

## **Douglas Education Center**

### **2026-2027 Monthly Cost of Living Allowances**

| COLA              | Live with Parent/No Dependents | All Others |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Housing and Food  | \$599.00                       | \$1,196.00 |
| Personal Expenses | \$376.00                       | \$376.00   |
| Travel            | \$479.00                       | \$479.00   |
|                   |                                |            |
| TOTALS            | \$1,454.00                     | \$2,051.00 |

### **Introduction**

The 2026-2027 Cost of Attendance (COA) budget has been developed using a number of resources including information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the IRS, and the BLS 2023 Consumer Expenditure. In addition to this information, DEC has collected data from a cohort of students that are included in the IPEDS Fall Enrollment 2023. By utilizing these resources, DEC has created a monthly budget for students who live with parent(s) with no dependents and for all other students.

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

### **Tuition/Fees**

Douglas Education Centers includes the actual tuition in the COA budgets. Students are invoiced prior to the start of each semester/term. Budgets for only one semester/term/instructional period include 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.

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

### **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 increase 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 supply charges are based on reasonable retail prices. Textbook consumer information is also available on the website.

### **Housing and Food**

The food and housing figures were calculated by Douglas Education Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> party financial aid servicer, Global Financial Aid Services. The housing and food figures within a student's COA budget are national averages that are based on a consistently applied inflation module utilizing the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator. Each new award year, the previous year's costs are entered into the inflation calculator to determine the costs for the new award year. The new costs are then documented and profiled for Douglas Education Center.

### **Personal Expenses**

Personal expense figures were calculated by Douglas Education Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> party financial aid servicer, Global Financial Aid Services. Personal Expense figures within a student's COA budget are national averages that are based on a consistently applied inflation module utilizing the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator. Each new award year, the previous year's costs are entered into the inflation calculator to determine the costs for the new award year. The new costs are then documented and profiled for Douglas Education Center.

### **Travel Expenses**

Douglas Education Center includes an allowance for travel expenses. Travel expenses include mileage to and from school, 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 students may fly home for vacations or family visits with average, roundtrip airfare of \$365 (for average domestic fare, Q3, 2024 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 2023 cohort, the average mileage for off campus students is 1468. The allowance is based on the average mileage times the IRS standard mileage rate of \$0.70. 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 5 days per week times the IRS standard mileage of rate of \$0.70 per mile for 2024. There is also an allowance for other vehicle expenses per the BLS 2023 Consumer Expenditure. The rates for students who live with parent(s) with no dependents and for all other students are determined and then averaged to create the Travel Expenses allowance for the COA budget.