

COLA FACTSHEET

What is COLA?

- COLA stands for “cost-of-living adjustment.”
- Federal guidelines¹ define rent burden to be when monthly rent exceeds 30% of monthly income.
- In 2019, monthly rent and utilities in Santa Barbara averaged \$1208 based on UC data adjusted for rent increases.²
- With the TA monthly income of \$2358 (including fees), rent is 51% of monthly income, which is **extreme rent burden**.
- Overcoming rent burden requires a monthly income of \$4166, meaning a COLA of \$1808.

How much will COLA cost?

- COLA amounts reflect costs at each campus.
- This money will come from the UC Office of the President.
- COLA for all UC doctoral and master’s students results in a 12-month cost of \$785 million.
- This cost is less than 2% of the 2019 operating budget of \$39.8 billion³ and less than 5% of the total 2018 UC employee payroll of \$16 billion.⁴



¹[US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

²[UCOP 2017 report](#) adjusted for 2 year increase in rents in [Zillow data](#)

³[UCOP 2019-20 Budget Summary](#)

⁴[UCOP 2018 Summary of Employee Pay](#)

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