

Helping students succeed— it's our mission.

ECMC

ECMC is a nonprofit corporation and we are driven by our mission to help students succeed. It is in that spirit that we have developed the following free student success programs and initiatives. It is our hope that schools, community leaders, and students and their families will take advantage of our free resources.

Student Success Programs & Initiatives

Financial literacy



The financial literacy materials cover the five building blocks identified by the Federal Financial Literacy and Education Commission to help students manage and grow their money. These materials are available for all to use.

www.ecmc.org/FAB

Training



Training, either via the web or in person, helps schools develop custom programs and online financial literacy webinars for students.

www.ecmc.org/Training

College planning guide



Opportunities: Planning for Higher Education Guide and Workbook is updated annually with current information about college admissions, deadlines and financial aid applications, and is offered in Spanish and English. This workbook is an essential tool for navigating the college-planning process.

www.ecmc.org/Opportunities

College planning events



Our college planning events, College Nights, are held annually in the spring throughout California, Connecticut, Oregon, Tennessee and Virginia. These events are aimed at helping students plan and pay for college. This is a can't-miss opportunity for students and families. As the sponsor, ECMC provides pizza and refreshments at each event, along with a random drawing for three \$500 scholarships. Since 2007, we have provided more than 2,000 scholarships, totalling \$1 million at College Nights events.

www.collegenights.org

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College Abacus
(College Ábaco)



College Abacus is a one-stop search site that allows students to compare the net price of college costs after grants and scholarships are subtracted from the total cost of attendance for up to three schools at one time. College Ábaco, the Spanish version, is also available.

www.collegeabacus.org

Pell Abacus
(Pell Ábaco)



Like our original tool, College Abacus, Pell Abacus is a one-stop, secure search site that helps students and families compare the net price estimates of 5,000+ colleges before students apply and before any financial aid determination is made. Specifically, Pell Abacus helps students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch get net price estimates quickly without answering detailed financial questions that would require a parent or tax form. Pell Ábaco, the Spanish version, is also available.

www.pellabacus.org

Curricula guides for teachers, counselors and community leaders



ECMC has developed three curricula to support educators in reaching underserved students at different stages along their education paths.

Believing the College Dream targets young students in grades 4-8, their families and local communities to motivate them to see college as an attainable goal worth preparing for now.

Realizing the College Dream provides additional preparation and encouragement for students in high school to think of themselves as future college students. A Pell Institute study shows how this well-received curriculum is impacting hundreds of thousands of students.

PERSIST is geared toward college students who need extra support to achieve their education goals and persist through college. *PERSIST* supports educators in helping students adjust to college, focus on their goals, overcome barriers and navigate all aspects of college life.

www.ecmc.org/students/educator-resources.html

Our Values

Our values inspire and guide us in all that we do.



Integrity

We uphold the highest standards of conduct. We seek and speak the truth.



Service

We are dedicated to our mission and committed to meeting the needs of those we serve.



Excellence

We embrace personal accountability. We are results-driven and strive for excellence in all that we do.



Teamwork

We value and respect a diverse workforce and believe that our team is much more than the sum of our parts.



Wellness

We support the physical, financial and emotional well-being of our employees.

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Energize Schools provides holistic services to help high school communities **green their facilities, conserve resources, and engage students** in service-learning and environmental leadership.

Nationwide, schools spend more than \$8 billion per year on energy, an operational expense second only to spending on books and computers. With greater resource efficiency, the EPA estimates that 30% of this money could be saved, freeing up funds to support student learning.

Conservation

We provide support for student-led campus conservation initiatives while teaching leadership and project management skills. We support student and faculty leaders in goal setting, action planning, and implementation of conservation strategies including:

- School Green Team recruitment, planning and implementation
- Participation in the annual Energize Schools Energy Conservation Competition

Education

We offer support to build sustainability career awareness and skills through project-based learning. Supportive services include:

- Project-based curriculum, aligned with the Common Core, CTE, and Next Generation Science Standards. See the reverse for a selection of available certificates and units
- In-person and online teacher trainings
- Instructional planning and direct instructional support
- Stipends for Education and Conservation Leaders at participating schools
- Annual Green Careers Conferences to explore green pathways

This program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

High School Sustainability Curriculum

Career Technical Courses:

Semester or year-long UC A-G courses that are designed to meet the California Career Technical Education Standards for the Energy, Environment, and Utilities sector.

