

# Education Expenses & College Cost Comparison

Selecting an appropriate college or university requires comparing many factors, such as cost.

Expenses involved in the cost of college and university typically include:

- Tuition
- Course fees
- Books
- Room/rent
- Meal plan/groceries
- Parking permit

**Create a report that compares the cost of attending 5 different colleges or universities by completing the following steps:**

1. Create a new workbook in Excel.
2. Begin entering data as shown in the image below.
3. Apply formatting using colors/theme of your choice. Add your name and date in the header.
4. Save the workbook, naming it *Education Expenses*.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>The Cost of Education</b>			
2				
3	Expenses	1	2	3
4	Tuition & Fees			
5	Books & Supplies			
6	Room & Board			
7	Transportation			
8	Personal Expenses			
9	Annual Cost			
10	Total Cost (4 years)			

5. Using your Google muscles, research five colleges or universities that offer programs that you are interested in studying. This is just an idea of what you MIGHT be interested in pursuing in college – don't get bogged down trying to decide – just pick one program of study that you interests you.
6. After you have decided which five colleges or universities you want to research, enter these college names into your workbook. Replace "1" in B3 with the name of your first college option, replace "2" with the name of your second college option, and so on for all 5 schools.
7. When are ready to research the costs of your five colleges or universities, go to the site <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/collegecosts.cfm> and find the costs associated with each of the expense categories. Enter the data in the appropriate cells (a value of 0 can be used if the cost does not apply).
8. Adjust the column widths if necessary so that all data is displayed.
9. Enter an appropriate formula to calculate the annual cost of a year at each of your colleges or universities.
10. Enter an appropriate formula to calculate the total cost for 4 years at each of your colleges or universities.
11. Format all expense values and totals as currency with 2 decimal places.
12. Use the totals to produce a column chart on a new sheet that displays the 4-year total cost for all five schools. Include an appropriate title, legend, and axes labels.
13. In an area below the chart, type a concluding paragraph that indicates which of the 5 schools you researched would be the best choice for you and why.
14. Save your workbook and upload the file to the Moodle.