The student's cost of attendance (or “budget”) is established using the Department of Education's rules. The types of costs that may be included are as follows:

1. Tuition and fee charges,
2. Nonresident tuition charges if applicable,
3. Books and supplies expenses,
4. Meal expenses,
5. Housing expenses,
6. Transportation expenses,
7. Personal and Miscellaneous expenses, and
8. Loan fees if applicable

These items may be dependent upon the student's enrollment status.

Other costs such as childcare, study abroad expenses, and extraordinary education expenses are reviewed by a committee on a case-by-case basis upon the submission of a request for a professional judgment review of the student's cost of attendance.

For students who are enrolled less than half time, only the costs for tuition and fees and allowances for books and supplies, and transportation (but not miscellaneous expenses) may be included as part of the cost of attendance. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis to include limited room, board, and dependent care expenses for up to three semesters; no more than two of the semesters can be consecutive.