



CASE STUDY¹: Student C applies for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/>. The federal government determines his Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to be \$14,345. The EFC represents a family's ability to contribute toward the student's

education and is used by all schools to determine a student's federal aid eligibility. Student C's family consists of 4 people (mom, dad, and one sibling) and his parents earn about \$127,000 per year. Student C compares the cost of living on-campus versus commuting from his parents' home:

ON CAMPUS	
Tuition	\$3,535.00
Fees	\$708.00
Housing - Standard Double	\$4,381.00
Meal Plan - Freedom 19	\$3,481.00
Total Charges	\$12,105.00
Federal Pell Grant	\$0.00
Federal SEOG Grant	\$0.00
NYS TAP Grant ²	\$0.00
SUNY Tuition Credit	\$0.00
NYS Excelsior Scholarship ³	\$0.00
Bengal Promise Grant ⁴	\$1,500.00
Bengal Experience Grant ⁵	\$500.00
Federal Subsidized Loan ⁶	\$1,750.00
Federal Unsubsidized Loan ⁶	\$1,000.00
Parent PLUS Loan ⁷	\$0.00
Total Aid	\$4,750.00
Amount Due	\$7,355.00

COMMUTER	
Tuition	\$3,535.00
Fees	\$708.00
Housing - Standard Double	\$0.00
Meal Plan - Freedom 19	\$0.00
Total Charges	\$4,243.00
Federal Pell Grant	\$0.00
Federal SEOG Grant	\$0.00
NYS TAP Grant ²	\$0.00
SUNY Tuition Credit	\$0.00
NYS Excelsior Scholarship ³	\$0.00
Bengal Promise Grant ⁴	\$0.00
Bengal Experience Grant ⁵	\$500.00
Federal Subsidized Loan ⁶	\$1,750.00
Federal Unsubsidized Loan ⁶	\$1,000.00
Parent PLUS Loan ⁷	\$0.00
Total Aid	\$3,250.00
Amount Due	\$993.00

DISCUSSION: Student C does not qualify for any federal or state grants because his family income is too high. Student C's options to pay the remaining amount due include: enroll in a payment plan to divide the balance into four monthly payments; ask his parent to apply for a federal Parent PLUS loan; or borrow a private student loan (after securing a creditworthy co-signor).

Student C is unable to afford the payment plan and determines he would need to borrow a total of \$20,210 his freshmen year to cover his charges (\$3,500 subsidized loan, \$2,000 unsubsidized loan,

and \$14,710 private loan for the fall and spring semesters). He will pay for textbooks out-of-pocket.

COMMUTING from home, Student C would owe about \$993 per semester. As a commuter, Student C would not be eligible for the Bengal Promise Grant, as that requires living on-campus. Student C has been working part-time and determines he can pay the balance with his savings from work. In one year, he would borrow \$5,500.

DOWNLOAD THE "BILL ESTIMATOR" AT <https://financialaid.buffalostate.edu/costs>

NOTES AND DISCLAIMERS

¹ Case study assumes the student is a first-time, full-time freshmen, a NYS resident, and a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen; student is considered "dependent" for financial aid purposes and is working on their first bachelor's degree.

² New York State TAP is based on NYS taxable income, not the student's EFC

³ Students must submit an online Excelsior Scholarship application with HESC and meet annual income and academic requirements to retain eligibility. See more at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior>.

^{4,5} Buffalo State Grants are not refundable and are only applicable to new, first-time, full-time freshmen, effective fall 2023. The Promise Grant requires living on-campus; the Experience Grant is available to students that participate in an admissions recruitment event. Other stipulations apply: <https://financialaid.buffalostate.edu/first-year>

⁶ All loans must be repaid after the student graduates or after he/she is no longer enrolled half-time.

⁷ PLUS loans are only available to parents of dependent students; separate application required.

All figures are estimated for the 23-24 academic year.