

Cost of Attendance Survey

Brief description of project:

To ensure equitable consideration for all students, standard cost of attendance figures are established. In the past, these figures have been based on a variety of sources, including some historical figures. Thus, the purpose of this survey was to update the cost of attendance figures by asking students what they spend for covered expenses.

Who was asked to complete survey: A random sample of 3500 undergraduate and 3500 graduate students who were eligible for financial aid (e.g., only matriculated students), plus all Medical and Law students.

Response Rate: 25.3% (1910 of 7604)

Administration Type: Campus Labs mailing

Summary of Key Findings:

As we hoped, this survey provided what we believe to be a much more accurate reflection of student expenses.

Actions Taken:

- Results were presented to committee and the process of obtaining these results were approved on January 19, 2012.
- Even though the response rate for this survey was higher than often found for a random sampling, the committee suggested ways to improve the response rate more in the next survey:
 - Increased incentive
 - Shortened time to complete the survey by not asking all questions of everyone (e.g., students could randomly get 5 questions)
- Summary results will be posted on the Financial Aid website.

Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

Implement Best Practices as presented at NASFAA and Federal Student Aid

Which Student Affairs goals does this project align with?

Promote the effective use of best practices in Student Affairs departments, programs and services.