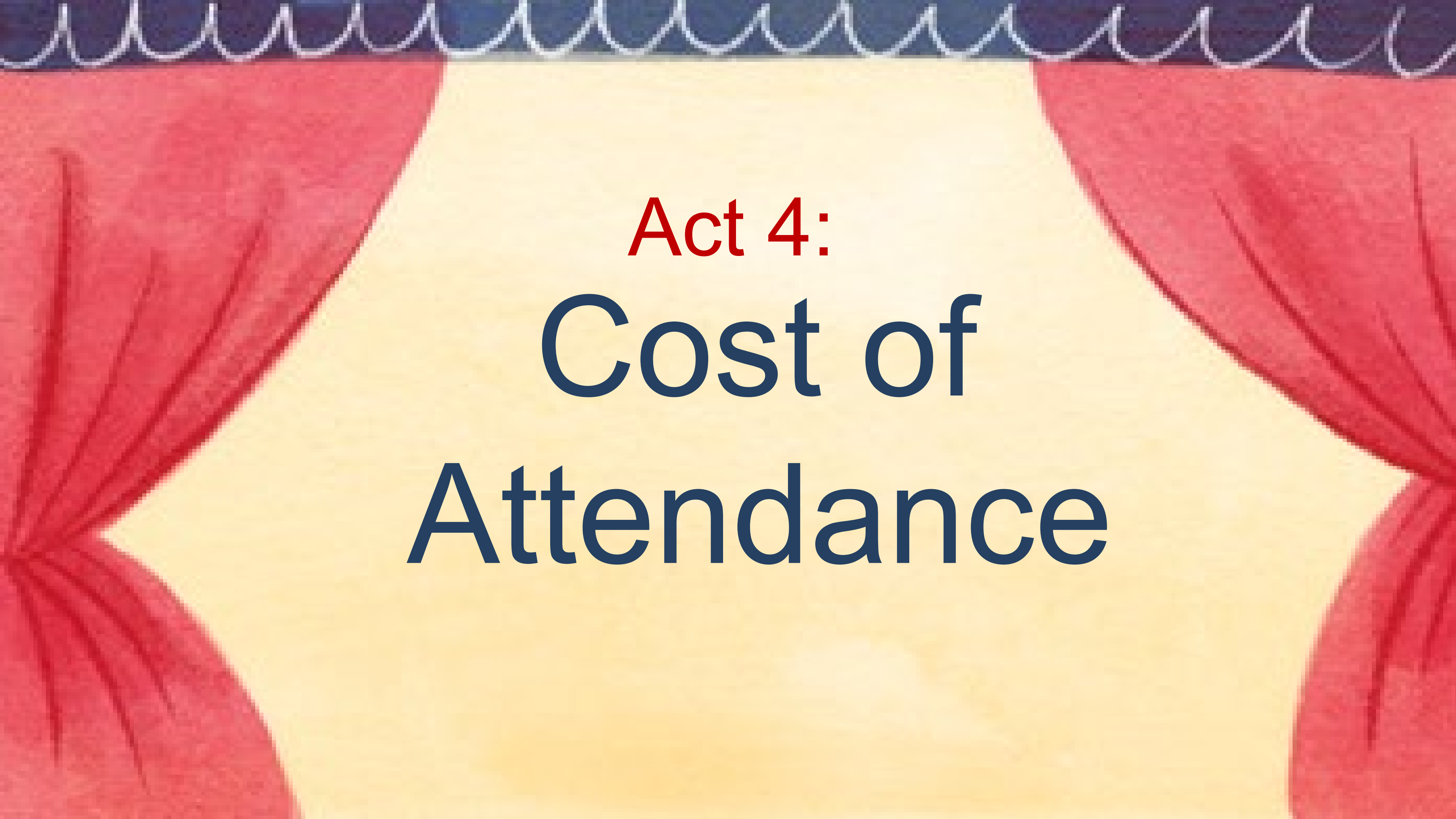


New Aid Officer Workshop



April 10-12, 2024 · Great Wolf Lodge · Dallas/Grapevine



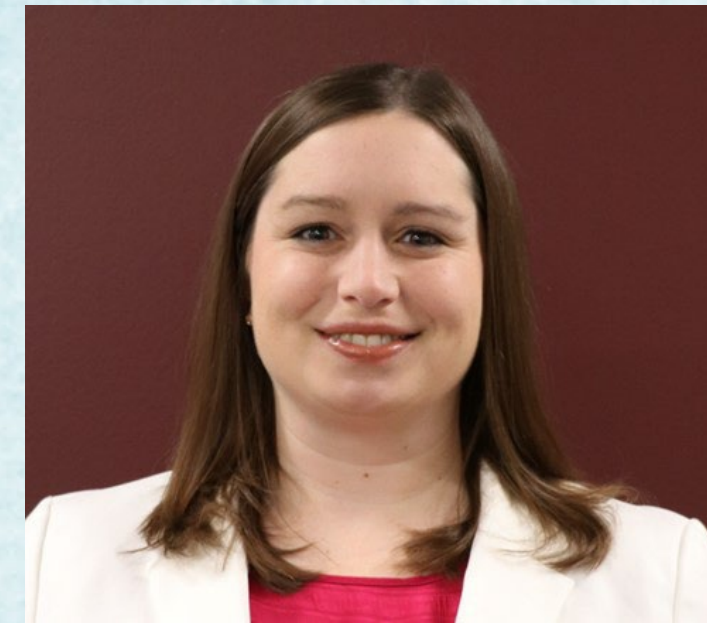
Act 4:
**Cost of
Attendance**

Federal Grants & Campus-Based Aid

Presenters



Erin Dunham
Financial Aid Advisor
San Jacinto College



Sarah Gordon
Associate Director
Texas A&M University

Highlights:

- What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?
- Why is it important?
- How is COA determined?
- Examples
- Additional allowances
- COA restrictions
- Professional judgment



What is Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Also called the student's BUDGET!
- Estimates a student's educational expenses for a period of enrollment.
- Defined in Section 472 of Higher Education Act of 1965
 - Specifies the type of costs that are included.
- Institutions determine the appropriate and reasonable amounts for the cost categories.



Pop Quiz #1:

What is Cost of Attendance?

- A. The exact cost the student needs to pay for a period of enrollment
- B. The exact cost the student needs to pay for a total undergrad degree
- C. An estimate of a student's education expenses for a period of enrollment
- D. An estimate of a student's educational expenses for a total undergrad degree

Pop Quiz #1:

What is Cost of Attendance?

C. An estimate of a student's education expenses for a period of enrollment

Pop Quiz #2

Who determines the appropriate amounts for cost categories?

- A. College Board
- B. The Institution
- C. TASFAA
- D. Department of Education

Pop Quiz #2

