Annotated Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

*Individual student’s cost of attendance
Cost of attendance is the maximum amount of financial aid a student can receive for an academic year; it includes estimates for both direct and indirect costs for education. At Columbia College, only tuition and fees are paid directly to Columbia College. Books and supplies can be paid to Columbia College if a student uses a book voucher. All other costs are estimated housing, transportation and other educational costs are expenses that students have while in college but that are not paid to Columbia College.

*Grants/Scholarships: The sum of each grant sub-category

*Net cost after grants
This is the cost of attendance (listed above) minus grants and scholarships (listed above).

*Loan options: Columbia College does not recommend that students use loans unless the loans are the student’s only available option to pay for school. Federal loans have excellent benefits compared to private borrowing options. Still, students should think before they borrow and make sure that loan debt is taken in small amounts since it has to be repaid.

*Other options include expected family contribution which comes from the FAFSA (this number is student specific and normally the same from school to school). In addition, it provides examples of other financial aid options that may not already be included on the shopping sheet such as veteran benefits or loans.

NOTE: Financial Aid Shopping Sheet is designed by the US Department of Education to help prospective students make clear comparisons between colleges and financial aid packages. The sheet is student specific based on any information the college has regarding a student’s application for financial aid. Students who have not applied for federal student aid can and should at www.fafsa.gov. If you’re a current student, don’t forget that your award letter (available on CougarTrack) is the best way to accept, modify, decline and view the breakdown of your current financial aid package.