

If You Want to Go to College, You Have to Do the Math!

Milika Cala

BEFORE YOU READ: Look at the vocabulary words below. Have you ever paid tuition? Have you ever gotten a scholarship? List some of the expenses (in addition to tuition) that you may have if you go to college.

Recently, my daughter got accepted to Suffolk University. The tuition and room and board cost

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\$57,039. They gave her a \$30,000 scholarship. I was very happy. I thought she had a good deal. She will be covered under my health insurance, so the total amount we will pay each year is \$24,388.

After the first year, she could live at home and be a commuter student, so the school could be even more affordable.

After I sent in the \$800 deposit, she asked me if she could go to Arizona State University instead. The cost for this school if you don't live in-state is \$42,772 per year. They gave her a \$7,000 scholarship. That means she would have to pay \$35,772 per year.

I reminded her that Arizona State University is far away. She would have to buy roundtrip airplane tickets at least twice a year. Air fares could add an extra \$1200 to her costs per year. For just one year, we would pay \$36,972. How about in four years? We will have to pay \$147,888. And this

price does not include extra food, books, clothes, and other things she might need. Also, what if the tuition goes up? I think the total we would pay in



Tuition (n):
the amount of money you pay for classes or for instruction at a school, college, or university



Scholarship (n):
a donation of money or a reduction in the cost of tuition or other fees, so that you can attend school

How Much Will It Cost?

The chart below represents the estimated annual cost for a new full-time undergraduate student enrolling at Suffolk University in the FALL 2018 semester and continuing as a full-time student in the SPRING 2019 semester.

Annual Charges Fall 2018 and Spring 2019	Commuter	Living on Campus
Tuition	\$38,420	\$38,420
Activity Fee	\$146	\$146
Orientation Fee (charged only first semester)	\$240	\$240
Room and Board (Based on a double room and meal plan C. Charges may change depending on room and meal plan.)	\$0	\$15,582
Annual Health Insurance*	\$2,651	\$2,651
Cost for the academic year (Fall and Spring semesters)	\$41,457	\$57,039

*If you have comparable insurance, waive this charge

four years would be closer to \$200,000! I told her, "Please think carefully!"

I spoke with my daughter and I asked her to do some math before she decided where to go. And she agreed with me. She is going to Suffolk University in the fall.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. How did Milika advise her child about which college to go to? How would you advise your child in a situation like this?
2. Check Milika's math. Add up the expenses for the first year at Suffolk University and subtract the scholarship and the health insurance. Confirm the total amount Milika will pay for her daughter's first year. Milika has already paid an \$800 deposit. How much more does she still owe?

3. What additional expenses should they be thinking about?

4. To learn more about paying for college, look up "Mapping Your Financial Journey" by <www.collegetransition.org>.

Milika Cala works as a House Attendant in a hotel in downtown Boston, where she attends a workplace-based ESOL class.

Sources: <www.suffolk.edu/explore/16415.php>; <students.asu.edu/standard-cost-attendance#nonresident>