Introduction to Green Technology: A D-Lab Science course that introduces students to career opportunities in sustainable STEM fields through a series of projects including: wind turbine design, making biodiesel, creating solar cars, energy auditing, and residential circuit building.

Advanced Green Technology: A G-Elective course where students complete projects related to sustainable design, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. The projects are focused on these core topics: zero net energy, solar installation, aquaponics, solar hot water, and biomimicry.

Sustainability Certificates:

Energy Auditing: Hands-on experience that prepares students to perform an energy audit of their school.

Zero Net Energy: Students combine energy auditing, conservation, and solar design to develop and advocate for a plan to achieve ZNE at their school.

Green Building: Lessons in green building, construction, materials, and more to design a LEED certified building.

Sustainable Enterprise: Students address a community problem, develop a business plan, and start an enterprise.

Green Transportation: Learn career skills through activities like designing and building a solar car, making bio-diesel, and designing a transportation friendly city.

Solar: Design, size, and site a school solar system; conduct a school energy audit; and install a residential solar system.

Project-Based Learning Units:

Home Energy Assessment

Home Water Assessment

School Water Assessment

Home Solar Analysis

School Solar Analysis

School Transportation Assessment

Solar USB Charger

Solar Water Heater

Eco Audit - Business Sustainability Assessment

Watersheds and Public Water Systems

Engineering Aquatic Ecosystems

Aquaponics

Biomimicry: Engineering Inspired by Nature

Guides:

School Zero Waste Guide

Energy Conservation Guide

School Sustainability Policy Guide

Sustainability Fair Guide

Water Conservation Guide



Energize Schools provides standards-aligned, project-based curriculum resources to engage students in impactful sustainability projects today, as well as prepare them to be leaders in the future.

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GET SCHOOLED

Get Schooled is an award-winning non-profit organization that directly engages and motivates students to graduate from high school and succeed in college. With nearly a million members, Get Schooled offers students a range of supports including [college advisor text help](#) and [digital content](#). Get Schooled has developed a track record of success because it engages with students using the media, technology, and popular culture that is an integral part of their lives.

Get Schooled has partnered with CSAC since 2013 to support California high school students access and finance a college education. [Nearly 100,000 California high school and college students are active members of the Get Schooled community.](#)

To support California students in their quest for a postsecondary degree, we have developed [racetosubmitca.com](#), a one stop digital platform for students in California with the most up to date information and resources needed to pursue a postsecondary education. The entire program is available to school and students for free! Plus, everything at Get Schooled is gamified so it makes learning about the college-going process fun!



College access tools



SAT study guides



Thousands of scholarships listed



Cal Grant info



Associates Degree for Transfer (ADT)



Rewards Store

SCHOOL-WIDE PROGRAMMING

Our signature Challenges are designed to engage students and entire schools around a key metric, whether it's to improve attendance, increase FAFSA completions or make a commitment to graduate. All participating schools have the opportunity to earn a grant.

Since 2013, 550 high schools across California have participated in a Get Schooled Challenge and have earned more than \$200,000 in grants for their schools. Even more importantly, these high schools have boosted their FAFSA completions by an average of 8%.

More specifically:

- 2014: 5% average FAFSA completion increase across participating schools; 66% of participating schools posted an increase.
- 2015: 14% average FAFSA completion increase across participating schools; 69% of participating schools posted an increase.
- 2016: 5% average FAFSA completion increase in participating schools; 57% of participating schools posted an increase.
- 2017: 11% average FAFSA completion increase in participating schools; 90% of participating schools posted an increase.
- 2018: 5% average FAFSA completion increase in participating schools; 61% of participating schools posted an increase.

The following Challenges will be available during the 2018-2019 school year in CA:

- Raise your FAFSA completion rates by participating in the Race to Submit Challenge.
- Increase your school's attendance and build a college going culture through our Fall Attendance Challenge.
- Improve college knowledge among all your students and strengthen your high school's college-going culture by participating in the Mission: Admission Challenge.

