



PREPARE TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Talk to Your Parents About Money

It's important to talk with your parents about how you're going to pay for college. Below are some topics to help you get the conversation started.

- ▶ Whose **responsibility** is it going to be to pay for college? Will you and your parents share the cost?
- ▶ Are **funds** available from your family savings accounts or investments?
- ▶ Do you plan to **work** during college? If so, how many hours per week? Be realistic about how much time you'll be able to devote to a job without compromising yourself academically.
- ▶ Are there **scholarships** offered by your or your parents' employers or through organizations or associations you or they belong to?
- ▶ Are there **additional expenses** that you need to factor in to the cost of college, such as transportation, insurance, etc.?
- ▶ If you decide to take out a **loan**, whose name should it be in? If you determine that you will get a loan, ask your parents to help you estimate an **after-college budget**. Calculate how much you'll be able to afford to repay when you graduate.
- ▶ Ask your parents to give you advice about **credit cards**. Credit card companies tend to market heavily on college campuses, and many students end up getting into financial trouble because they aren't ready to take on the responsibility of paying the bills. Talk with your parents about interest rates, annual fees, minimum payments and other terms.

Save, Save, Save!

College is a worthwhile investment, but it can be an expensive one. Don't rely on the government or a college to pick up the tab – the burden rests on you. Sometimes this will mean a change in lifestyle or alternative means of funding your education. If you've already started saving, keep it up. If you haven't started, do so now.



Compare College Costs

When you're considering the cost of a postsecondary education, it's important to compare the **direct** and **indirect** expenses that are involved.

- ▶ **Direct** expenses include tuition, room and board, and fees.
- ▶ **Indirect** expenses include books and supplies, transportation and miscellaneous items.

Assess the costs associated with each college you apply to. Compare expenses and financial aid packages, and make copies of this work sheet to help you decide which school will give you the best overall value.

<p>College: _____</p> <p>DIRECT EXPENSES (Billed by the college)</p> <p>Tuition \$ _____</p> <p>Student Fees \$ _____</p> <p>Room and Board \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL = \$ _____</p> <p>INDIRECT EXPENSES (Estimated expenses)</p> <p>Books and Supplies \$ _____</p> <p>Transportation \$ _____</p> <p>Miscellaneous \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL = \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES = \$ _____ (Direct and Indirect)</p> <p>RESOURCES</p> <p>Grants and Scholarships \$ _____</p> <p>Savings \$ _____</p> <p>Student Earnings \$ _____</p> <p>Money From Parents \$ _____</p> <p>Gifts, Other Sources \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL RESOURCES = \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES = \$ _____</p> <p>RESOURCES - \$ _____</p> <p>UNMET EXPENSES = \$ _____</p>	<p>College: _____</p> <p>DIRECT EXPENSES (Billed by the college)</p> <p>Tuition \$ _____</p> <p>Student Fees \$ _____</p> <p>Room and Board \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL = \$ _____</p> <p>INDIRECT EXPENSES (Estimated expenses)</p> <p>Books and Supplies \$ _____</p> <p>Transportation \$ _____</p> <p>Miscellaneous \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL = \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES = \$ _____ (Direct and Indirect)</p> <p>RESOURCES</p> <p>Grants and Scholarships \$ _____</p> <p>Savings \$ _____</p> <p>Student Earnings \$ _____</p> <p>Money From Parents \$ _____</p> <p>Gifts, Other Sources \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL RESOURCES = \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES = \$ _____</p> <p>RESOURCES - \$ _____</p> <p>UNMET EXPENSES = \$ _____</p>
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