



**COLUMBIA**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Office of Financial Aid

**Columbia School of Social Work**

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## BUDGET APPEAL FORM

You are eligible to receive sufficient financial aid to cover your basic Cost of Attendance (COA) during the academic year. This estimated COA or budget is comprised of standard education expenses incurred by students (e.g. tuition and fees, housing/living expenses, books, transportation, and personal expenses). CSSW uses average amounts for all non-tuition and fee budget items. *We strongly encourage students to plan and budget their expenses and aid so that they stay within the COA set by the School.*

We do, however, understand that in certain situations, the School's COA budget does not accurately reflect the costs a student will incur during the academic year. In such cases, you may appeal for a budget increase for documented expenses above those allocated by the School in your budget.

Prior to completing the form below, please carefully read the information regarding acceptable items for a budget appeal:

### Budget appeals will be considered for the following items:

- Living expenses *in excess* of budgeted cost (includes rent, utilities, food, phone and cable)
- Books (*in excess* of budget cost)
- Child *care* expenses
- Dependent care expenses
- Disability-related expenses not covered by an outside agency
- Computer purchase (one-time only)
- Non-elective medical, dental or optical expenses not cover by insurance
- Additional course-related expenses (e.g., travel costs for students going abroad for required Field Education)
- Transportation costs *in excess* of budgeted cost
- Emergency travel (e.g. death in the family)

### Budget appeals will **NOT** be accepted for the following items:

- Credit card payments
- Education or private loan repayment
- Discretionary (optional) medical or dental procedures
- Spousal maintenance expenses
- Child *support* payments
- Student conferences
- Purchase/maintenance of a car (*Federal law prohibits the School from providing aid for consumer debt, which includes car payments and car insurance.*)
- Job interview expenses
- Other non-educational related expenses
- Expenses incurred during periods of non-enrollment

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Submitting an appeal does not guarantee that an adjustment will be made. All adjustments are made at the discretion of professional judgment by the Office of Financial Aid, and must be approved by the Director of Financial Aid. In most cases, an approved budget increase will result in an increase in loan eligibility; it is very unlikely that the approved budget increase would be covered by scholarship funding.*



Budget Appeal Form

2025-2026 Academic Year

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CUID: C00 \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Increase for Term:  Summer 2025  Fall 2025  Spring 2026

Total requested in budget increase: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain the reason(s) for your appeal. Attach all supporting documents:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Table with 2 columns: BUDGET ITEM, COST/EXPENSE. Rows include Housing, Utilities, Books, Child Care, Computer purchase, Dental, medical or vision expenses, Transportation, Travel, and three Other categories.

1Maximum of \$1,000/month; only allowed if single parent or if spouse is also enrolled in school or employed at least part time.

2Maximum of \$2,300. Only 1 computer purchase request will be processed per student while at CSSW.

NOTE: For your above-listed living expenses (e.g. rent, food, utilities, etc.), please provide copies of at least one month's bills or receipts for the indicated item(s) and total cost. Examples include: a copy of your lease or rental agreement to verify your monthly rent; a copy of your utility bill; a copy of your monthly phone bill; one month's worth of food bills/receipts, etc.

By signing this form, you agree that all of the information and documentation presented to the Office of Financial Aid is accurate to the best of your knowledge, and that you will notify the Office of Financial Aid if there is any change to

the information you have provided. Appeals are generally reviewed within 2-3 weeks of receipt, and you will be notified via your Columbia email address when that review has been completed.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		
Appeal approved: _____	Approved increase: \$ _____	Appeal Denied: _____
Reason/comments: _____		
Staff name & signature: _____	Date: _____	