

DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER

2023-2024 WEEKLY COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES (COLA)

COLA		LIVE WITH PARENT NO DEPENDENTS	ALL OTHERS
HOUSING	Living Expenses	92.00	158.00
FOOD		38.00	82.00
PERSONAL EXPENSES		53.00	82.00
TRAVEL		93.00	110.00
TOTALS		276.00	432.00

INTRODUCTION

The 2023/2024 Cost of Attendance (COA) budget has been developed using a number of resources including: information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, USDA, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and the IRS. In addition to this information, DEC has collected data from a cohort of students that are included in the IPEDS Fall Enrollment 2015. By utilizing these resources, DEC has created a weekly budget for students who live with parent(s) with no dependents and for all other students. This has resulted in incremental changes from the prior year budget but appears to be in line with current economic trends and CPI data.

The budget is reviewed and updated biennially. Costs are updated annually or within 60 days of notification and effective date.

Douglas Education Center includes the actual tuition in the COA budgets. Students are invoiced for tuition prior to the start of each semester/term. Budgets for only one semester/term/instructional period include only the tuition for that semester/instructional period. Budgets for the academic year include two semesters/terms/instructional periods of tuition. Tuition charges, by semester/instructional period, are listed in the catalog. Students are informed of tuition increases at least 60 days prior to the increase taking effect. Pell COA budgets are always based on full time enrollment for a full academic year.

Douglas Education Center includes the actual fees, if any, in the COA budgets. Students are invoiced for fees prior to the start of each semester/term/instructional period. Budgets for only one semester/term/instructional period include just the fees for that term. Budgets for the academic year include two semesters/terms/instructional periods of fees, if applicable. Fee charges, if any, are listed in the catalog by semester/term/instructional periods for each program. Students are informed of fee increases at least 60 days prior to the increase taking effect.

Please see Memo to File "Budget Creation Data/Budget Review and Analysis - 2023-2024" for additional information on data used to update the COLA.

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

Douglas Education Center publishes, in its catalog, estimated book, supply and equipment charges by semester/term/instructional period in each program. The estimated amount plus any permissible increases in books and supplies are included in the COA budget. Budgets for only one semester/term/instructional period include just the books and supplies for that semester/term. Budgets for the academic year include two semesters/terms/instructional periods of books and supplies. Book and supplies charges are based on reasonable retail prices. Textbook consumer information is also available on the website.

HOUSING

Douglas Education Center has used data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditures Survey for the Cleveland area to calculate personal expenses. In addition, review of this data is done annually to determine if adjustments are warranted. Cleveland is the closest metropolitan area that surveys consumers and is in the same region as Pittsburgh, PA. (see BLS Data Tab). The closest BLS Data collection area is Cleveland. This data was reviewed against local rental costs that have been sampled. The BLS data was in line with the other data collected. Based on prior year information, DEC has determined that the housing allowance for students living with parents with no dependents is approximately 58% of the amount needed by all other students. 41.58% of DEC's All Other students live in BDI housing with average rent of \$616 per month, which includes all utilities. The remaining 58.42% of All Other students have housing arrangements unbeknownst to DEC staff. Information from another, local landlord indicates average rent of \$675 per month. Based on market conditions, DEC has determined average room cost provided by local landlords is in-line with the data obtained from the BLS. This is comparable to prior years budgets of Housing charges.

Local Landlord		
Percent of students living in BDI	41.58	
Average cost of rent and utilities	616.00	
Total cost		25,613.28
Percent of students living off-campus, unknown but estimated rent	58.42	
Average cost of rent and utilities	675.00	
Total cost		39,433.50
Total weighted costs		65,046.78
Total weighted costs per student per month		650.47
Weighted weekly allowance (Based on 30 weeks)	All others	162.62

Data from BLS

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmsa.htm>

2 Average # in consumer unit, not including children under 18

	15,690	Housing (Survey category)	Increase of 1.65%
(/)	52	# of weeks per year	
(=)	302	Weekly housing divided by 52 weeks, rounded to nearest dollar	
(/)	2.30	# in consumer unit	
(=)	131.30	Weekly housing allowance: All others	
**	162.62	Weighted weekly allowance based on local data	
	146.96	Average of BLS and Local Data: All others	**
(x)	0.58		
(=)	85.24		
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%	
	6.3928		
22/23 CHANGE	92	Weekly housing allowance: W Parent, No Dependents	

**	146.96	
(x)	0.0750	
	11.02	INCREASE OF 7.5%
22/23 CHANGE	158	Weekly housing allowance: All others **

FOOD

Douglas Education Center has used information from the USDA for calendar year 2015 for the cost of food at home. The information used reflected the low-cost plan based on an average of males and females ages 19-50. DEC also used information from the BLS Cleveland area to obtain the cost of food away from home. Based on prior year information, DEC has determined that the board allowance for students living with parents with no dependents is approximately 46% of the amount needed by all others.

