

Do the Math!

BE SURE TO COMPARE - COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID WILL VARY AT EACH SCHOOL

Congratulations! You've made it to the final stages of the college search and by now most of the pieces are probably falling into place. Now it's time to work through the financial aid process. Sometimes the financial aid forms, acronyms and deadlines can be confusing. To help you through this process, we suggest the following steps.

Comparing financial aid offers

USE THIS WORKSHEET TO COMPARE PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS' FINANCIAL AID OFFERS.



1 ADD UP THE COSTS

Calculate your total tuition, fees, room and meal costs at each of the schools to which you have been admitted.

2 SUBTRACT OUT ALL YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

These include any scholarships and grants you've received from each school, federal scholarships and grants, and outside scholarships.

3 DECIDE ON YOUR LOANS

Student loans can be useful tools to help you go to the college that fits you best. Now subtract your loan amounts from the total bill.

	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
School name	<i>Pacific Lutheran University</i>		
Tuition and fees	<i>\$32,800</i>		
Room and meals	<i>\$9,620</i>		
TOTAL	<i>\$42,420</i>		
Minus your total scholarships	—	—	—
Minus your total loans	—	—	—
Total out of pocket expenses			

4 MANAGE YOUR COSTS

Once you've subtracted your scholarships, grants and loans from your total cost, you'll know your out-of-pocket costs for the semester. You can decide to pay the entire fall bill at once or you may choose to make monthly payments throughout the year.

COMPARE YOUR COSTS AND DO THE MATH

Now that you've calculated your out-of-pocket expenses for each college, it's time to compare total costs. After working through this process, you may be surprised that a school you thought was out of your financial reach is, in fact, within reach. For example, while a larger scholarship from one school may seem more prestigious and attractive, after you do the math, you may find out that a lesser scholarship from another college with a lower tuition price may actually be more valuable.

This is exactly why you have to do the math.

Ready to reserve your spot at PLU? All you need to do is submit the \$200 Advance Tuition Deposit. The easiest way to pay your deposit is online at www.plu.edu/BeALute. You'll be able to submit your deposit and complete the Residential Life Housing Form. It can't get much easier than that!

The value and distinction of the PLU experience

Now that you know your costs at each school, remember to think about the big picture. Value is more than just a low price. Value is what you get for your money, and in the college setting, there are big differences among schools.

- + Achieve a degree that helps you earn a living, and more importantly, builds a meaningful life of purpose after graduation.
- + Engage in research and creative projects alongside a nationally recognized professor.
- + Experience PLU's nationally recognized global education that helps you understand your place in the world.
- + Being a part of a community of students who care about their success and the well being of others.
- + Grow your mind, body and your spiritual life – at the same time.

What's the value of PLU versus a big state school?

- + Graduating in four years versus five – Priceless
- + A freshman chemistry class of 25 versus 250 – Priceless
- + Having a fast track into an internship in your field ... as a sophomore – Priceless
- + Studying with veteran professors versus graduate-student teaching assistants – Priceless
- + Having a personal academic advisor versus stumbling through a catalog and registering for classes online by yourself – Priceless

What's the average total PLU scholarships and grants for your family's combined income?

Combined family income for first-year students, Fall 2011	Number of aid recipients	Average total scholarships and grants from all sources
<\$20,000	49	\$24,263
\$20,000 - \$39,999	64	\$24,125
\$40,000 - \$59,999	96	\$21,944
\$60,000 - \$79,999	95	\$18,692
\$80,000 - \$99,999	100	\$18,371
\$100,000 - \$119,999	81	\$16,042
\$120,000 - \$139,999	53	\$15,182
\$140,000 - \$159,999	46	\$14,834
\$160,000 - \$179,999	30	\$14,151
\$180,000+	59	\$13,951

