

WHAT IS AN EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION?

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated based on the information you reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The federal processor uses “federal methodology” to calculate your EFC as legislated by the U.S. Congress. This is not necessarily a true contribution nor is it the amount of any check you’ll have to write to the University. It is a component that our office is required to use when determining eligibility for need-based aid.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY ISN’T WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE?

There are thirteen dependency questions on the FAFSA. You are considered dependent if you cannot answer “yes” to at least one of the dependency questions.

The Expected Family Contribution for a dependent student measures your and your parent(s)’ ability to pay for college; it does not measure the family’s willingness to pay. Federal regulations prohibit our office from taking the parents’ unwillingness to pay into consideration when awarding financial aid.

Whether or not your parents claim you as an exemption on their federal income tax return has no bearing on your dependency status for financial aid.

Contact your financial aid advisor if you feel your family situation warrants a review of your dependency status. Foster parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians should not be used as your parent-of-record on your FAFSA. You may submit the “Appeal for Independent Status” form and the required documentation to request a review of your dependency status.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND?

The office establishes standard Cost of Attendance each year as a basis for awarding financial aid funds. The Cost of Attendance is the maximum you can receive in financial aid and scholarships and is also known as the student budget. These budgets reflect modest but adequate expenses for Nevada based on research conducted by our office. They include estimated amounts for

- tuition and fees;
- books and supplies;
- room and board;
- personal and miscellaneous expenses; and
- transportation.

It is what it might cost you to attend during periods of enrollment. It does not include periods of non-enrollment such as summer or breaks. It could include everything from toothpaste, tuition, books and supplies, to pizza on the weekends. It is not the true costs nor is it the amount of any check you’ll have to write to the University.

The actual cost would be determined by your individual lifestyle and spending choices. Budgets are adjusted on an individual basis for enrollment status, residency status, and specific programs of study such as nursing or medical schools. We encourage you to create a spending plan or budget online at www.edwise.org to help you be realistic about your spending and be wise with your funds.