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**SimpleTuition Newsletter:
Financial Aid Professional Edition
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Comparing Financial Aid Awards

How many times have prospective students said to you that they wanted to compare their award letters but they could only see apples and oranges? Financial aid administrators know that every school presents financial aid awards in their own, unique way. Some schools have an online portal that shows the cost of attendance, financial aid award, and expected family contribution. Others send paper award letters with all of these components on one page. SimpleTuition has a new, easy-to-use tool to help students compare award letters on an apples-to-apples basis.

With SimpleTuition's new College Cost Adjuster, your students can now compare the affordability of up to three schools side-by-side. First, students or their parents can indicate the portion of cash from savings and income both students and their families feel is available. Next, they enter the two biggest components for comparison – the cost of attendance and the total financial aid award. Voila - it is apples to apples!

Using our comparison tool, students and their families can review the monthly payment from their student loans or parent financing options one-by-one or all at once. In addition, this powerful tool lets families adjust parent/student debt obligation in real time, so they see the effects of student vs. families borrowing money.

On March 17, 2011, an Associated Press article entitled, "How to Decode a College Financial Aid Offer" suggested that "When comparing aid awards, families often focus on the total aid being offered and lose sight of the financial toll loans can take after graduation." SimpleTuition's tool helps students and their families determine the monthly payment they can afford when the student graduates. Check out how this tool can help your prospective students determine that they can afford your school now and after graduation.

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