To sign up for a Challenge or learn more, educators should visit us at:

<https://getschooled.com/educators>

“ I feel that it is extremely important to connect with students beginning in the 9th grade. The Mission Admission Challenge gave me the opportunity to meet students and remind staff of the resources available through our Counselors and Career Center.

- Ana Robles, Guidance Tech, North High School, Bakersfield, CA

“ I appreciate all of the email updates and suggestions for how to engage our students in accessing the information and resources available on your site.

- Deborah Henell, College Liason, Design Science Early College High, Fresno, CA



TEXTLINE

We know students have questions about college and we can help. Students can text [FUTURE](#) to [33-55-77](#) to become part of the Get Schooled text community. Get Schooled uses text nudges to share:

- Scholarship opportunities
- Finding the right college
- Step by step help with filling out the FAFSA
- Reminders for key application deadlines
- Tips for studying for the SAT

Get Schooled also has trained staff available to answer any questions students have about college at any time. Last year alone, Get Schooled staff exchanged more than 250K texts with students.

SAMPLE TEXT NUDGES:

What's up David! Was the PSAT easier or harder then you expected?

What is the PSAT?

The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT. It gives you a sense of what it's like.

Hey David! If you could attend any college for free, where would you go?

The only college I know is WSU cause of football. Are there other options?

Hey Teresa! Did you know that you can apply for the Cal Grant by completing the FAFSA, starting October 1st? Check out the requirements and learn how to register here!

How do I get ready?

You need basic info about yourself, your parents tax info, and a list of colleges you're interested in applying to.

What if my parents are divorced?

You're not alone, we can help! :)

POINTS (GAMIFICATION)

In 2017, Fast Company named Get Schooled a *Most Innovative Company* for its use of game design to drive student engagement and improved outcomes. How does it work? Once a student creates an account (all student information remains completely private), every activity they complete on Get Schooled earns points. Students can spend their points in our Rewards Store. Some of the activities we have –



Reading articles



Checking in to school



Watching videos



Searching scholarships



Completing badges



Playing games



Adding to a discussion board topic

REWARDS STORE

We stock the Rewards Store with items at all point levels. This includes a good mix of stickers, gift cards, school supplies, books, electronics, and other popular items among students.

Everyone starts with 5,000 points so students can start redeeming lower priced items such as stickers that are priced at 1,000 points.

The medium and higher priced items are intended to encourage students to consume and engage with the substantive content on getschooled.com.



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Green 360

Career Catalyst

Inspire, educate, and empower students
to become contributing members of
the green energy workforce



For more information, please contact:

Laurie Maak
510.520.4658

laurie@green360careers.net
www.green360careercatalyst.net

What is Green 360 Career Catalyst?

Green 360 Career Catalyst is a website that provides career exploration and curricular resources that help cultivate high school and college-age students into the next generation “green” workforce. The Catalyst provides counselors, teachers, and their students with a free, self-guided, online resource to support career awareness, develop career building skills, and encourage students’ pursuit of their chosen career pathways.

Resources for Counselors

Help your students imagine their future **BEFORE** completing the FAFSA.

Your students can change the world for the better. However, they need support to discover who they are and how to think about where they are going in life. The Career Catalyst will help your students identify their interests, discover green careers and educational opportunities, and envision their career journey.

Lesson plans support educator use.

The Green 360 Career Catalyst includes a collection of copyright-free lesson plans that enable counselors and teachers to facilitate students’ experience with reflective and collaborative activities that can empower learners to go further with their career exploration process. Green 360 Career Catalyst lesson plans offer student enrichment and group activities as well as strategies for curricular integration. Visit www.green360careercatalyst.net/educator_resources for more details.

Flexible career resource.

The Career Catalyst has been used in classrooms and community-based organizations with students aged 14 to 24 since 2013. Green 360 has worked in partnership with the California Student Aid Commission since 2014.

The Career Catalyst is a powerful resource for students to use on their own, however, having an adult to guide and facilitate the experience with the provided reflective and collaborative activities will ensure meaningful engagement and deeper impact.

