Cost of College*
- *Financial Aid is...*
- *Financial Aid Application(s)*
- *Financial Aid Award Letter (aka College Financing Plan)*
- *Award Letter comparison tool*
- *Deadlines*
- *Where to find help*

IS COLLEGE AFFORDABLE



HOW MUCH DO FAMILIES THINK COLLEGE COSTS



MEDIA REPORTS OF THE RISING COST OF COLLEGE

- “colleges have already thrown themselves out of the window”
- “access to higher education of an open society, is threatened by rising college costs”
- “the rising costs and narrowing higher education serve as a bridge lead into the middle-class’
- “if we go on this way for years, we won’t have a functioning system of higher education”



York Times, 1973

York Times, 1987

York Times, 2001

York Times, 2016

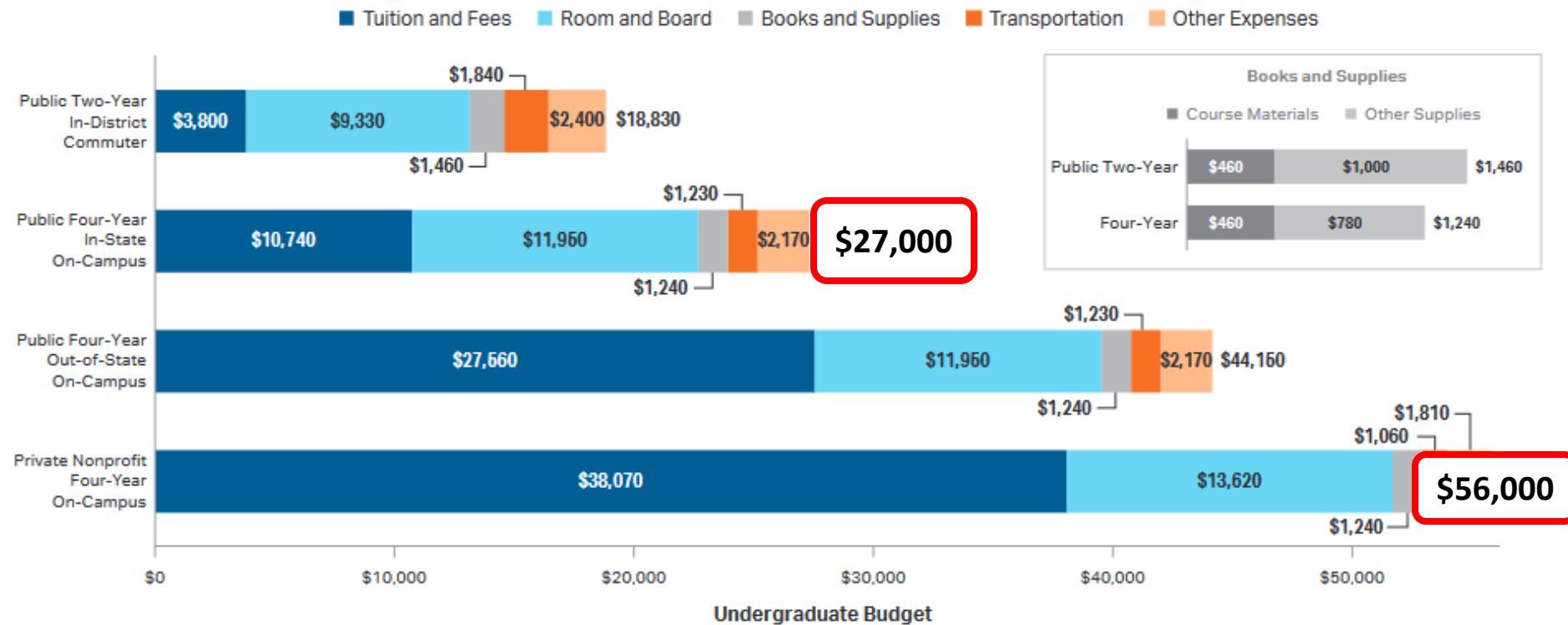
THE REAL COST OF COLLEGE

- 85% of all full-time, first-time (FTFT) undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid
- 95% at private colleges; 78% at public institutions
- 60% of all funds awarded to undergraduates were from a scholarship or grant
- ***If you think you need help financing college, apply for financial aid***

Student Budgets, 2021-22

In 2021-22, average budgets for full-time undergraduate students range from \$18,830 for public two-year in-district students and \$27,330 for public four-year in-state students to \$44,150 for public four-year out-of-state students and \$55,800 for private nonprofit four-year students.

