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# Fall 2018 Bill for Emily - Middle Income Example

**Case Study**[1]: Emily applies for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at https://fafsa.gov/. The federal government calculated her Expected Family Contribution[2] (EFC) to be $3,070. The EFC represents a family's ability to contribute toward the student's education and is used by all colleges to determine a student's federal aid eligibility. Emily's family consists of 4 people (mom, dad, and one sibling) and her parents earn about $59,000 per year. Emily compares the cost of living on-campus versus commuting from her parent's home:

| On-Campus | | | Commuter | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuition | $ | 3,235.00 | Tuition | $ | 3,235.00 |
| Fees | $ | 670.00 | Fees | $ | 670.00 |
| Room - Standard Double | $ | 4,088.00 | Room | $ | - |
| Meal Plan - Balance 14 | $ | 2,857.00 | Meal Plan | $ | - |
| ***Total Charges*** | ***$*** | ***10,850.00*** | ***Total Charges*** | ***$*** | ***3,905.00*** |
| Federal Pell Grant | $ | 1,523.00 | Federal Pell Grant | $ | 1,523.00 |
| Federal SEOG Grant | $ | - | Federal SEOG Grant | $ | - |
| NYS TAP Grant[3] | $ | 712.00 | NYS TAP Grant[3] | $ | 712.00 |
| SUNY Tuition Credit | $ | 206.08 | SUNY Tuition Credit | $ | 206.08 |
| NYS Excelsior Scholarship[4] | $ | 793.92 | NYS Excelsior Scholarship[4] | $ | 793.92 |
| Federal Subsidized Loan[5] | $ | 1,750.00 | Federal Subsidized Loan[5] | $ | 1,750.00 |
| Federal Unsubsidized Loan[5] | $ | 1,000.00 | Federal Unsubsidized Loan[5] | $ | 1,000.00 |
| Parent PLUS Loan[5] | $ | - | Parent PLUS Loan[5] | $ | - |
| ***Total Aid*** | ***$*** | ***5,985.00*** | ***Total Aid*** | ***$*** | ***5,985.00*** |
| ***Amount Due (excluding textbooks)*** | ***$*** | ***4,865.00*** | ***Refund (excluding textbooks)*** | ***$*** | ***(2,080.00)*** |

**Discussion:** Although Emily qualifies for the NYS Excelsior Scholarship, she still will owe $4,865 per semester if she lives on-campus (the Excelsior Scholarship does not cover fees or living on-campus). Additionally, she would need to pay out-of-pocket for textbooks. Emily's options to pay the remaining amount due include: enroll in a payment plan to divide the balance into four monthly payments; ask her parent to apply for a federal Parent PLUS loan; or borrow a private student loan (after securing a creditworthy co-signor). Emily is unable to afford the payment plan and determines she would need to borrow a total of $15,230 her freshmen year to cover her charges ($3,500 subsidized loan, $2,000 unsubsidized loan, and $9,730 private loan for the fall and spring semesters). Emily would pay for her textbooks using money she saved over the summer.

Commuting from home, Emily has enough aid to cover her bill and will receive a refund of $2,080 per semester. In one year, she would borrow $5,500. However, if she does not need a refund, she could choose to decline the unsubsidized loan altogether, and reduce the subsidized loan by $1,000 per semester.

**Download the "Bill Estimator" at financialaid.buffalostate.edu/costs to estimate your costs!**

**Notes and Disclaimers**

[1] Case study assumes the student is 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] A student's EFC is derived from family income and assets, household size, and the number attending college.

[3] New York State TAP is based on NYS taxable income, not the student's EFC. TAP and Pell are often similar amounts, but they can vary significantly.

[4] Students must submit an online Excelsior Scholarship application with HESC. Students must meet annual income and academic requirements to retain eligibility. Students must reside in NYS for each year they receive an award or they must repay the grants received. Students that receive an Excelsior award are eligible for a reduced tuition rate of $3,235 per semester. See more at https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior.

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

**** All figures estimated for 2018-2019. ****