



# The True Cost of College



## College is Expensive!

### Average tuition



**\$9,410**  
Public 4 year college

**\$32,405**  
Private 4 year college

### Average room and board



**\$10,138**  
Public 4 year college

**\$11,516**  
Private 4 year college

### Average "other" expenses



**\$2,106**  
Public 4 year college

**\$1,628**  
Private 4 year college

Tuition and fees are **39%** of the overall budget at a 4 year public college and **67%** at a 4 year private college.<sup>1</sup>

## Good News!

Students spent \$602 on college course materials in the 2015/2016 academic year.<sup>2</sup>

That's \$99 less than the average of \$701 in 2007/2008.<sup>3</sup>



Education companies and publishers are offering students less expensive course materials like digital resources, textbooks, ebooks, book rentals and digital discount programs.

## Textbook Costs in Perspective:

Books and supplies make up between 2-5% of the overall budget for college students at 4 year public and private schools.<sup>4</sup>

\$67 was the average price students paid on a textbook in the 2015/2016 academic year.<sup>5</sup>

Students spend an average of \$367 a month on discretionary spending like entertainment and eating out.<sup>6</sup>

In 2015/2016, the \$99 students saved on textbooks could buy them...



40 gallons of gas  
(\$2.45/gallon)<sup>7</sup>



7 pizzas  
(\$13.21/pizza)<sup>8</sup>



12 movie tickets  
(\$8.43/ticket)<sup>9</sup>

1. Calculations using College Board: Trends in College Pricing 2015 <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing> (totals include transportation)

2. National Association of College Stores: The Key Findings Report: Student Watch™ 2015-16 Academic Year <http://www.nacs.org/research/studentwatchfindings.aspx>

3. Ibid

4. College Board: Trends in College Pricing 2015 <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing>

5. Student Watch, National Association of College Stores, 2015-2016 Report

6. Student Monitor Spring 2016

7. US Department of Energy, "Supporting Information" Average price of gas in 2015 <http://energy.gov/eere/vehicles/fact-915-march-7-2016-average-historical-annual-gasoline-pump-price-1929-2015>

8. National Pizza Index, Delegation of the Associazione Vera Pizza Napoletana <http://parade.com/274999/ashleighschmitz/the-national-pizza-index-whats-the-average-price-of-an-american-pie/>

9. National Association of Theatre Owners, Annual Average US Ticket Price <http://www.natoonline.org/data/ticket-price/>