

# The Math That Matters

Beware the hidden costs of college—they're usually more than you think.

**W**E ALL KNOW COLLEGE IS more expensive than ever, and that's just tuition, room, and board. If you've managed to handle that hefty tab and think you're done, think again. Don't let unexpected costs take you by surprise.

**1. Books:** Even if you budgeted for books, be prepared for sticker shock. To save money, students can download e-books (or sometimes just the chapters they need), buy used, or rent from sites like Chegg and Amazon. Book.ly and Bigwords.com will compare prices to find the best deals.

**2. Travel:** If your child is studying far from home, plan ahead and buy tickets months in advance, especially for holiday weekends.

**3. Parking:** For those bringing a car, factor in the price of a campus parking pass.

**4. Food:** Even if you buy the unlimited meal plan, most students will spend a substantial amount on the occasional dinner out, late-night pizza, and snacks to fill the mini-fridge. A daily Frappuccino quickly adds up.

**5. Greek life:** Students who pledge a fraternity or sorority have initiation fees and membership dues, and often need to buy clothes for special events.

**6. Semester abroad:** Going overseas adds the cost of airfare, food and lodging, visas, and more. But the expense is well worth it, says Steve Schroeder, assistant dean of undergraduate programs for the Wisconsin School of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Students develop a global mind-set and many other skills critical to employers when they take advantage of study-abroad programs. It's a way to gain valuable global business experience and cultural fluency outside the classroom."

—Bethany Kandel

The personal, social, and academic benefits of a college education continue to make college one of the best investments you can make.

- Trinity Vice President Michael Fischer on Fox Business News

#1

in the West

U.S. News & World Report

9:1 student:faculty ratio

50% of students graduate with no student loan debt



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