FIGURE CP-1 Average Estimated Full-Time Undergraduate Budgets (Enrollment-Weighted) by Sector, 2021-22



EXAMPLES OF HIGH COST PRICE COLLEGES

■ Notre Dame	\$80,000
■ Northwestern University	\$84,000
■ Claremont McKenna College	\$79,000
■ Washington University (St. Louis)	\$82,000
■ USC	\$82,000
■ University of Chicago	\$85,000
■ Lake Forest College	\$68,000

“NET” COST

■ Notre Dame	\$80,000	\$30,000
■ Northwestern University	\$84,000	\$30,000
■ Claremont McKenna College	\$79,000	\$22,000
■ Washington University (St. Louis)	\$82,000	\$29,000
■ USC	\$82,000	\$27,000
■ University of Chicago	\$85,000	\$34,000
■ Lake Forest College	\$68,000	\$26,000



College Scorecard

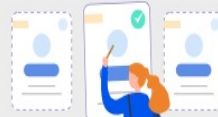
info



Enter

College Navigator

info



Enter

90/10 Information

info



Enter

Net Price Calculator Center

info



Enter

Start here to find information about

- How much it costs students to attend different colleges.
- How fast those costs are going up.
- Why costs are going up.



College Affordability and Transparency List

info



Enter

State Spending Charts

info



Enter

College Financing Plan

info



Enter



Name of School

States (use map for more than 1 state)

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona

[Use Map](#)


ZIP Code

Miles from



Programs/Majors

0 Items Selected


[Browse for Programs](#)

Level of Award ?

☐ Certificate
☐ Bachelor's

☐ Associate's
☐ Advanced

Institution Type ?

☐ Public
☐ Private non-profit
☐ Private for-profit

☐ 4-year
☐ 2-year
☐ < 2-year

+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS


[Show Results](#)

[Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

Lake Forest College

555 N Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045-2399

General information: (847) 234-3100

Website: www.lakeforest.edu
Type: 4-year, Private not-for-profit

Awards offered: Bachelor's degree
Master's degree

Campus setting: Suburb: Large

Campus housing: Yes

Student population: 1,626 (1,607 undergraduate)

Student-to-faculty ratio: 12 to 1

[View Full Map](#)

IPEDS ID: 146481
OPE ID: 00170600

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)
[+ GENERAL INFORMATION](#)
[+ TUITION, FEES, AND ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES](#)
[+ FINANCIAL AID](#)
[+ NET PRICE](#)
[+ ENROLLMENT](#)
[+ ADMISSIONS](#)
[+ RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES](#)
[+ PROGRAMS/MAJORS](#)
[+ SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS](#)
[+ VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAMS](#)
[+ ACCREDITATION](#)
[+ CAMPUS SECURITY](#)
[+ COHORT DEFAULT RATES](#)

⊖ NET PRICE

AVERAGE NET PRICE FOR FULL-TIME BEGINNING STUDENTS

Full-time beginning undergraduate students who were awarded grant or scholarship aid from federal, state or local governments, or the institution.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Average net price	\$32,022	\$33,319	\$31,872

Full-time beginning undergraduate students who were awarded Title IV aid by income.

AVERAGE NET PRICE BY INCOME	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
\$0 – \$30,000	\$26,173	\$27,123	\$26,226
\$30,001 – \$48,000	\$25,842	\$27,252	\$27,690
\$48,001 – \$75,000	\$28,075	\$28,577	\$27,561
\$75,001 – \$110,000	\$30,877	\$32,328	\$29,405
\$110,001 and more	\$35,041	\$36,445	\$34,357

- Average net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant or scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses.