The Green 360 Career Catalyst can be used anytime, anywhere with a computer, tablet, or smartphone and an internet connection. The Career Catalyst is designed for students 14 years of age and older.

“By incorporating Green 360 in our Green Cadre Work Readiness course we give our students the tools and processes to better understand the environmental challenges society faces, build a network of experts, mentors, and collaborators, and investigate how they might discover and pursue a career that can make a difference in a way that is meaningful and rewarding to them.”

— California Educator

Green 360 Career Catalyst Website Details

- A user account must be created to allow students to keep an Interest Profile and save careers of interest to their personal portfolio.
- Students can complete a 60-question Interest Profiler to discover how their interests relate to work activities and “best fit” careers.
- Career profiles are sourced from the U.S. Department of Labor’s occupations database.
- Highlighted profiles include:
 -  Green Careers – new emerging types of work and increased demand;
 -  Bright Outlook Careers – likely to grow rapidly (emerging careers) and promise new opportunities; and
 -  Registered Apprenticeships – associated with job preparation in various trades and provide a paycheck while learning a skill inside and outside the classroom, culminating in industry certification.
- Students can apply new self-awareness and language using a variety of recommended college and career follow-up activities.
- Students can use the Career Catalyst independently or in a classroom setting.
- The Career Catalyst supports use in multiple languages.

Apprenticeship Opportunities and Careers in the Trades

- In California, the number of apprenticeships is expected to double in the next 10 years.
- [Cal Grant C](#) provides financial aid for students pursuing an Associate Degree or Certificate in a vocational, occupational, or technical program and meet certain income, asset, and other financial aid standards to attend college. No GPA requirement. Visit: www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-c-award
- Students pursuing an occupation on the [Cal Grant C Priority Occupational List](#) receive priority points in the selection criteria for Cal Grant C awards. Visit: www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/cal_grant_c_priority_occupational_list_0.pdf
- Occupations on the [Cal Grant C Occupational List](#) meet the Cal Grant C program criteria. Visit: www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/cal_grant_c_occupations.pdf
- [California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association](#) provides information about union apprenticeship in 45 trades throughout California. Visit: www.calapprenticeship.org

Two sections guide students through a discovery and action process

Know Yourself

Students discover their interests, what they care about, and best-fit careers. They gain tools to communicate who they are and how they want to make a difference.

Visit: www.green360careercatalyst.net/know_yourself

- Discover Yourself: *What are my interests?*
- Connect to Your World: *What do I care about?*
- Career Profiles: *What careers best fit me?*
- Make a Statement: *How do I communicate who I am?*

Connect with Others

Students are guided to communicate their career interests and goals, build a network of supportive adults to inform their education and career choices.

Visit: www.green360careercatalyst.net/connect_with_others

- Career Talk: *How do I communicate my career interests and goals?*
- Build Your Network: *Who will help me along my path?*
- Informational Interview: *How can I learn about my education and career choices?*

Enrichment , group activities, and strategies for curriculum integration

Educator Resources

Having an adult guide and facilitate the Catalyst experience empowers students to go further with their career exploration process. Visit: www.green360careercatalyst.net/educator_resources

- Educator Guide: *How to approach the Career Catalyst and use the lesson plans.*
- Introduction to the Career Catalyst: *Foundation for career awareness, exploration, and planning.*
- Free Lesson Plans: *Increase engagement as students do each Know Yourself activity.*
- Enrichment Activities: *Strengthen self-knowledge and support informed education and career choices.*

We would love to hear from you!

For more information, please contact:

Laurie Maak: 510.520.4658 | Laurie@green360careers.net

Visit us online:

-  www.green360careercatalyst.net
-  [@green360](https://twitter.com/green360)
-  www.facebook.com/green360careers



This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. "PG&E" refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation.



The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is developed under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) through a grant to the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

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EMBARGOED for Thursday, July 19 at 1:15 pm ET



LINK TO: [WhenWeAllVote.org](https://www.WhenWeAllVote.org)

USE HASHTAG: #WhenWeAllVote

FOLLOW

Twitter: [@WhenWeAllVote](https://twitter.com/WhenWeAllVote)

Instagram: [WhenWeAllVote](https://www.instagram.com/WhenWeAllVote)

Facebook: [WhenWeAllVote](https://www.facebook.com/WhenWeAllVote)

Contact for assistance:

Laura@civicadvisors.us

Last Updated:

7/17/18

#WhenWeAllVote Digital Toolkit!

