

The Economics of Distance Education

An Alaskan Student Perspective



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Why do we need this education?

- Transition from Subsistence to Currency-based Economy
- Desired skills for the workplace
- Higher paying employment
- Increased Job security



So, how much does it cost?

- How do I figure the actual costs of going to college?
- What school related costs must be considered?
 - ✓ Tuition
 - ✓ Fees
 - ✓ Housing
- What about non-school related costs?
 - ✓ Food
 - ✓ Entertainment
 - ✓ Cost of Living



I'm going to school!

What's it going to cost?

FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORES	Alaska resident	Non-resident	Western Undergraduate Exchange
Tuition and fees (30 credits, 100-200-level classes)	\$6,012	\$18,972	\$8,532
JUNIOR and SENIORS	Alaska resident	Non-resident	WUE
Tuition and fees (30 credits, 300-400-level classes)	\$7,112	\$20,072	\$10,172
GRADUATE STUDENTS	Alaska resident	Non-resident	
Tuition and fees (18 credits, 600-level classes)	\$8,050	\$15,394	

Source: (UAF Tuition and Fees, 2013)

I'm going to school!

Where will I live?

ALL STUDENTS	Living Off Campus (9 Months)	Living On Campus
Room and board (double room & 19 meals/week on campus)	\$7,226*	\$7,450
Books/Supplies	\$1,400	\$1,400
Miscellaneous/Personal	\$2,250	\$2,250
Transportation	\$2,000	\$400
Annual Total	\$12,875	\$11,500

Sources: (UAF Tuition and Fees, 2013), *approximated for one room (\$1277/2) including food (avg. \$41.11/week for adults in urban areas), data source: (Fried, 2013)

Is it cheaper to go to school distantly?

What's it going to cost?

FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORES	Alaska/Non-Alaska Resident
Tuition and Fees* (30 credits, 100-200-level classes)	\$5,130
JUNIOR and SENIORS	Alaska/Non-Alaska Resident
Tuition and Fees* (30 credits, 300-400-level classes)	\$6,240
GRADUATE STUDENTS	Alaska/Non-Alaska Resident
Tuition and Fees* (18 credits, 600-level classes)	\$7,182

*Fee includes UA 2% Network Fee included, not \$25 per credit UAF eLearning fee

Is it cheaper to go to school distantly?

Where will I live?

RURAL STUDENTS	Living in Rural Alaska (9 Months)
Housing	Average off road western Alaska communities (\$913/month/room) \$8217
Food	(\$290/month) \$2610
Utilities	(\$200/month)\$1800
Books/Supplies	\$1,400
Miscellaneous/Personal	\$2,250
Transportation	\$2,000
Annual Total	\$18,277

Sources: approximated from (Fried, 2013)

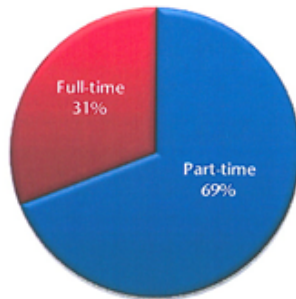
What do all these numbers mean for the cost of my education?

The Facts (or estimates),

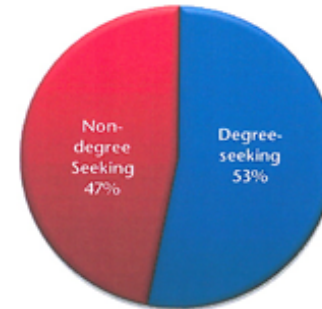
Total Cost for One Full Time Academic Year	On-Campus Alaska Resident/ Non-Resident	Off-Campus Alaska Resident/ Non-Resident	Distance Student
FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORES (30 credits, 100-200-level classes)	\$17,512 \$30,472	\$18,887 \$31,847	\$23,407
JUNIOR and SENIORS (30 credits, 300-400-level classes)	\$18,612 \$31,572	\$19,987 \$32,947	\$24,517
GRADUATE STUDENTS (18 credits, 600-level classes)	\$19,550 \$26,894	\$20,925 \$28,269	\$25,459

The rest of the story....

Full-Time/Part-Time Students, Fall 2008



Degree Seeking Status, Fall 2008



Full-Time/Part-Time Students, Fall 2008

Campus	Part-time	% of Campus Total	Full-time	% of Campus Total
UAA				
Kenai	1,234	73%	465	27%
Kodiak	471	84	88	16
Mat-Su	1,034	63	602	37
PWSCC	1,054	92	89	8
UAF				
Bristol Bay	605	92%	51	8%
Chukchi	327	83	66	17
Interior-Aleutians	431	89	54	11
Kuskokwim	245	79	65	21
Northwest	467	95	23	5
Rural College	978	42	1,337	58
Tanana Valley	1,672	51	1,624	49
UAS				
Ketchikan	324	62%	201	38%
Sitka	631	73	230	27
% of combined campus enrollment	8,853	69%	3,979	31%

Source: UA Statewide Planning and Budget, UAF Planning, Analysis, and Institutional Research.

Degree Seeking Status, Fall 2008

Campus	Degree-seeking	% Campus Total	Non-degree seeking	% Campus Total
UAA				
Kenai	922	54%	777	46%
Kodiak	221	40	338	60
Mat-Su	1,077	66	559	34
PWSCC	192	17	951	83
UAF				
Bristol Bay	160	24%	496	76%
Chukchi	125	32	268	68
Interior-Aleutians	183	38	302	62
Kuskokwim	157	51	153	49
Northwest	82	17	408	83
Rural College	1,974	85	341	15
Tanana Valley	2,293	70	1,003	30
UAS				
Ketchikan	345	66%	180	34%
Sitka	470	55	391	45
% of combined campus enrollment	6,801	53%	6,031	47%

Source: UA Statewide Planning and Budget. Degree-seeking status is determined at the UA statewide level; the students counted as degree-seeking are enrolled at each campus but may be degree-seeking at any of the three MAUs (UAF, UAA, UAS).

The rest of the story....

1947 President Truman Commission on Higher Education recommendations:

1. Abandon the European concepts of education, and in its place, develop a curriculum attuned to the needs of a democracy
2. Double college attendance by 1960
3. Integrate vocational and liberal education
4. Extend free public education through the first 2 years of college “for all youth who can profit from such education.” (H. Truman)
5. Eliminate racial and religious discrimination
6. Revise the goals of graduate and professional school education to make them effective in training well-rounded persons as well as research specialists and technicians
7. Expand Federal support for higher education through scholarships, fellowships, and general aid.
8. Establish a system of community colleges
9. Expand adult education programs
10. Distribute federal aid to education in such a manner that the poorer States can bring their educational systems closer to the quality of the wealthier States.

Source: (Dunn, 2013)

So, is it cheaper to school distantly or on-campus?

On-Campus

Cost of Living

Actual Costs for Tuition & Fees

Cost of Food

Job Opportunities

Distance

Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

Cultural and traditional opportunities

Non-Traditional courses



Ultimately, it seems as though it's not about the cost...