There are several important things to keep in mind that when pursuing an education after high school:

direct costs of education include the costs related to tuition, books, and room and board.

indirect costs include where you live, your transportation, and other personal expenses.

educational institutions come in all different shapes, sizes, and prices (just like cars, houses, etc.).

education is an investment that shows a return in future earnings.

by being a consumer shopper, you can make key decisions about how much education will cost you personally.

The answers to these questions will impact the true cost of your education:

***What kind of program do you want to study?***

Technical Certificate or Apprenticeship

Technical College for a 2-year degree

Community College for a 2-year degree

College or university for a 4-year degree

***What community will fit you best?***

Staying in hometown

Within driving distance from hometown

Out-of-state

***Where do you want to live?***

At home paying some rent

In a college dormitory

In an apartment with friends

***What kind of transportation will you need?***

Bike/skate board

Car: gas/parking

Bus/train

Plane

***What are you willing to spend on books?***

All new books

Used books

E books

Rental books

***What do you want to spend on personal expenses?***

I’m really frugal now and expect to be in college. I will look for free activities and go out with my friends for pizza only occasionally.

I think I will need a budget. I will look for both free entertainment and activities that might have a small cost. I would like to be able to go out my friends for pizza regularly.

I am not good at budgeting and know I will need a pretty big personal budget for clothes, entertainment, food, and time with friends.

***Cost Comparisons:***

***Washington State***

Approximate Tuition Costs for one year, full-time

Technical College $1,333.00/quarter or $4,000.00/year

Community College $1,333.00/quarter or $4,000.00/year

Washington Four-Year Public University

Western Washington University $8,022.00/year

University of Washington $11,305.00

Washington Four-Year Private University

Gonzaga $33,160.00

ITT Technical Institute $17, 748.00

Out-of State Four-Year Public University

University of California $36,078.00

University of Montana $20,896.00

Housing Cost

Living at home/paying some expenses $2,000.00

Dormitory living $7,420

Apartment rent/utilities $8,000.00

Transportation

Living at home – parking pass/gas $ 750.00

Dormitory living – short distance $ 200.00

Long-distance

Car $ 600.00 (1,000 miles for round-trips)

Train $ 390.00 (Six trips)

Plane $ 1,683.00 (Four trips)

Book Choices

All new books $1,500.00 - $2,500.00

Used Books $ 750.00 - $1,000.00

Rental books $ 500.00

E books $ 500.00

Extra money

Frugal budget $1,000.00

Basic budget $1,500.00

Little budgeting $3,000.00