Math 1000 Quantitative Reasoning in Today’s World

Signature Assignment #1: The Price of Education

This assignment will allow you to reflect on the cost of your education (Bachelor’s degree) from start to finish. Typically, the cost of education includes tuition and fees, textbooks, housing, transportation, food healthcare, and bills. This assignment will require you to use Microsoft excel; you need to be able to use essential mathematical functions in excel to perform some calculations.

Instructions

Step #1. Gather the information you will need to complete this assignment. Essential expenses include tuition, fees, textbooks, housing (whether for on- or off-campus), transportation, groceries/food, and healthcare. You will need research on Cal State LA’s website (www.calstatela.edu) to find information about tuition, fees, and on-campus housing, as well as student healthcare provided by the Student Health Center (if you use it). For this assignment, one academic year is counted as the fall and spring semesters, excluding summer.

Step #2. Open a new Excel spreadsheet and create either columns or rows for the various expenses labeled above. Enter the dollar amounts of the expenses and use appropriate Excel formulas to calculate the overall expense of 4 years. When researching and inputting information, be sure that you don't make the mistake of inputting the expenses for just one semester. If an expense doesn’t apply (for example, if you live with your parents and don’t pay rent), be sure to enter zero.

Step #3. Compare different scenarios. In other words, entertain various (at least four) “what ifs” For example, how does your expenses change if you live in an apartment off-campus by yourself? How do your expenses change if you graduate in five, six, or seven years as opposed to four?

Step #4. Write a 1-2 page reflection (typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins) about this assignment. In particular, the paper must address:

- the expenses associated with the various scenarios in step #3,
- (ii) how you can apply this activity to other areas of your life or future after you graduate, and
- (iii) in what ways do the various scenarios in step #3 affect student debt.

Step #5. Submit both the spreadsheets and reflection paper on Canvas.