

Award Package Comparison Worksheet

It can be tricky to compare different schools' financial aid offers because costs and aid vary greatly from school to school. This worksheet helps you compare aid offers from several schools. As you review financial aid offers, keep in mind:

- "Gift aid" like a grant or scholarship is the best type of aid. Make sure you are aware of any requirements (like maintaining a certain grade point average) to maintain eligibility for this aid.
- Some institutions offer more grant money to new students. Check if any grant aid is restricted to first-year students or if it can be renewed. Consider each school's student aid policies to determine if future aid packages will be similar or less generous.
- The difference between the gift aid you're offered and the cost of attendance will give you a good idea of your out-of-pocket costs for school.
- "Self-help" aid like work-study and student loans are also available, but aren't as desirable as gift aid.
- Student loans have to be repaid with interest and can't be discharged in bankruptcy so don't take the decision to borrow lightly.

You can usually find this information on schools' websites or in materials they send you. If you can't find it, contact the school's financial aid office.

Award Package from School:	1.	2.	3.
Gift Aid (sources):			
1.	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?
2.	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?
3.	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?
4.	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?	\$ Renewable?
Total Gift Aid:	\$	\$	\$
Self-Help Work (sources):			
1.	\$	\$	\$
2.	\$	\$	\$
Total Work:	\$	\$	\$
Loans (sources and interest rates):			
1. (%)	\$	\$	\$
2. (%)	\$	\$	\$
3. (%)	\$	\$	\$
Total Loans:	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL All Aid:	\$	\$	\$

Cost of Attendance (COA or Budget):	\$	\$	\$
Less Expected Family Contribution (EFC):	– \$	– \$	– \$
Less Total All Aid:	– \$	– \$	– \$
Equals Unmet Need (COA - EFC - Aid):	= \$	= \$	= \$
Your Estimated COA/budget (if different from school's estimate):	\$	\$	\$
Revised Unmet Need (based on your estimated COA/budget):	\$	\$	\$