College Scorecard

Scorecard includes “outcome data” such as:

- Costs
- Graduation Rates
- Loan Default Rates
- Loan Repayment Rates
- Average Amount Borrowed
- Employment
- Earnings
- *Interactive tool – new data recently added*



Fields of Study



Costs



Graduation & Retention



Financial Aid & Debt



Typical Earnings



Student Body



Test Scores & Acceptance



Net Price Cost Calculators

- Online, College-specific estimator
- Average grant/scholarship available to a family
- Average student loan and work-study eligibility
- Come in many shapes and sizes
- Answers the question, how much will it cost YOU!
 - Out-of-pocket

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of several US dollar bills. The bills are fanned out, showing various denominations and intricate patterns. The colors are muted, appearing in shades of green, yellow, and grey.

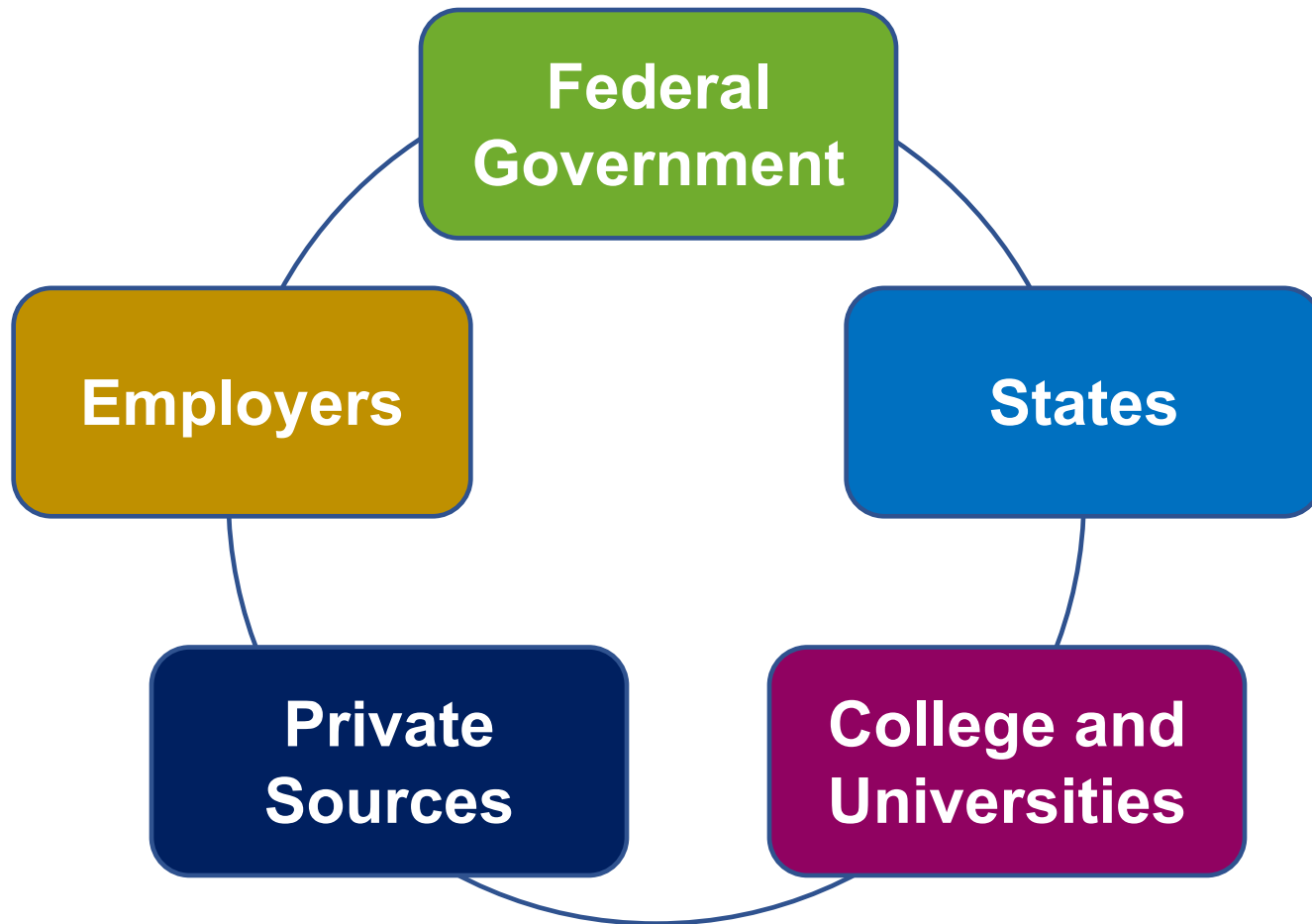
Financial Aid is...

