

How Much Does College Cost?

“College doesn’t cost-it pays.”

Ultimately, some post-secondary education/training (not necessarily a four-year degree) will enable the graduate to earn more money (\$400,000-\$750,000) over the course of a life-time of work than a person with no college or vocational training. Initially though, college costs a lot!

INSTITUTION	TUITION/ FEES BOOKS	ROOM/ BOARD	1 YEAR*	4 YEAR**
Private four-year college	\$14,200	\$3,400	\$19,100	\$76,400
Public four-year college	\$4,400	\$3,400	\$9,300	\$37,200
Two-year community college	\$1,350	N/A	\$1,850***	N/A

* 1-year cost includes \$1,500 for personnel expenses.

** 4-year cost does not include 4-7% per year average inflationary cost increase.

*** Student living at home requires less money for personal living expenses.

Three paths to a Business Administration degree from the University of Missouri:

Ashley	Jacob	Paul
Graduated from high school in 2001	Graduated from high school in 2001	(A+ participant) Graduated from high school in 2001
Attended the University of Missouri for four years	Attended Longview Community College for two years	Attended Longview Community College for two years
Graduated in 2005 with a BS in Business Administration	Transferred to University of Missouri. Graduated in 2005 with a BS in Business Administration	Transferred to University of Missouri. Graduated in 2005 with a BS in Business Administration
University of Missouri (4 years) Cost: \$37,200	Longview (2 yrs) Cost: \$3,700 University of Missouri (2 yrs.) Cost: \$18,600	Longview (2 yrs) Cost: \$1,000 University of Missouri (2 yrs) Cost: \$18,600
Total Cost: \$37,200	Total Cost: \$22,300	Total Cost: \$19,600

All three degrees read exactly the same, were printed on the same quality of paper, using the same quality of ink, and were awarded in the same simulated black leather diploma jacket. There was a difference: Paul’s diploma cost \$2,700 less than Jacob’s and \$17,600 less than Ashley’s.