

COST OF ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE FOR DISABILITY

Cost of Attendance (COA) is determined by law (Higher Education Act, Sec. 472) and is not subject to regulation by the U.S. Department of Education. The law specifies the types of costs that are included in the COA. The COA for a student is an estimate of that student's educational expenses for the period of enrollment. Awards for most of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs are based on some form of financial need, beginning with COA.

The COA is the cornerstone of establishing a student's financial need, as it sets a limit on the total aid a student may receive for purposes of the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loan programs, and is one of the basic components of the Pell Grant calculation.

A student's COA is the sum of the following: the tuition and fees normally assessed for a student carrying the same academic workload; an allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses; and an allowance for room and board.

For a student with a disability, an allowance for expenses related to the student's disability can be included when calculating COA. These expenses may include special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies that are reasonably incurred and not provided by other agencies. If these personal expenses related to your disability should be included in your COA, contact an Enrollment Processor or Financial Aid Officer.