Cost of Food at Home

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/USDAFoodPlansCostofFood/reports>

52.18 Weekly cost of food at home, 12 mo average, low-cost plan m/f ages 19-50.

Cost of Food Away from Home

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmsa.htm>

	2.3	Average # in consumer unit	
(/)	2,807	Food (Survey category)	increase of 3.1%
	1220.61		
(/)	52	# of weeks per year	
	23.47	Weekly cost of food away from home.	
	52.55	Weekly cost of food at home, 12 mo average, low-cost plan m/f ages 19-50.	increase of 0.7
(+)	23.47	Weekly cost of food away from home.	
(=)	76.02	Weekly cost of food: All others **	
(x)	0.46		
(=)	34.97	Weekly cost of food: W Parent, No Dependents (75x46%)	
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%	
22/23 CHANGE	2.6228		
	38	Weekly cost of food: W Parent, No Dependents	
**	76.02	Weekly cost of food: All others **	
(x)	0.075	INCREASE OF 7.5%	
	5.7015		
22/23 CHANGE	82	Weekly cost of food: All others **	

No change 23/24

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Douglas Education Center has used data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditures Survey for the Cleveland area to calculate personal expenses. Cleveland is the closest metropolitan area that surveys consumers and is in the same region as Pittsburgh, PA. Based on prior year information, DEC has determined that the personal expenses allowance for students living with parents with no dependents is approximately 65% of the amount needed by all other students. Students who live with parents are determined to share personal expense costs with other family members.

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmsa.htm>

	2.3	Average # in consumer unit	
	1,475	Apparel and services (Survey category)	decrease of 1.1
(+)	3,874	Health care (Survey category)	increase of 5.1
(+)	2,233	Entertainment (Survey category)	
(+)	626	Personal care products and services (Survey category)	
(+)	817	Miscellaneous (Survey category)	
(=)	9,025	Total	
(/)	52	# of weeks per year	

(=)	174	Housing & food divided by 52 weeks, rounded to nearest dollar
(/)	2	Average # in consumer unit
(=)	76	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: All Others
(x)	0.65	
(=)	49.17	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: W Parent, No Dependents (75x65%)

	76	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: All Others
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%
22/23 CHANGE	5.70	
	82	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: All Others

	49.17	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: W Parent, No Dependents (75x65%)
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%
22/23 CHANGE	3.6878	
No change 23/24	53	Weekly cost of Personal Expenses: W Parent, No Dependents (75x65%)

Travel Expenses

Douglas Education Center includes an allowance for travel expenses. Travel expenses include mileage to and from school, parking, other vehicle expenses, and a travel allowance for non-resident students to return home during the academic year. Based on a prior year's survey, 29% of DEC's students may fly home for vacations and family visits with average, roundtrip airfare of \$346 (for average domestic fare, 2018, per the U.S. Department of Transportation Statistics). The other 71% of non-permanent resident students may drive home for family visits. Using data collected from the IPEDS Fall Enrollment 2015 cohort, the average mileage for off campus students is 1027.68. The allowance is based on the average mileage times the IRS standard mileage rate of \$0.575. The travel allowance for commuting for all students is based on 19.95 miles round trip (determined from data obtained on the IPEDS cohort of students) to and from school times 5 days per week, times the IRS standard mileage rate of 575 cents per mile for 2020. In addition to that amount students pay for parking in town. There is also an allowance for other vehicle expenses per the BLS 13/14 Cleveland area data.

Travel: Roundtrip from local to home address (off campus students)

http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press_releases/bts005_14

Percent of non-permanent residents who fly home for vacations	29	
Average roundtrip airfare	346.00	
Total cost		10,034.00

(Information from data pulled on students in the IPEDS Fall Enrollment 2014 cohort)

Percent of non-permanent residents who drive home for vacations	71	
Average mileage for average round trip	1027.68 avg miles x .54 = 554.9	554.95
Total cost		39,401.45

Total weighted costs		49,435.45
Total weighted costs per student		494.35
Weighted weekly allowance (Based on 30 weeks)		16.48
Rounded to the nearest whole dollar		16.00

Travel: Driving to DEC from local residence

(Information from data pulled on students in the IPEDS Fall Enrollment 2015 cohort)

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/2016-Standard-Mileage-Rates-for-Business-Medical-and-Moving-Announced>