Scholarships

Grants

Student Loans

Work-Study



SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID

TWO CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL AID

Merit-based

- From College as well as from foundations, etc.
- Based solely on the student's credentials

Need-based

- Calculated from FAFSA and other aid applications
- Sources can be federal, state, institutional
- Types include grants, student loans, work-study

How do you begin – merit based?



A close-up photograph of a white 'University Application Form'. The title 'University Application Form' is printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the title, there are several sections with labels: 'Personal Information', 'Given Name', 'Middle name', 'Surname', and 'Mailing'. A silver pen is resting diagonally across the form, pointing towards the 'Given Name' field.



A screenshot of the 'The Common Application' website. The header features the text 'THE COMMON APPLICATION' in a serif font, with 'For Undergraduate Colleges' below it. A navigation bar includes links: 'About Us', 'Member Colleges & Universities', 'Common Questions', and 'Download Forms'. The main content area has a sidebar with the words 'INTEGRITY', 'EQUITY', 'LIABILITY', 'ACCESS', and 'SERVICE' listed vertically. The central part of the page shows a 'NEWS' section with a date '06/04/2009' and a headline 'Common App Launches Monthly Update for Counselors'. Below the news is a 'LOGIN' section with fields for 'User Name' and 'Password', and a 'LOG IN' button. At the bottom, there is a footer with links: 'Help | Site Map | License | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use' and the copyright notice '© 2009 The Common Application'.



How do you begin – need based?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) collects basic financial data and is used to determine the student's eligibility by calculating an “index” #

FAFSA.GOV

Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

New to the FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

[Start Here](#)

Returning User?

[Correct info](#) | [Add a school](#)

[View your Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#)

[Log In](#)

FAFSA® Announcements

FAFSA Application Shutdown

Time Is Running Out! All 2021–22 FAFSA applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2022.

What to Do If Your or Your Family's Financial Situation Has Changed

Many FAFSA applicants have experienced recent financial changes due to the COVID-19 emergency or other reasons.

Has your (or your family's) financial situation changed from what is reflected on your federal

Overview of the FAFSA

- Available October 1
- FAFSA.GOV
- 7 Steps
- Based upon two years prior tax year
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE FAFSA

