
Calculating Financial Need and Cost of Attendance

FAFSA and EFC Calculations

Information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This amount is calculated by a formula that is established through federal law. Although students and their families are expected to contribute to the cost of college, the EFC is not the amount of money that students and families must pay to UNI. Instead, this figure is used to calculate how much federal student aid students are eligible to receive.

The EFC and aid from other sources (e.g. hometown, religious and organizational scholarships, etc.) are subtracted from the cost of attendance (COA) to determine eligibility for need-based aid. The cost of attendance is the estimated cost of attending UNI for an academic year and includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, a reasonable allowance for transportation to and from home, and personal and miscellaneous expenses. Cost of Attendance information can be found on the [Tuition and Fees website](#).

Calculating Financial Need

Financial need is calculated by taking the Cost of Attendance (COA) and subtracting out the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

To calculate remaining eligibility for need-based aid, take the Cost of Attendance (COA) and subtract the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and any other need-based aid.