Welcome to the #WhenWeAllVote digital toolkit! Here's what's inside: (click to jump to the corresponding section).

[MESSAGING](#)

[SAMPLE TWEETS AND FACEBOOK POSTS](#)

[GRAPHICS & PSA TO DOWNLOAD](#)

[EMAIL TEMPLATE](#)

[CO-CHAIR QUOTES](#)

MESSAGING

When We All Vote – a new national, nonpartisan not-for-profit – brings together citizens, institutions, companies, and organizations to spark a conversation about our rights and responsibilities in shaping our democracy. Namely, the responsibility of registering and voting.

When We All Vote's Co-Chairs are some of America's most trusted voices, including Michelle Obama, Tom Hanks, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Janelle Monáe, Chris Paul, Faith Hill, and Tim McGraw. By harnessing the power of these co-chairs, partner organizations and our campaign ambassadors, When We Vote calls on them to register, vote, and talk to their friends, family and neighbors about the importance of voting.

Because When We All Vote, we can change the world. Get started at [WhenWeAllVote.org](https://www.WhenWeAllVote.org).

EMBARGOED for Thursday, July 19 at 1:15 pm ET

SAMPLE TWEETS AND FACEBOOK POSTS

*To each tweet or post, you have the option to upload a graphic or PSA. See below.

DRAFT TWEETS

#WhenWeAllVote, we all do better.

#WhenWeAllVote, our democracy is stronger.

#WhenWeAllVote, our voices are heard.

Register & volunteer: WhenWeAllVote.org.

We're all responsible for shaping the promise & direction of our democracy. @WhenWeAllVote calls on YOU to start the conversation with your family, friends, & neighbors on the importance of registering & voting. Let's get to work! WhenWeAllVote.org

"If we really want our voices to be heard, we need to vote in every election." -@MichelleObama

It's time to make sure that all of us are registered and ready to vote in every election. Our democracy depends on it.

Get involved: WhenWeAllVote.org

—

Register to vote.

Help others do the same with @WhenWeAllVote.

Vote in every election.

Get started at whenweallvote.org to make your voice heard. #WhenWeAllVote

—

We can't sit on the sidelines.

#WhenWeAllVote we elect people who represent all of us.

Register to vote & volunteer: WhenWeAllVote.org

—

Hey, friends! I'm joining @MichelleObama, @tomhanks, @Lin_Manuel, @JanelleMonae, @CP3, @TheTimMcGraw & @FaithHill to make sure every American understands the rights and responsibilities we all share in shaping our democracy. That means: VOTING!

Join us: WhenWeAllVote.org

EMBARGOED for Thursday, July 19 at 1:15 pm ET

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Voter turnout in the U.S. doesn't have to be amongst the lowest in the world. Join @WhenWeAllVote to help change that. Get started: WhenWeAllVote.org #WhenWeAllVote

—

I'm joining @WhenWeAllVote to help everyone get registered b/c #WhenWeAllVote we fulfill our responsibility as citizens to shape the promise of our democracy. Get started: WhenWeAllVote.org

—

The bad news: In the 2014 midterm election, the U.S. had the lowest turnout since World War II.

The good news: @WhenWeAllVote is pushing to change that. Get registered and volunteer at WhenWeAllVote.org. #WhenWeAllVote

DRAFT FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

[TAG: When We All Vote], we all do better. When We All Vote, our democracy is stronger. And #WhenWeAllVote, we elect people who represent all of us. We all have a responsibility to shape our democracy by registering to vote and participating in every election. Learn more and get started at WhenWeAllVote.org

As Americans, we have the right & responsibility to register and vote. **[TAG: WhenWeAllVote]** empowers eligible voters to make their voices heard and start conversations in their communities about the issues that matter most. #WhenWeAllVote, we can change the world. Let's get to work! WhenWeAllVote.org

Voter turnout rates in the U.S. are among the lowest in the world. It's time to change that. **[TAG: When We All Vote]** is committed to registering all eligible voters and empowering them to make their voices heard in local, state, and federal elections. Register & volunteer at WhenWeAllVote.org

Register to vote, make your voice heard, and help others do the same with **[TAG: When We All Vote]**. Together we'll make sure eligible voters are registered and participate in every election to create a democracy that represents all of us. Get started at WhenWeAllVote.org.