PARENTS

Family size

Number in college

Age of parents

Income

Assets

STUDENTS

Identifying

Demographic

Income

Assets

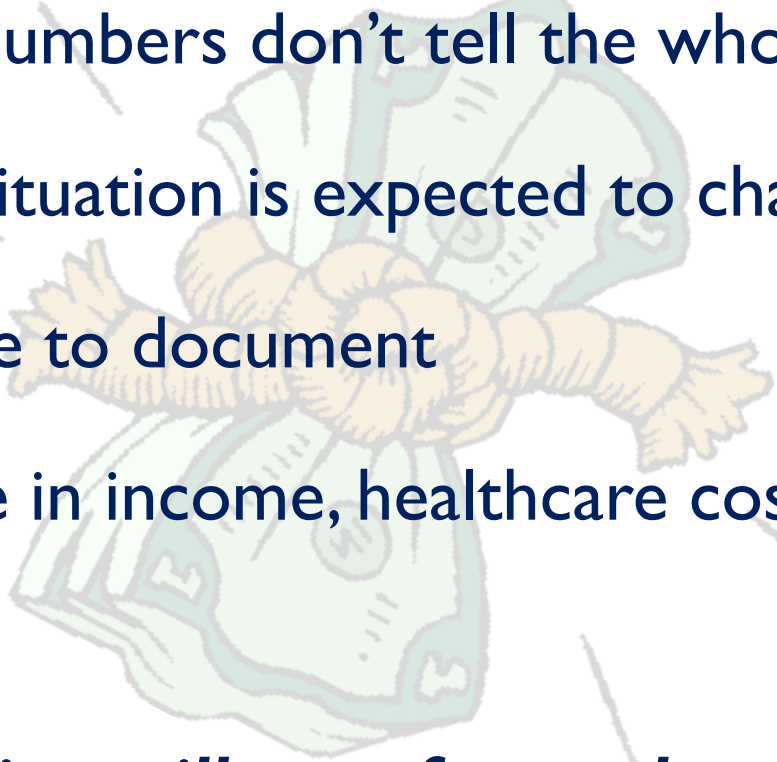
College plans

Note: list up to 10 colleges, using each college's unique federal school code

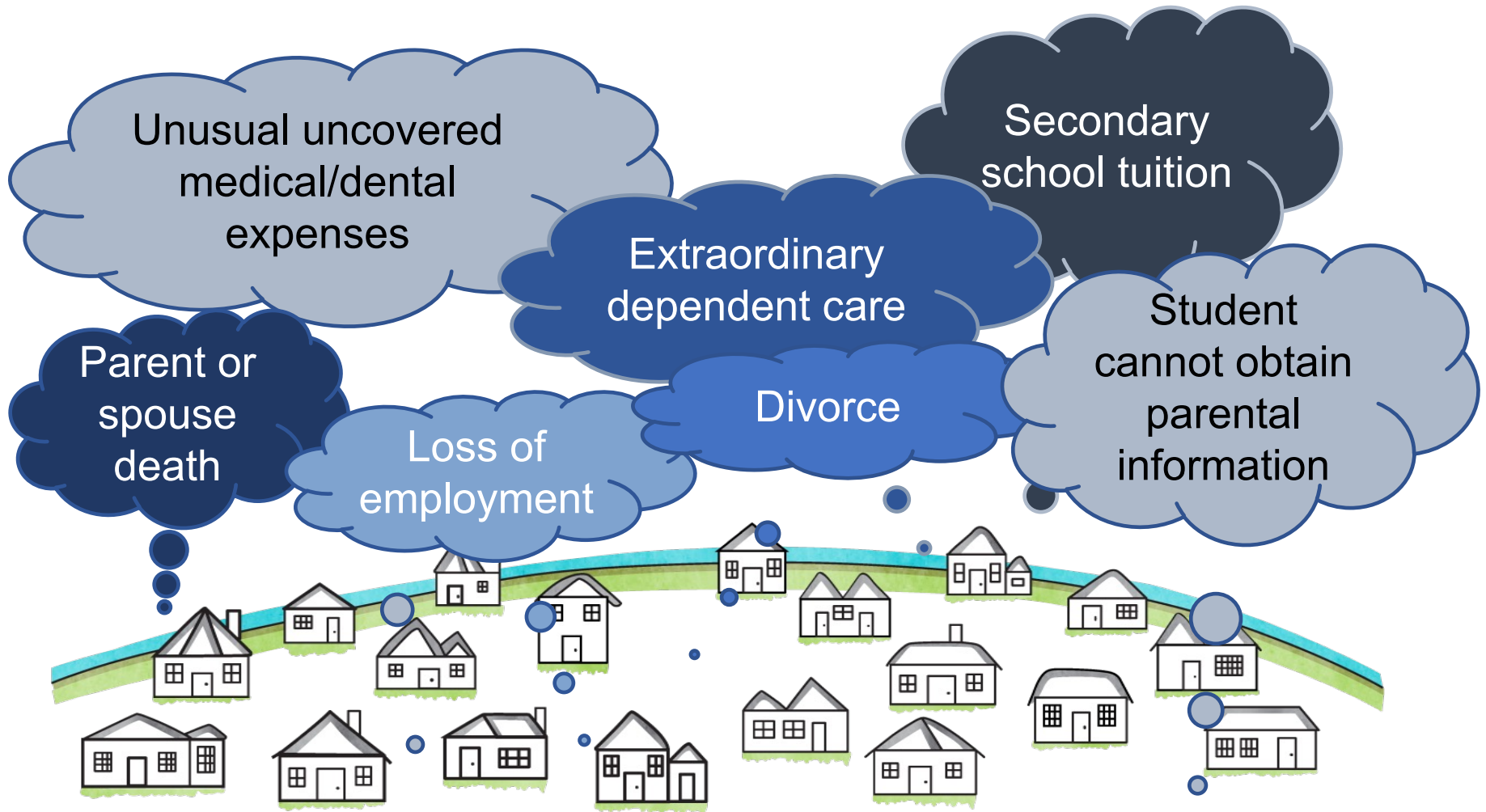
FAFSA FAQs

- **Divorced, separated, single parents**
- **Assets included**
 - Savings, stocks, other real estate
 - 529 Plans (parents)
- **Assets *not* included**
 - Home equity
 - Retirement accounts
 - Insurance policies, annuities
- **One FAFSA per student**

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES MATTER

- When the numbers don't tell the whole story
 - When the situation is expected to change (or has)
 - Must be able to document
 - Ex. decrease in income, healthcare costs, legal fees, etc.
 - ***Consideration will vary from school to school***
- 

Special Circumstances



SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

- **The College Scholarship Service (CSS) Financial Aid *PROFILE***
- **or**
- **A College's own application for financial aid**



Apply with CSS Profile

Each year CSS Profile gives access to more than \$9 billion for thousands of undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

[Sign In to Fall 2020/Spring 2021](#)



[Check participating Schools and Scholarships](#)



[Learn how to apply](#)



[View our Student Guide](#)

FINANCIAL NEED

HOW MUCH AID CAN A STUDENT RECEIVE?

