# The True Cost of College

## College is Expensive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Tuition</th>
<th>Average Room &amp; Board</th>
<th>Average “Other” Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9,650 Public 4 year college</td>
<td>$10,440 Public 4 year college</td>
<td>$2,110 Public 4 year college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$33,480 Private 4 year college</td>
<td>$11,890 Private 4 year college</td>
<td>$1,650 Private 4 year college</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuition and fees are 39% of the overall budget at a 4-year public college and 68% at a 4-year private college.¹

## Good News!

Students spent $579 on college course materials in the 2016/2017 academic year.²

That’s $23 less than the average of $602 in 2015/2016.³

Education companies and publishers are offering students opportunities to save on course materials with Inclusive Access programs, digital resources, textbooks, ebooks and book rentals.

## Textbook Spending in Perspective

Students spent an average of $66 per textbook in the 2016/2017 academic year.⁴

When students spend $579 on course materials, that’s just 1-2% of the overall budget for college students at 4-year public and 4-year private schools.⁵

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3. Ibid
5. College Board: Average Estimated Undergraduate Budgets, 2016-17