

The Cost of Going to College

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: This assignment requires you to compare the costs of attending four different types of post-secondary institutions: a two-year community or junior college, a four-year public college in your state, a four-year private university, and a public four-year college in another state. To find the data needed to complete the assignment, go to www.petersons.com. First, enter the name of your city or state in the search bar and click search. The list of schools will include both public and private colleges and universities in your state. You may need to go to the college's own web site to determine if it is public or private. (Ask your teacher for help if you need assistance.) After completing the three in-state institutions, return to the home page and enter the name of another state. Select a four-year public college or university from that list.

You're Going to College

| | Two Year In-State | Four Year In-State | Four Year Private | Four Year Out-of-State |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Institution | | | | |
| 1. Application Fee | | | | |
| 2. Tuition | | | | |
| 3. Fees | | | | |
| 4. Add lines 2 and 3. | | | | |
| 5. Room and Board | | | | |
| 6. Room Only | | | | |
| 7. Add lines 4 and 5. | | | | |
| 8. Add lines 4 and 6. | | | | |
| 9. Average Financial Aid | | | | |
| 10. Subtract line 8 from line 7. | | | | |

1. Which choice has the lowest cost for tuition and fees? (See Line 4)
2. Which choice has the highest cost for tuition and fees? (See Line 4)
3. On the average, which choice requires students to pay the lowest amount? (See Line 10)
4. How much can be saved by choosing the “room only” option instead of “room and board”? (Subtract Line 8 from Line 7).
5. What, if anything, surprised you about the costs or is the amount close to what you expected?
6. What additional expenses should be included when considering the cost of going to college?
7. Is the “cheapest” always the best choice? Explain your answer.
8. What other factors might students want to consider before choosing a college or university?
9. All things considered, does the cost of getting a post-secondary education outweigh the benefits received? Explain your answer.