

Residence Halls vs. Living at Home

(Rates based on 2024-25 academic year)



Complete this worksheet to compare residential living to living at home with parent(s).

	Traditional Hall	At Home								
RENT & UTILITIES										
Double Room	\$5980/academic year	\$ _____ /academic year								
Water	Included	Factor costs based on 9 month academic year								
Electricity/Gas/Heat	Included									
High-Speed Internet/Wi-Fi	Included									
MEALS										
Meal Plan (based on 2023-2024)	\$ _____ /academic year	\$ _____ /academic year								
PLU Meal Plans include Dining Dollars which can be used to purchase coffees, mid-day and late night snacks, as well as supplemental groceries.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Meal Plan A</td> <td>\$7,086</td> <td>Meal Plan B</td> <td>\$6,728</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meal Plan C</td> <td>\$6,461</td> <td>Meal Plan D</td> <td>\$6,135</td> </tr> </table>	Meal Plan A	\$7,086	Meal Plan B	\$6,728	Meal Plan C	\$6,461	Meal Plan D	\$6,135	Add food costs specific to student living at home for 9 months.
Meal Plan A	\$7,086	Meal Plan B	\$6,728							
Meal Plan C	\$6,461	Meal Plan D	\$6,135							
Groceries, Meals out or on the go, Supplemental meals.	Adjust as needed.	\$ _____ /academic year (Commuter students typically spend \$500 for food on campus per academic year)								
RESIDENCY GIFT AID										
Additional Gift Aid	As much as \$4000/year	No								
Additional aid may be awarded if you live on campus. Contact PLU Student Services for your gift amount.										
Sometimes it's more than just a \$ amount . . . See below for additional benefits and conveniences of living on campus.										
TRANSPORTATION										
Commuting Costs	\$0	\$ _____ /year								
Gas, Parking Permit, Bus Pass, Oil Changes, Maintenance, Insurance	Students are not expected to have a vehicle or bus pass. Adjust if appropriate.	(average cost per mile = 70¢)								
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION										
Academic Resources	Included	On Campus Only								
Academic Assistance, Study Lounges, Library, Professor's Office										
Fun/Programming	Included	On Campus Only								
Residence Hall Programs, wing events, RHC events, new friends										
Health & Wellness	Included	On Campus Only								
Olson Gym, Names Fitness Center, Pool, Intramural Sports, Health Center, Counseling Center										
24/7 On-Call Professional Staff	Included	On Campus Only								
Live-in Resident Directors, RA/CA student staff, Emergency Response, Campus Escorts, etc										
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS										
Independent Living	Included	Yes/No								
Lasting Friendships	Included	Yes/No								
Higher Average GPA & Graduation Rate	Included	No								

We recognize this is a big decision for you and your family, and there are many factors involved. Living on campus is a foundational element of the PLU experience, a key contributor to student success, and may not be as expensive as you think. If you would like to live on-campus please visit our website <https://www.plu.edu/residential-life/housing-applications/>.