

Table 44
The Cost of College vs. the Cost of Prison, 2002

State		One Year College	One Year Prison
Alaska	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	\$8,547	\$40,840
Arizona	University of Arizona	\$9,151	\$21,356
California	University of California, Berkeley	\$14,303	\$22,736
Colorado	University of Colorado, Boulder	\$9,838	\$27,251
Hawaii	University of Hawaii, Manoa	\$9,392	\$32,120
Idaho	University of Idaho	\$7,724	\$19,327
Montana	University of Montana, Missoula	\$9,123	\$27,375
Nevada	University of Nevada, Reno	\$9,442	\$16,414
New Mexico	University of New Mexico, Main Campus	\$8,468	\$29,335
North Dakota	University of North Dakota, Main Campus	\$8,162	\$20,112
Oregon	University of Oregon	\$10,611	\$23,557
South Dakota	University of South Dakota	\$7,150	\$13,341
Utah	University of Utah	\$9,589	\$24,196
Washington	University of Washington	\$12,195	\$26,999
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	\$8,117	\$27,182
WICHE Average		\$9,454	\$24,809

Notes: Data shown compare the costs of supporting an individual in prison with the price of tuition and required fees, room, and board of each state's flagship campus in 2002-03. WICHE average is a simple average of all member states. California prison cost data were not reported for 2002, so data from the prior year's report were used.

Sources: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. 2002. *Tuition and Fees in Public Higher Education in the West, 2003-04*, Table 6. IPEDS College Opportunities On-Line (COOL). Accessed 09/18/04 from <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>. The Criminal Justice Institute, Inc. 2003. *The 2002 Corrections Year Book, Adult Corrections*. WICHE calculations.