

Academic Affairs, Student Academic Support
401 Golden Shore, 6th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

www.calstate.edu

Eric Forbes
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student
Academic Support
562-951-4744
Fax 562-951-4867
E-mail eforbes@calstate.edu

MEMORANDUM

Code: AA-2014-22

Date: December 18, 2014

Response Requested By:
January 16, 2015

To: CSU Directors of Financial Aid

From: 
Eric Forbes, Assistant Vice Chancellor

Subject: Financial Aid – 2015-16 Cost of Attendance Allowances

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has adopted student expense budgets, Attachment A, for use by the Commission for 2015-16 Cal Grant programs. The budget allowances are based on statewide averages from the 2006-07 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) data and adjusted to 2015-16 with the forecasted changes in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) produced by the Department of Finance.

Attachment B reflects the 2015-16 Recommended Standard Student Budget Ranges for the California State University. These ranges were calculated using the 2006-07 SEARS data for CSU campuses and adjusting to 2015-16 based on the California CPI changes from 2006-07 through 2015-16 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. 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 2015-16 costs of attendance (with updated 2015-16 campus fee detail) to Wendy Ortega, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid Programs and Services, Academic Affairs, Student Academic Support, by January 16, 2015. Questions or comments may be directed to Ms. Ortega at (562) 951-4730 or wortega@calstate.edu.

Attachments (2)

cc: Presidents
Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
Vice Presidents, Administration
Vice Presidents/Deans, Student Affairs
Dr. Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay
Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
2015-16 Student Expense Budgets

ALLOWANCE	WITH PARENTS	ON CAMPUS HOUSING	OFF CAMPUS HOUSING
TUITION AND FEES¹	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES		
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES²	\$1,764 PER ACADEMIC YEAR		
FOOD³ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 530 / MO \$ 4,770 / YR	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES	\$ 420 / MO \$ 3,780 / YR
HOUSING⁴ Per Month: Per Year:	INCLUDED IN ABOVE		\$ 910 / MO \$ 8,190 / YR
TRANSPORTATION⁵ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 125 / MO \$ 1,125 / YR	\$ 95 / MO \$ 855 / YR	\$ 141 / MO \$ 1,269 / YR
PERSONAL / MISC⁶ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 351 / MO \$ 3,159 / YR	\$ 258 / MO \$ 2,322 / YR	\$ 322 / MO \$ 2,898 / 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		
TOTAL, Excluding Allowances based on actual institutional charges Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 1,202 / MO \$ 10,818 / YR	\$ 549 / MO \$ 4,941 / YR	\$ 1,989 / MO \$ 17,901 / YR

¹ Includes all mandatory fees.

² The breakdown for this category is as follows: books (\$963), educational supplies (\$252), course material fees (\$144), and computer-related expenses (\$405), 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 parent's residence and transportation costs to and from classes and work. (e.g., bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking.)

⁶ 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, California independent institutions, and California Community Colleges in the 2006-07 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS), adjusted for nine years of inflation or deflation. Private career college data are from the 2003-04 SEARS, adjusted for 12 years of inflation or deflation.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

2015-2016 Recommended Standard Student Budget Ranges

STANDARD STUDENT BUDGET RANGES	With Parents			On-Campus Housing			Off-Campus Housing		
	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum
NINE MONTHS (Academic Year)									
(Food)							(3,780)	(3,583) -	(4,147)
(Housing)							(8,190)	(7,412) -	(9,287)
Food and Housing	\$4,770	\$4,770 -	\$4,770 ⁽¹⁾		Actual Amount ⁽²⁾		\$11,970	\$10,995 -	\$13,434 ⁽³⁾
Transportation	1,125	647 -	1,485 ⁽⁴⁾	855	589 -	1,380 ⁽⁵⁾	1,269	733 -	1,447 ⁽⁵⁾
Miscellaneous Personal	3,159	1,392 -	1,392	2,322	1,392 -	1,392	2,898	1,392 -	1,392
Books and Supplies	1,764	1,311 -	1,860	1,764	1,311 -	1,860	1,764	1,311 -	1,860
Fees		Actual Amount			Actual Amount			Actual Amount	
Dependent/Child Care Allowance	Reasonable expenses with adequate documentation based on the number and ages of student's dependents.								
MONTHLY SUBSISTENCE									
(Food)							(420)	(398) -	(461)
(Housing)							(910)	(824) -	(1,032)
Food and Housing	\$530	\$530 -	\$530		Actual Amount ⁽²⁾		\$1,330	\$1,222 -	\$1,493
Transportation (4)	125	72 -	165	95	65 -	153	141	81 -	161
Miscellaneous Personal	351	155 -	155	258	155 -	155	322	155 -	155
Total Per Month	\$1,006	\$757 -	\$850	\$353	\$220 -	\$308	\$1,793	\$1,458 -	\$1,808

- (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 \$530 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 2006-2007 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.