

Cost Comparison Worksheet



This worksheet contains an itemized list of costs associated with living on and off campus. Pay special attention to the following points before using the worksheet.

- Be honest with yourself when it comes to the cost of food. If you find yourself “adjusting” the monthly food allowance in order to achieve a lower total, you may be setting yourself up for a future budgeting nightmare. A nightmare in which you’re forced to choose between a healthy diet or paying your electric bill, or having a social life or taking care of those unexpected events (i.e., attending a friend’s wedding; paying a plumber; etc.) that tend to pop up from time to time.
- Call the local utility providers about mandatory monthly service charges and hook-up or connection fees.
- Ask the owner of the property to give you the average cost of monthly utilities. If he/she is unable to do so, ask the current residents what their lowest and highest utility bills were for each utility. If you divide the sum of the least and most expensive bills by two for each individual utility, you should be able to get a rough estimate of the average monthly utility costs.

Economic Costs	Residence Halls/Greek Court	Alternate Option One	Alternate Option Two
MONTHLY COST Rent	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Food	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Water	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Electricity	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Gas	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
MONTHLY COST Trash Removal	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
MONTHLY COST Cable TV	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
MONTHLY COST Local Phone Service	Included in total cost	X10 = X12 =	X10 = X12 =
ONE-TIME COST Water Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
ONE-TIME COST Electric Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
ONE-TIME COST Gas Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
ONE-TIME COST Direct Internet Connection Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
ONE-TIME COST Cable TV Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
ONE-TIME COST Phone Hook-Up Fee	Included in total cost		
OPTIONAL COST Activity Fee	\$20	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	7 Plus Plan: *\$7,168 per year 10 Plus Plan: *\$7,486 per year 12 Plus Plan: *\$7,768 per year 15 Plus Plan: *\$8,078 per year	10 Month Lease = 12 Month Lease = <i>Include your food costs.</i>	10 Month Lease = 12 Month Lease = <i>Include your food costs.</i>

* Rates based on the 2009-2010 double room academic year contract. The activity fee is optional, and is therefore not included in the total cost.