

RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 88-15

November 2015

Average Cost of Attendance for In-State NOVA Students: 2007-08 through 2013-14

This Research Brief presents data on the average cost of attendance (COA) for NOVA students from 2007-08 through 2013-14.¹ Data are presented for full-time, degree-seeking students who applied for need-based aid and resided in-state. Data are disaggregated by housing status: students living independently compared to students living with their parents. For comparison purposes, the average cost of attendance for students in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) during the same time period is also examined.

The data show that the average cost of attendance at NOVA was higher than the VCCS average. The data also show that for both NOVA students and students across the VCCS, those living independently had a higher cost of attendance than those who lived with their parents.

As seen in Table 1 and Figure 1 (next page), the average cost of attendance for independent students at NOVA rose from \$13,390 in 2007-08 to \$19,235 in 2013-14; an increase of \$5,845, or 44 percent. The average cost of attendance for NOVA students living with their parents increased by 47 percent, or \$5,441 over the same time period, from \$11,641 in 2007-08 to \$17,082 in 2013-14. On average, independent students paid more than students living with their parents. The difference in average cost of attendance between these student groups was at its highest point in 2010-11 (\$2,738).

Table 1. Average Cost of Attendance for In-State NOVA Students by Housing Status: 2007-08 through 2013-14²

Year	Independent			Living at Parents' Home		
	Number of Students	Avg. COA	% Change in Avg. COA	Number of Students	Avg. COA	% Change in Avg. COA
2007-08	734	\$13,390	--	1,583	\$11,641	--
2008-09	898	\$14,512	8%	2,353	\$12,735	9%
2009-10	1,096	\$16,170	11%	2,766	\$14,295	12%
2010-11	1,518	\$18,780	16%	3,342	\$16,042	12%
2011-12	1,623	\$19,136	2%	3,881	\$16,431	2%
2012-13	1,870	\$19,096	0%	4,034	\$17,061	4%
2013-14	1,894	\$19,235	1%	4,653	\$17,082	0%
Six-Year Change	1,160	\$5,845	44%	3,070	\$5,441	47%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

¹ "COA" is the student's budget that is reported on the financial aid data file by the institution.

² Full-time, degree-seeking students with in-state residency/tuition status who had applied for need-based aid.

Figure 1. Average Cost of Attendance for In-State NOVA Students by Housing Status: 2007-08 through 2013-14²

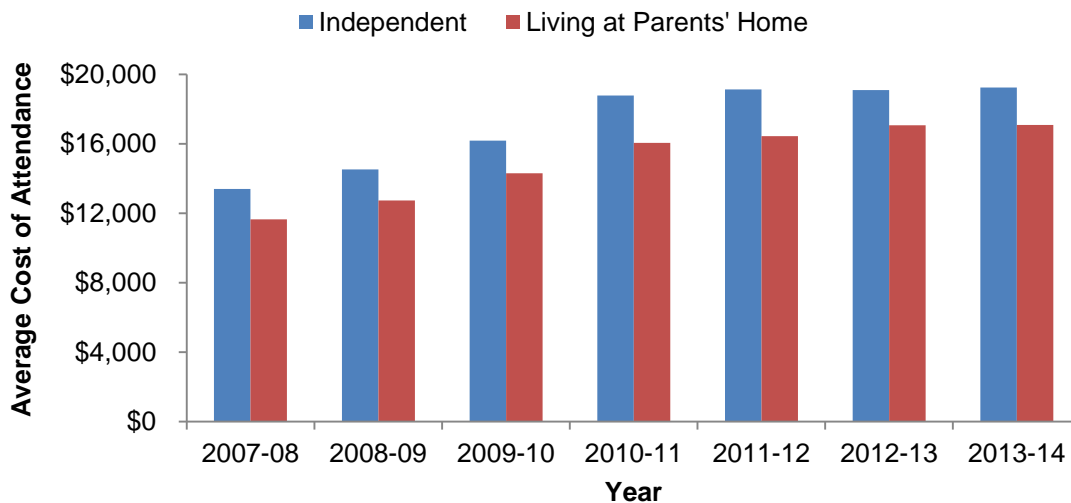


Table 2 and Figure 2 (next page) present the average cost of attendance between 2007-08 and 2013-14 for students attending colleges within the VCCS. The average cost of attendance for students across the VCCS was lower than the average cost of attendance for NOVA students in all years, for both students living independently and students living with their parents.

In 2007-08, the average cost of attendance for independent VCCS students as a whole was \$1,015 less than for independent NOVA students. This difference quadrupled to \$4,123 in 2010-11 but declined thereafter. In 2013-14, the average cost of attendance for independent VCCS students was \$2,820 less than for independent NOVA students.

In 2007-08, the average cost of attendance for VCCS students living with their parents was \$806 lower than for the equivalent students at NOVA. This difference increased to \$2,937 in 2010-11 before decreasing to \$2,377 in 2013-14.

Table 2. Average Cost of Attendance for In-State VCCS Students by Housing Status: 2007-08 through 2013-14²

Year	Independent			Living at Parents' Home		
	Number of Students	Avg. COA	% Change in Avg. COA	Number of Students	Avg. COA	% Change in Avg. COA
2007-08	6,063	\$12,375	--	9,074	\$10,835	--
2008-09	7,171	\$12,958	5%	11,925	\$11,318	4%
2009-10	9,514	\$13,685	6%	13,370	\$12,094	7%
2010-11	10,930	\$14,657	7%	14,418	\$13,105	8%
2011-12	11,182	\$15,199	4%	14,890	\$13,644	4%
2012-13	10,748	\$15,830	4%	14,596	\$14,349	5%
2013-14	9,937	\$16,415	4%	15,785	\$14,705	2%
Six-Year Change	3,874	\$4,040	33%	6,711	\$3,870	36%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

**Figure 2. Average Cost of Attendance for In-State VCCS Students by Housing Status:
2007-08 through 2013-14²**