**Cost of
Attendance**

**Family's
Contribution**

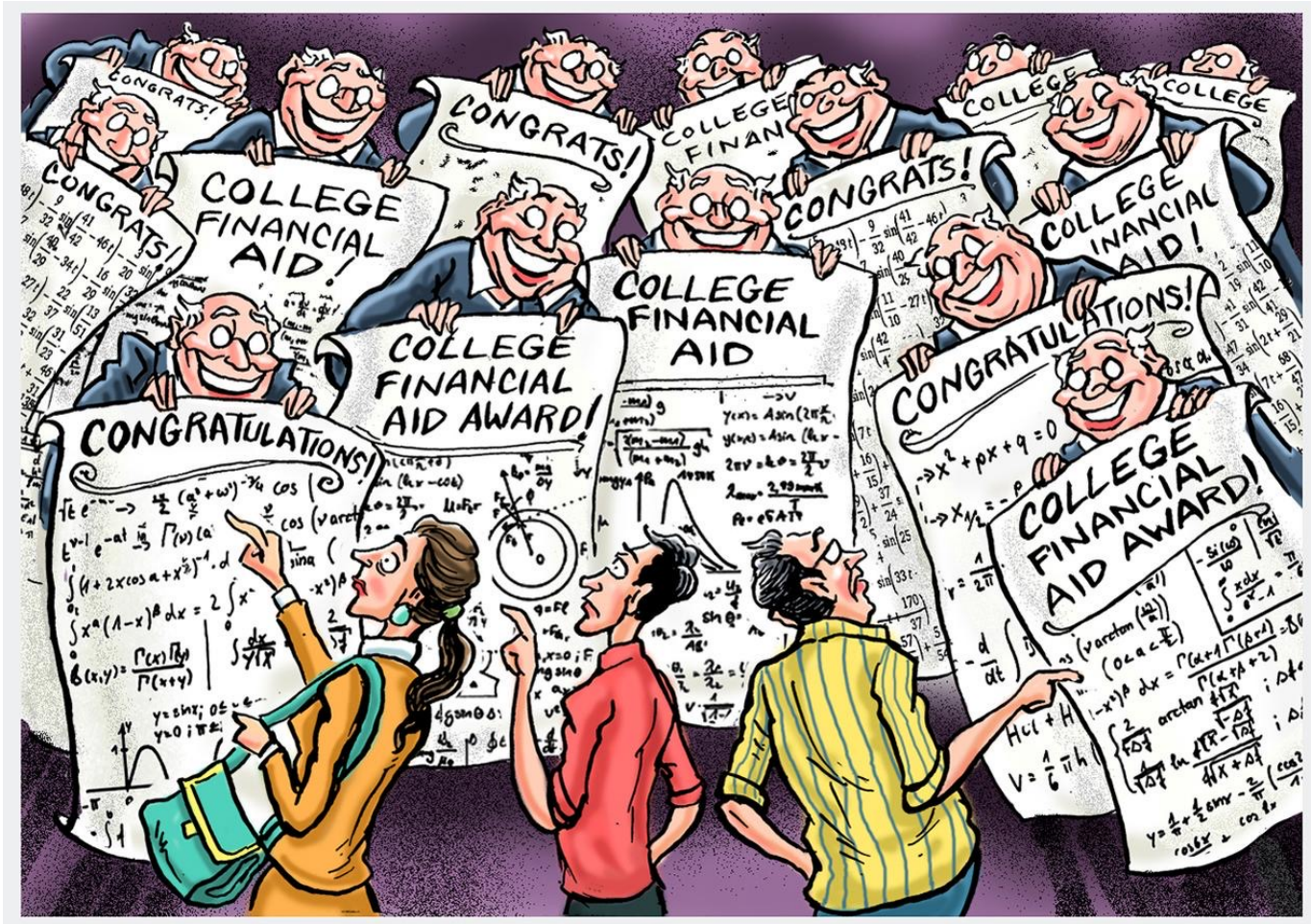
**Financial
Need**

UNIVERSAL PHILOSOPHY: *FINANCING A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS “A PARTNERSHIP”*



- **Students** and their **parent(s)** have the primary responsibility to pay for college (to the extent they are able).
- Financial aid assessment is **NOT** a cash flow analysis but rather an evaluation of an individual family's **appropriate** economic strength.
- The contribution is determined by a standard formula that assesses a family's **ability** to pay.
- **Special circumstances** matter; they can and do affect ability to pay.
- **Communication** is vital.
- ***The Financial Aid Office is your advocate!***

The Financial Aid Award Letter (or "package")



THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER



- Will contain a combination of
 - scholarship, grant, loan and work-study funds
- Why might “packages” be different?
 - cost of attendance
 - scholarship criteria and availability
 - institutional philosophy and funding
- Renewal for four years



University of the United States (UUS)

Student Name, Identifier

MM / DD / YYYY

Costs

Costs in the 2013-14 year

Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$ X,XXX / yr
Tuition and fees	\$ X,XXX
Housing and meals	X,XXX
Books and supplies	X,XXX
Transportation	X,XXX
Other educational costs	X,XXX

Gift aid

Grants and scholarships to pay for college

Total Grants and Scholarships ("Gift" Aid; no repayment needed)	\$ X,XXX / yr
Grants from your school	\$ X,XXX
Federal Pell Grant	X,XXX
Grants from your state	X,XXX
Other scholarships you can use	X,XXX

Net price

What will you pay for college

Net Costs (Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)	\$ X,XXX / yr
--	----------------------

Loan/work options

Options to pay net costs

Work options

Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional)	\$ X,XXX
---	----------

Loan options*

Federal Perkins Loans	\$ X,XXX
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	X,XXX
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	X,XXX

*Recommended amounts shown here. You may be eligible for a different amount. Contact your financial aid office.

