

should be, if you haven't already. Go to Finaid.org and use the loan calculator to discover the total loan amount and calculate your monthly payments. If there's still a disparity, and the school in question is a college you'd really like to attend, consider either upping your loans, asking your parents to take out a Parent PLUS loan (see Chapter 5), or appealing (either now or when you visit). We discuss the appeal and the visit later in this chapter.

Here's a set of blank charts. If you run out of room, just re-create them on a sheet of scratch paper.

Step 1: Calculate Direct Costs Using College Navigator

Direct Costs	College A	College B	College C	College D	College E
Tuition + Fees					
Room + Board					
Total Direct Costs					
Less Funded Aid (not including loans)					
= Net Direct Price					

Step 2: Calculate Other Costs and Out-Of-Pocket Payment and Gap

	College A	College B	College C	College D	College E
Net Direct Price					
Books/supplies					
Personal spending					
Travel/transport					
Total Costs					

Payments					
Parents					
From income					
From savings					
Student					
From savings/ summer					
Total payments					
Costs - payments = Gap					

Step 3: Calculate Loans, Work Study, and the Final Disparity

How Meet the Gap	College A	College B	College C	College D	College E
Gap Amount					
Student Direct Loan					
Student Work Study					
Other sources					
Total					
Disparity					

Appealing your financial aid award

Not all colleges will accept or process an appeal, but it doesn't hurt to ask. When they *do* process an appeal, it's usually for one of two reasons: You've had a demonstrable change in your financial circumstances since the filing of the FAFSA, or you've got a better offer from another school that they may be willing to match or exceed. When we say "match," we mean that you're asking for your award to be adjusted to match the final net price. In order to