Who determines the appropriate amounts for cost categories?

B. The Institution

What is Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Provides students with expectation of cost for a year in a given degree/program
 - Think about it like this: It's not only how much a car is, but it's how much it will take to maintain the car and repairs.
- Forms the basis of financial need
 - Sets a limit on the total aid a student may receive
- Formula used to establish a student's financial need

Cost of Attendance (COA)
– Student Aid Index (SAI)

= eligibility for need-based
financial aid

What is Cost of Attendance (COA)

Basic Components:

- ✦ Tuition & Fees
- ✦ Living Expenses (housing and food)
- ✦ Books, course material, supplies and equipment...
- ✦ Transportation
- ✦ Miscellaneous personal expenses

Additional Cost Components

- ✦ Costs associated with obtaining a license, certification, or a first professional credential (must)
- ✦ Federal educational loan fee (must)
- ✦ Dependent care expenses (could)
- ✦ Disability related expenses (could)
- ✦ Cooperative education program expenses
- ✦ Study abroad expenses

Determining Data Points

Student Groups/Category:

- Hours enrolled
- Programs
- In-District vs. Out-of-District
- Dependent vs. Independent

Average or Actual Cost:

- Surveys
- Local cost research
- Published resources

Pop Quiz # 3

What group/categories can a student be divided into?

- A. Program of Study
- B. Hours Enrolled
- C. In District
- D. All the Above

Pop Quiz # 3

What group/categories can a student be divided into?