Other

Other options

Family Contribution (As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution.)	\$ X,XXX / yr
• Payment plan offered by the institution	• Military and/or National Service benefits
• Parent PLUS Loan	• Non-Federal private education loan

Customized information from UUS

Graduation Rate

Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 6 years



Loan Default Rate

Percentage of borrowers entering repayment and defaulting on their loan



Median Borrowing

Students at UUS typically borrow \$X,XXX in Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$X.XXX per month. Your borrowing may be different.

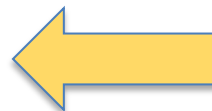
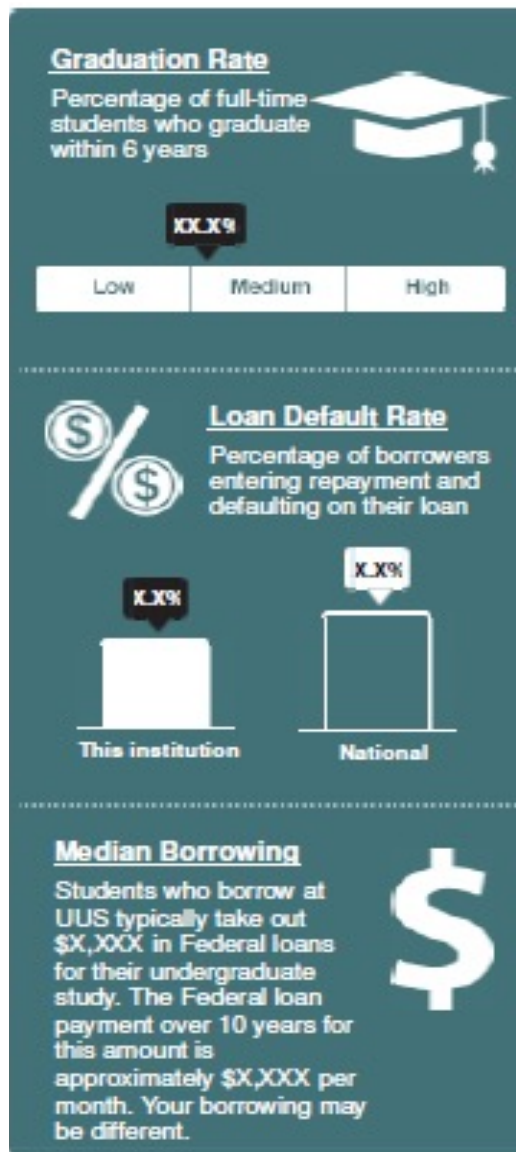


Repaying your loans

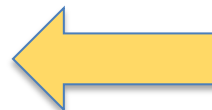
To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans>

For more information and next steps:

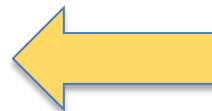
University of the United States (UUS)
Financial Aid Office
123 Main Street
Anytown, ST 12345
Telephone: (123) 456-7890
E-mail: financialaid@uus.edu



Current “**graduation rate survey**” as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics under IPEDS



Current “**cohort default rate**” as calculated by the Department



NEW “**median debt**” calculated by the Department

AWARD LETTER COMPARISON TOOLS

■ ***Finaid.org***

■ ***ISAC.org***

■ ***Consumer Financial Protection Bureau***



DEADLINES ARE ESSENTIAL!

- Know each College's *priority* deadlines
 - Read and retain all communication you receive
 - Merit scholarship deadlines
 - Admission Decision deadlines
 - Deadlines for supplemental documents (verification worksheet, etc.)



TIMELINE

- ✓ Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) FSA ID
 - ✓ One for student **and** one for a parent
- ✓ Complete FAFSA (and CSS Profile) after **October 1**
- ✓ Check if additional application required or beneficial
- ✓ Receive a Financial Aid Award Letter
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ May 1 – National Candidate Reply Date!



ASK FOR

HELP

- Your HS Guidance or College Counselor
- A College's Financial Aid Office
- Online
 - collegezone.com
 - finaid.org
 - studentaid.ed.gov
 - College Web Sites
 - Video tutorials on FSA YouTube channel:
 - *How to Create Your FSA ID*



