

Impact of Inflation on College Costs

What Is the Impact of Inflation on College Costs?

Although only partially true in 2023-24, college costs have historically been rising at a faster rate than the general inflation rate.

Over the decade between 2013-14 and 2023-24, average inflation-adjusted tuition and fees declined by 4% at public four-year institutions and increased by 5% at private nonprofit four-year institutions? (source: The College Board Trends in College Pricing 2023).

Failing to consider the impact of inflation on college costs could undermine your ability to provide for your child's education.

Consider the funds that may be needed when an 8-year-old child is ready to attend college on a full-time basis in 10 years:

	Today's Average Annual Cost	Average Annual Cost in 10 Years Assumed College Inflation Rate:			
		3%	4%	5%	6%
Public College:					
Resident Student *	\$24,030	\$31,239	\$33,642	\$36,045	\$38,448
Commuter Student **	\$11,260	\$14,638	\$15,764	\$16,890	\$18,016
Private Nonprofit College:					
Resident Student *	\$56,190	\$73,047	\$78,666	\$84,285	\$89,904
Commuter Student **	\$41,540	\$54,002	\$58,156	\$62,310	\$66,464

* Includes tuition, fees, room and board; in-state residency is assumed for public schools.

** Includes tuition and fees only.

Source: The College Board Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2023