	19.95	Average Roundtrip Mileage
(x)	5	# of days per week
	<u>99.75</u>	
(x)	0.575	cents per mile (IRS Standard Mileage Rate 2020)
(=)	<u>57.36</u>	Weekly Driving Cost - All

Travel: Parking (City of Monessen charges for parking in/around Campus)

	25	City of Monessen Monthly Parking Fee
(+)	20	DEC Medical Bldg Parking Lot Monthly Fee
(+)	20	8th Street Church Parking Lot Monthly Fee
(=)	65	Total Parking Fees
(/)	3	
(=)	<u>21.67</u>	Average Monthly Parking Fee
(x)	12	# of months in year
	<u>260.04</u>	
(/)	52	# of weeks in year
(=)	<u>5</u>	Weekly Parking Cost - All

No change 23/24

Travel: Other Vehicle Expenses

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmsa.htm>

	2.3	Average # in consumer unit
(/)	2,921	Other Vehicle Expenses (Survey category)
	<u>1270.00</u>	
(/)	52	# of weeks in year
	<u>24.42</u>	Weekly Vehicle Cost - All

No change 23/24

Travel Expenses: All Others

	16.00	Roundtrip from local to home address (off campus students)
	57.36	Driving to DEC from local residence
	5	Parking (City of Monessen charges for parking in/around Campus)
	<u>24.42</u>	Other Vehicle Expenses
	<u>102.78</u>	Weekly Travel Expenses: All Others
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%
22/23 CHANGE	<u>7.71</u>	
No change 23/24	<u>110</u>	Weekly Travel Expenses: All Others

Travel Expenses: W Parent, No Dependents

	57.36	Driving to DEC from local residence
	5	Parking (City of Monessen charges for parking in/around Campus)
	<u>24.42</u>	Other Vehicle Expenses
	<u>86.78</u>	Weekly Travel Expenses: W Parents, No Dependents
(x)	0.0750	INCREASE OF 7.5%
22/23 CHANGE	<u>6.50821875</u>	
No change 23/24	<u>93</u>	Weekly Travel Expenses: W Parents, No Dependents

Table 3013. Selected midwestern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013-2014

Item	All consumer units in the Midwest	Chicago	Detroit	Minneapolis-St. Paul	Cleveland
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	28,155	3,695	1,888	1,481	1,052
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes	\$64,268	\$81,945	\$72,851	\$93,299	\$62,265
Age of reference person	49.6	50.5	50.3	48.2	52.6
Average number in consumer unit:					
People	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.3
Children under 18	.6	.6	.5	.6	.5
Adults 65 and older	.3	.4	.3	.3	.4
Earners	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.2
Vehicles	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.3	1.8
Percent homeowner	66	65	72	69	64
Average annual expenditures					
Food	6,749	7,761	7,116	7,583	6,814
Food at home	4,121	4,784	4,405	4,213	4,091
Cereals and bakery products	565	661	544	525	558
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	853	1,080	938	678	1,003
Dairy products	455	441	410	457	432
Fruits and vegetables	767	951	821	787	727
Other food at home	1,481	1,652	1,691	1,764	1,371
Food away from home	2,628	2,976	2,712	3,371	2,723
Alcoholic beverages	474	513	485	639	557
Housing					
Shelter	9,109	13,740	9,773	12,637	8,794
Owned dwellings	5,918	8,716	6,442	8,296	5,349
Rented dwellings	2,493	3,939	2,057	3,140	2,896
Other lodging	699	1,084	1,274	1,202	548
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,640	3,822	4,095	3,592	3,542
Household operations	1,037	1,442	1,120	1,500	951
Housekeeping supplies	686	648	656	865	618
Household furnishings and equipment	1,594	1,736	1,735	3,103	1,531
Apparel and services					
Transportation	8,954	9,237	11,053	11,991	8,943
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,404	3,584	3,166	5,168	3,399
Gasoline and motor oil	2,516	2,537	3,009	2,798	2,228
Other vehicle expenses	2,535	2,287	4,288	3,424	2,921
Public and other transportation	499	829	590	602	396
Healthcare	4,223	4,511	4,092	4,896	3,686
Entertainment	2,612	2,781	3,130	3,683	2,233
Personal care products and services	613	772	671	725	626
Reading	112	106	149	181	77
Education	1,206	1,831	1,487	1,711	1,088
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	364	284	358	307	291
Miscellaneous	689	860	993	972	817
Cash contributions	1,941	1,782	2,449	3,229	1,780
Personal insurance and pensions	5,544	6,826	6,410	7,464	5,949
Life and other personal insurance	325	402	348	360	246
Pensions and Social Security	5,220	6,424	6,062	7,104	5,703

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September, 2015