GRAPHICS & VIDEO

[Graphics and the PSA can be found here to download.](#)

EMBARGOED for Thursday, July 19 at 1:15 pm ET

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Subject: Join me and When We All Vote!

Hey there,

Our democracy is stronger and we make our voices heard when we all vote. But too often, participation rates in American elections are among the lowest in the world. To create a democracy that represents all of us, we need to change that.

That's why **[I'm // we're // ORGANIZATION NAME]** joining [When We All Vote](#), a new national, nonpartisan not-for-profit dedicated to fulfilling the promise of our democracy by ensuring that every eligible American is empowered and feels responsible to vote in local, state, and federal elections.

To get involved, register to vote, and volunteer, head over to whenweallvote.org.

We can't afford to sit on the sidelines. When we all vote, we can change the world. Your voice is your vote.

I hope you'll join us.

NAME

PS Don't forget to follow When We All Vote on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!

EMBARGOED for Thursday, July 19 at 1:15 pm ET

CO-CHAIR QUOTES

“Voting in every election is the only way you can have your voice heard.” - **Michelle Obama**, Former First Lady of the United States

“You have to vote every single election...for your mayor, for your governor, for the people who sit on your school boards. All of that affects your daily life.” - **Michelle Obama**, Former First Lady of the United States

“Voting is a small act that proves that we are a democracy— a government of the people and by the people. It’s up to each and every one of us to make sure our government doesn’t just represent a small some—not just the most powerful—but all of us.” - **Tom Hanks**, Actor and Filmmaker

“When we all vote, we are making strides toward a more perfect union.” - **Tom Hanks**, Actor and Filmmaker

“When each and every one of us votes, we make sure our government represents all of us. When we all vote, those who we elect pay attention.” - **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, Composer, Lyricist, Playwright, and Actor

“We want our government to work for all of us, not just some of us. It’s only through voting that we can use our voice and exercise our power.” - **Janelle Monáe**, Singer-songwriter and Actress

“Voting gives us the power to create real change and change doesn’t happen if we remain silent. We need your voice to be heard by voting.” - **Chris Paul**, NBA player for the Houston Rockets

“When we all vote we make a difference – a difference that can be felt all the way from Tennessee to the nation’s capital, and everywhere in between. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to make your voice heard.” - **Faith Hill**, Singer

“We make a difference in every single step along the path of our democracy. When you cast your ballot, you are standing up for what’s important to you.” - **Tim McGraw**, Singer

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icanaffordcollege.com

Campaign Overview

The “I **Can** Afford College” campaign is a statewide, financial aid awareness initiative that is sponsored by the California Community Colleges. The purpose of the campaign is to educate current and prospective students about the year-round availability of financial aid at California’s 113 community colleges to help pay for fees, books, supplies and sometimes even rent.

Valuable Resource for Students

The heart of the campaign is our bilingual English and Spanish website, icanaffordcollege.com. The website provides current and prospective students with valuable financial aid information and connects them with professionals at their local college to receive free one-on-one assistance with the application process. Detailed information and applications on the website enable students to apply online for federal, state and community college financial aid. Students who do not have Internet access can call **1-800-987-ICAN (4226)** to get connected with a community college financial aid office in their area. The key features of icanaffordcollege.com include the following:

- Online access to all of the necessary financial aid forms and answers to the most frequently asked financial aid questions.
- Zip code locator that offers students direct contact information for the nearest community college campuses, including physical addresses, financial aid office phone numbers, and email and website addresses.
- A financial aid events and workshop locator that helps students find an event in their area, where they can receive FREE individual assistance to identify the types of aid that are right for them, and to complete appropriate financial aid forms.