D. All the Above

Pop Quiz #4

Allowable costs can be determined by what methods?

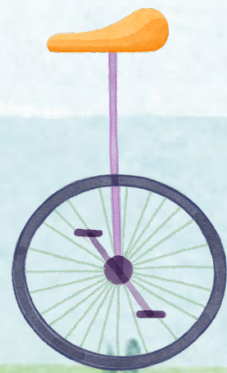
List 4 methods

Pop Quiz #4

Allowable costs can be determined by what methods?

1. Surveys
2. Local Cost Research
3. Published Resources
4. Actuatable Costs

BASIC ALLOWABLE COSTS



Tuition and Fees (set by institution)



- Amounts normally assess for students carrying same academic workload as determined by institution
 - FT -- HT -- $\frac{3}{4}$ T -- LTHT
- May include costs for rental or purchase of equipment, materials or supplies required of all students in the same program of study.
- Wide range of fees (health insurance, lab fees, graduation fees)

Room & Board (average or actual)

- Costs associated with housing
 - Student living on campus
 - Student without dependents living at home with parents
 - Student living off campus



Books, Supplies, Transportation & Personal Misc. Expenses



- **Books, Course Materials, Supplies, and Equipment**
 - Actual or estimated amount for the aid period being used
- **Transportation**
 - Student only and not for the purchase of a vehicle (i.e, public transportation)
- **Miscellaneous & Personal Expenses**
 - Clothing, toiletries, etc.
 - Personal computer rental/purchase
 - Reasonable
 - Included or case by case
 - Allowed only once

Pop Quiz #5

What are the Basic Allowable Costs?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pop Quiz #5

Basic Allowable Costs:

1. Tuition & Fees
2. Room & Board
3. Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment
4. Transportation
5. Personal misc. expenses.

COA Examples:

- Community College
 - University
- Private University



Community College 24

| | IN-DISTRICT | OUT-OF-DISTRICT | OUT-OF-STATE |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| FULL-TIME TUITION | \$2,490 | \$4,320 | \$6,690 |
| FEES | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| BOOKS MATERIALS SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT | \$1,460 | \$1,460 | \$1,460 |
| LIVING EXPENSES (FOOD & HOUSING) | \$18,971 | \$18,971 | \$18,971 |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$1,870 | \$1,870 | \$1,870 |
| PERSONAL MISCELLANEOUS EXP. | \$2,430 | \$2,430 | \$2,430 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 27,221 | \$ 29,051 | \$ 31,421 |

University 23 24

| College Expenses | Resident living off campus* | Resident at home with parents* | Resident living on campus* | Non-Resident* |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Tuition & Fees | \$11,550 | \$11,550 | \$11,550 | \$39,796 |
| Loan Fees | \$60 | \$60 | \$60 | \$60 |
| Housing & Food | \$11,780 | \$4,000 | \$13,154 | \$11,780 |
| Books & Supplies** | \$900 | \$900 | \$900 | \$900 |
| Travel | \$2,034 | \$2,034 | \$2,034 | \$3,440 |
| Personal Expenses | \$3,360 | \$3,360 | \$3,360 | \$3,360 |
| Total | \$29,684 | \$21,904 | \$31,058 | \$59,336 |

Private School 234

| COA Components (Direct & Indirect Costs) | 2023-24 | |
|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| | Semester | Academic Year (Fall/Spring) |
| Tuition and Fees | \$18,345 | \$36,690 |
| Estimated Books | \$350 | \$700 |
| Estimated Supplies | \$50 | \$100 |
| Estimated Transportation | \$1,016 | \$2,032 |
| Estimated Personal | \$910 | \$1,820 |
| Estimated Student Loan Fees | \$44 | \$88 |

| Living Options | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Estimated On Campus Room/Board | \$6,730 | \$13,460 | \$6,730 | \$13,460 |
| Estimated Off Campus Room/Board | \$4,422 | \$8,844 | \$4,422 | \$8,844 |
| Estimated With Relatives Room/Board | \$840 | \$1,680 | \$840 | \$1,680 |
| On Campus Total COA | \$27,445 | \$54,890 | \$20,502 | \$41,004 |
| Off Campus Total COA | \$25,137 | \$50,274 | \$18,860 | \$37,720 |
| With Relatives Total COA | \$21,555 | \$43,110 | \$14,860 | \$29,720 |

