Critical questions to ask when choosing a school

- **What** will I pay? What is my **net price**?
- **How** will I pay?
- Am I eligible to receive **scholarships or grants**?
- Am I eligible for **federal student aid**?
- What is the **graduation or completion rate** for the institution?
- Will I be able to **repay my loans**?

For comprehensive information on federal student aid programs, visit StudentAid.gov.

At StudentAid.gov, you will find information to help you determine what types of federal financial aid you can receive, whether you qualify for aid, how to apply, how to manage your loans after college and much more.

To order printed copies of this brochure, call toll-free 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327). Those who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a teletypewriter (TTY) should call 1-800-877-8339.

To access this brochure on the Department's website, visit StudentAid.gov/sites/default/files/comparing-colleges.pdf
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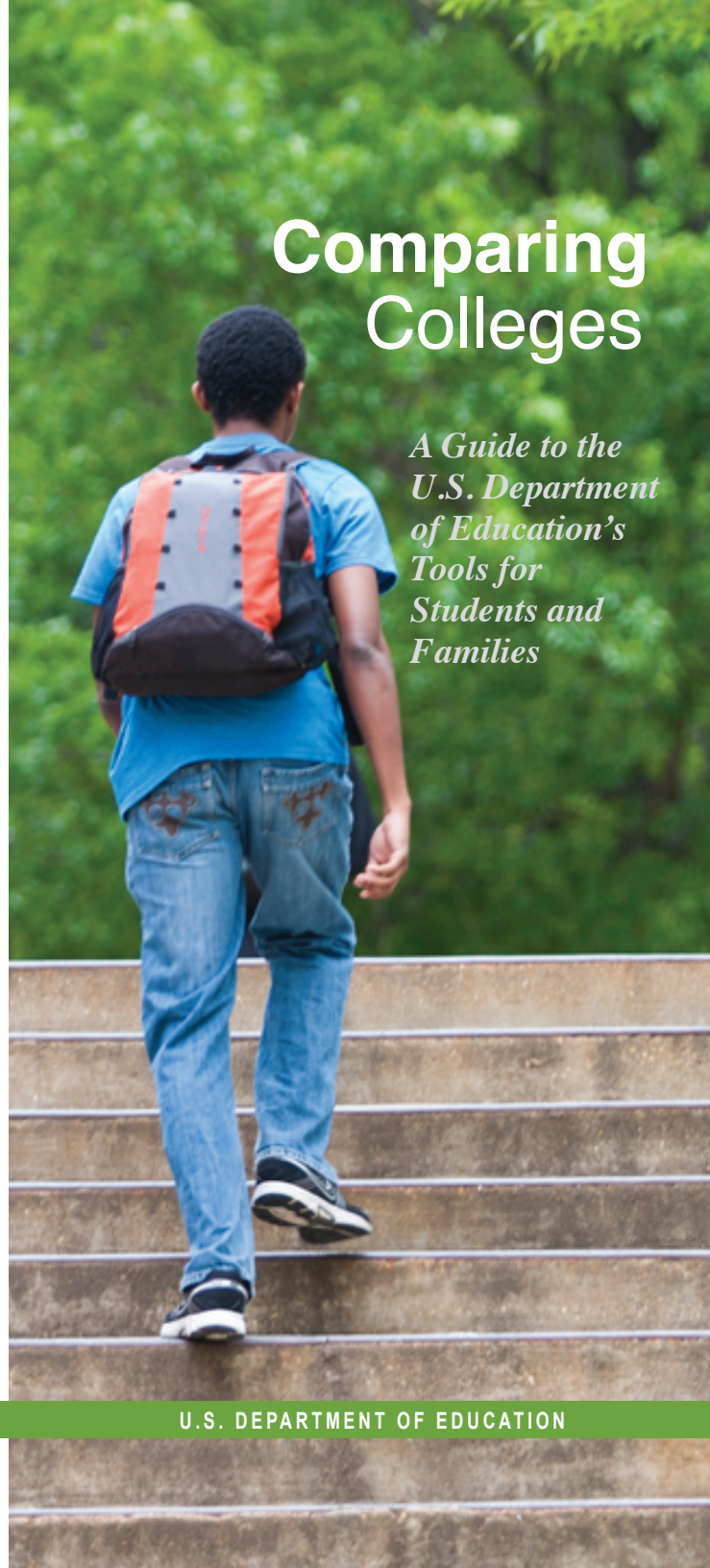
www.ed.gov

The U. S. Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.



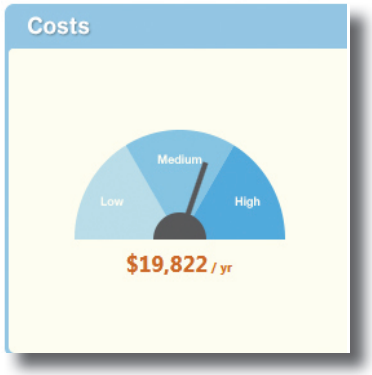
Comparing Colleges

A Guide to the U.S. Department of Education's Tools for Students and Families

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

As you navigate the college admissions process, the U.S. Department of Education provides tools for you and your family that make it easy to compare vital information such as college costs, average student loan debt and graduation rates across different institutions. To access the tools described here and more, visit the College Affordability and Transparency Center at collegecost.ed.gov.

The College Scorecard



The College Scorecard includes essential information about a particular college's costs, its graduation rates and the average amount its students borrow, all in a standardized, easy-to-read format. It is designed to help you compare colleges and choose one that is well-suited to your individual needs.

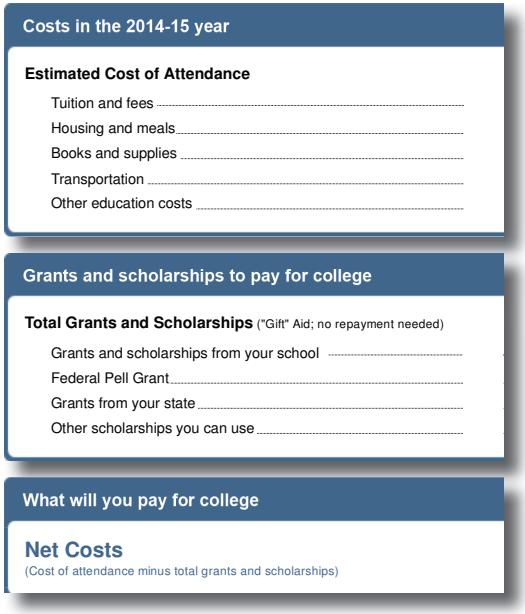
collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard

Net Price Calculator Center

The Net Price Calculator Center provides you a tool to explore the net price of any given college – that is, the price after subtracting the scholarships and grants you are likely to receive. Then, you can easily compare estimated net prices across the institutions that you are considering.

collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet



Costs in the 2014-15 year

Estimated Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Housing and meals
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Other education costs

Grants and scholarships to pay for college

Total Grants and Scholarships ("Gift" Aid; no repayment needed)

- Grants and scholarships from your school
- Federal Pell Grant
- Grants from your state
- Other scholarships you can use

What will you pay for college

Net Costs
(Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)

Many schools will send you a Shopping Sheet if they offer you a financial aid package. The Shopping Sheet provides personalized information on financial aid and net costs as well as general information on institutional outcomes – all in a standardized format. This tool provides an easy way to make clear comparisons among financial aid offers that you may receive.

collegecost.ed.gov/shopping_sheet.pdf

College Navigator

COLLEGENavigator

College Navigator is an interactive website that allows you to explore and compare features of different institutions, including programs and majors, admissions considerations, campus crime statistics and more.

nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/