




THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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ALLISON G. JONES
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs – Student Academic Support

Code: AA-2003-35
November 21, 2003

To: CSU Directors of Financial Aid
From: Allison G. Jones 
Subject: Financial Aid – 2004-05 Cost of Attendance Allowances

At its November 20-21, 2003 meeting, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) adopted student expense budgets for use by the Commission for 2004-05 Cal Grant programs. Attachment A reflects the Commission's student expense budgets for 2004-05. The budget allowances are based on statewide averages from the 2000-01 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) data and adjusted to 2004-05 with the forecasted changes in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) produced by the Department of Finance.

Attachment B reflects the 2004-05 Recommended Standard Student Budget Ranges for the California State University. These ranges were calculated using the 2000-01 SEARS data for CSU campuses and adjusting to 2004-05 based on the California CPI changes from 2000-01 through 2004-05 projections.

In order to determine the appropriate cost of attendance allowances for its students, each campus is encouraged to conduct regular assessments of expenses reasonably incurred by students in its immediate geographic area. The information reported in SEARS may also assist campuses in reviewing expenses for their students. Campuses may also consider consulting with neighboring postsecondary institutions to develop comparable budget standards. A copy of appropriate documentation regarding development of student cost of attendance allowances should be retained in files for potential review by auditors and program reviewers.

Please forward a copy of your campus 2004-05 costs of attendance (with updated 2004-05 campus fee detail) to Mary L. Robinson, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Student Academic Support, by January 23, 2004. Questions or comments may be directed to Ms. Robinson at (562) 951-4737 or mlrobinson@calstate.edu.

AGJ:MLR

Attachments (2)

cc: Dr. David S. Spence
Presidents
Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
Vice Presidents, Administration
Vice Presidents/Deans, Student Affairs

TABLE 1
CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
Proposed Nine-Month Student Expense Budgets
2004-2005 Academic Year

ALLOWANCE	WITH PARENTS	ON CAMPUS HOUSING	OFF CAMPUS HOUSING
TUITION AND FEES¹	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES		
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES²	\$1,260 PER ACADEMIC YEAR		
FOOD³ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 360 / MO \$ 3,240 / YR	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES ⁴	\$ 276 / MO
			\$ 2,484 / YR
HOUSING⁵ Per Month: Per Year:	INCLUDED IN ABOVE		\$ 650 / MO \$ 5,850 / YR
TRANSPORTATION⁶ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 96 / MO \$ 864 / YR	\$ 68 / MO \$ 612 / YR	\$ 110 / MO \$ 990 / YR
PERSONAL / MISC⁷ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 246 / MO \$ 2,214 / YR	\$ 202 / MO \$ 1,818 / YR	\$ 246 / MO \$ 2,214 / YR
CHILD / DEPENDENT CARE	REASONABLE EXPENSES WITH ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT, DEPENDING UPON AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
LOAN FEES	FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS, ACTUAL OR AVERAGE LOAN ORIGATION AND INSURANCE FEES		
TOTAL, Excluding Allowances based on actual institutional charges Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 842 / MO \$ 7,578 / YR	\$ 410 / MO \$ 3,690 / YR	\$ 1,422 / MO \$ 12,798 / YR

¹ Includes all mandatory fees.

² The breakdown for this category is as follows: books (\$729), educational supplies (\$189), course material fees (\$99), and computer-related expenses (\$243), excluding the costs associated with the purchase of a personal computer.

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

⁴ If contract is for less than nine months, adjustments may be made at the rate of \$276/month or fraction thereof.

⁵ Includes dorm charges, rent, and utilities.

⁶ Includes travel to and from parent's residence and transportation costs to and from classes and work. (e.g., bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking.)

⁷ Includes clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning, personal care, gifts, recreation, medical etc.

NOTE: The expense budgets shown on this table are based upon average expenses reported by students at the University of California, California State University, and California independent institutions, California Community Colleges, and private career schools in the 2000-2001 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS), adjusted for four years of inflation.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
2004-2005 Recommended Standard Student Budget Ranges

STANDARD STUDENT BUDGET RANGES	With Parents		On-Campus Housing		Off-Campus Housing		
	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum Maximum	
NINE MONTHS (Academic Year)							
(Food)	\$3,240	\$3,240 - \$3,240 ⁽¹⁾		Actual Amount ⁽²⁾	(2,484)	(1,944) - (2,934)	
(Housing)	864	612 - 1,134 ⁽⁴⁾	612	234 - 810 ⁽⁵⁾	(5,850)	(4,356) - (6,660)	
Food and Housing	2,214	1,710 - 2,250	1,818	810 - 1,854	\$8,334	\$6,300 - \$9,594 ⁽³⁾	
Transportation	1,260	936 - 1,260	1,260	918 - 1,260	990	684 - 1,170 ⁽⁵⁾	
Miscellaneous Personal		Actual Amount		Actual Amount	2,214	1,404 - 2,250	
Books and Supplies					1,260	918 - 1,260	
Fees						Actual Amount	
Dependent/Child Care Allowance						Actual Amount	
		Reasonable expenses with adequate documentation based on the number and ages of student's dependents.					
MONTHLY SUBSISTENCE							
(Food)	\$360	\$360 - \$360		Actual Amount ⁽²⁾	(276)	(216) - (326)	
(Housing)	96	68 - 126 ⁽⁴⁾	68	26 - 68 ⁽⁵⁾	(650)	(484) - (740)	
Food and Housing	246	190 - 250	202	90 - 206	\$926	\$700 - \$1,066	
Transportation	\$702	\$618 - \$736	\$270	\$116 - \$274	110	76 - 130 ⁽⁵⁾	
Miscellaneous Personal					246	156 - 250	
Total Per Month					\$1,282	\$932 - \$1,446	

(1) Represents cost of meals and basic expenses which the parents continue to provide while the student lives at home with parents and the student's expenses for meals away from home.

(2) The contract cost should be adjusted to a 21-meal per week basis. If less than a nine-month contract, an adjustment of up to thereof \$360 per month (the monthly equivalent of the food and housing allowance for students living at home), or a fraction thereof, may be made for dependent students.

An adjustment up to the standard off-campus allowance per month or a fraction thereof may be made for independent students.

(3) Based on 2000-2001 SEARS data separate allowances for food and housing (adjusted for inflation) are shown in parentheses.

(4) Represents allowance for student's transportation to and from classes and work (bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking, etc.). Does not include vehicle payments, insurance, repairs, or license fees.

(5) Represents allowance for student's transportation to and from classes and work (bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking, etc.) and transportation between residence while at college and parents' permanent residence. Does not include vehicle payments, insurance, repairs, or license fees.