The COA below is for the academic school year shown. The figures provided are based on a student taking classes on the main campus, living on campus, off campus, or with parents/other relatives and taking 12-18 hours each semester (Fall/Spring). Adjustments to the budget will need to be made if the student will be enrolled less than full-time. The On Campus Room/Board figure is a weighted average of the double and triple room rates plus Meal Plan A.



ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES

Additional Allowances

- **Dependent Care**
 - Class time, study time, field work, internship, and community time for the student
- **Professional License or Credentials**
 - Must be charged during the period of enrollment, even if taking the exam after the period of enrollment
- **Study Abroad Program**
 - Costs for Abroad program if approved for credit



Additional Allowances



- **Disability Related Expenses**
 - Special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment and etc.
 - Can not be provided by other agencies
- **Work Experience and Cooperative Education**
 - Reasonable costs associated with such employment
- **Educational Loan Fees**
 - Actual fees or average of fees charged to borrows of same loan type

23-24 additional considerations.....

- For a student who receives a Federal PLUS Loan
 - Allowance for the actual cost of any loan fee, origination fee
 - Charged to student or parent of student loan or average cost of fee or premium
- For students in a program requiring professional licensure, certification for first professional credential
 - COA must include an allowance for the costs of obtaining the license, certification, or credential.
 - The costs must be incurred during (not after) a period of enrollment, even if the exam is after the end of the period



23-24 FAFSA Simplification

Effective with the 2023-24 award year, rules and guidance related to cost of attendance change in significant ways.

The FAFSA Simplification Act, which was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 gives the U.S. Department of Education (ED) the authority to regulate cost of attendance, starting in the 2024-25 award year.

In addition to Section 472 of the HEA, as amended, Dear Colleague Letter GEN-22-15 outlines each of the FAFSA Simplification provisions that are effective for the 2023-24 award year

COA Restrictions

Certain cost components are excluded for students who are:

- Enrolled less than half time (LTHT)
 - Room & Board for limited time
 - Transportation but not personal & misc. expenses
- Enrolled in correspondence/online programs
 - Only include tuition and fees and may include books and supplies
 - Can include everything if student is fulfilling period of residential training
- Incarcerated
 - Only include tuition/fees and books/supplies



Professional Judgement for COA

COA adjustments are allowed but not required to be offered by the Institution

- Must be done case by case
- Document, document, document.....
- Institutional decisions are final





Things to Remember....

Increase in COA DOES NOT always result in an increase of aid.

Some funds have annual limits and some funds have already been spent prior.

Example:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Cost of Attendance: | \$26,889 |
| SAI | - 0 |
| Unmet Need | \$26,889 |
| Full Package | - \$23,395 |
| Unmet Need | \$3,494 |

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Fully Packaged: | |
| Pell Grant (FT) | \$6,895 |
| Loans | \$10,500 |
| Work-Study | + \$6,000 |
| Total | \$23,395 |

Keep in Mind....

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Cost of Attendance: | \$26,889 |
| SAI: | - 0 |
| Unmet Need: | \$26,889 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Computer Allowance | \$1500 |
| Childcare Allowance | \$2000 |
| Transportation | +\$1500 |
| Additional Budget Amt: | \$5000 |

New COA = \$31,889

Fully Packaged + Scholarships:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Pell Grant (FT) | \$6,895 |
| Loans | \$10,500 |
| Work-Study | \$6,000 |
| Honors Scholarship | \$4,000 |
| TEOG | <u>\$1,500</u> |
| Total | \$28,895 |



Resources

FSA Handbook:

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/fsa-handbook/2023-2024/vol3/ch2-cost-attendance-budget>

NASFAA COA Monograph:

https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/document_s/COA_Monograph_August_2023.pdf





QUESTIONS?

Thank You for Completing our Survey



Cost of Attendance