Campaign Materials

The “I **Can** Afford College” campaign is pleased to offer a variety of collateral and promotional materials free of charge. Items include brochures, flyers, folders, T-shirts and more. Quantities of materials are limited so please order only what you need. To order materials, visit the “Campaign Materials” page of icanaffordcollege.com.

**If you have questions or would like more information, please contact
Amanda J. Davis, Project Manager, at amandajdavis10@gmail.com, or (916) 320.1469.**

Follow us:



facebook.com/icanaffordcollege
twitter.com/icanafrcdcollege
instagram.com/icanaffordcollege

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, composed of 72 districts and 113 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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1 Start at a California Community College

California community colleges provide associate degrees and certificates, career training and prepare you to transfer to a California State University (CSU) campus as well as other four-year universities.

Tips to Prepare:

- To enroll in a California community college today, submit a completed application to your local college admissions office or apply online at cccapply.org.
- To see how orientation and education planning can keep you on the fast track, visit stepforward.cccco.edu
- Meet with a counselor to review your pathway and course options.
- Register for classes each semester or quarter. Be sure to begin your English and math courses your first year in order to stay on track.



3 Earn Your Degree & Dream Future Here You Come!



As the quickest way to earn your bachelor's degree, the program puts you on a direct path to your future – start at a California community college, transfer to your saved spot at a CSU campus, earn your degree, and dream future, here you come!

Californians with a college degree will earn \$400,000 more in their lifetime than those with only a high school diploma. This program gives you the tools to not only earn your associate degree in less time and money, you're also guaranteed a spot at a CSU* that will ultimately lead to the completion of a bachelor's degree.

Visit ADegreeWithAGuarantee.com today and meet with a counselor to review your options.

This transfer program is for veterans returning from active duty, too. The Associate Degree for Transfer is a fast, affordable way to transition from military service to the job market.

Nearly forty-two percent of all California veterans receiving GI education benefits attend a California community college for career training, to earn a degree or to transfer to a four-year university.

This program is also for youth who have lived in foster care. The Associate Degree for Transfer program supports your success in college and will provide you with a clear path to complete your general education courses and guarantee you a saved spot at a CSU.



**DREAM
FUTURE**



Helpful Resources:

You may be eligible to receive financial aid from federal, state and institutional programs in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. Visit the California Community Colleges' "I **Can** Afford College" website, at icanaffordcollege.com, for information on the many types of aid available, and when and how to apply.

Eighty percent of students at a CSU receive some type of financial aid. For more information on CSU financial aid resources please visit www2.calstate.edu/attend/paying-for-college/financial-aid.

If you are struggling academically, facing financial hardship, or having a hard time with your language skills, the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) office can offer support. Visit your community college EOPS office for more information.

2 Transfer to Your Saved Spot at a CSU



Earning an Associate Degree for Transfer provides a number of great benefits, including:

- Paving the way to earning your bachelor's degree in the quickest way possible.
- Saving you a guaranteed spot at a CSU campus (not a guarantee to a specific campus or program).*
- Granting you priority consideration when applying to impacted majors and/or campuses.*
- Providing a direct path to your dream future by guaranteeing an associate degree in just 60 semester units at a community college and a bachelor's degree in just 60 additional semester units at a CSU campus (90 units at quarter campuses).

Transfer Process:

Once you have met with your counselor and developed your pathway be sure to:

- Keep up your grades to remain as competitive as possible.
- Visit ADegreeWithAGuarantee.com and view the CSU(s) that you can apply to with your major.
- Review the admission requirements for the CSU and major that interests you.
- Submit your application materials by the posted deadlines.

*While admission to a CSU is guaranteed, not all students will receive their choice of a specific campus or program. Admission will depend on your course of study and the impact status of the campus.

For more information:

California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, serving 2.1 million students on its 114 campuses. For more information, visit CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu.

The California State University is the largest system of senior higher education in the country, with 23 campuses, 52,000 faculty and staff and 484,000 students. Each year, the CSU awards more than 119,000 degrees. One in every 20 Americans holding a college degree is a graduate of the CSU and our alumni are 3.4 million strong. Connect with and learn more about the CSU in the CSU NewsCenter at www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news.

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Brought to you by the California Community Colleges and California State University systems

**REACH YOUR DREAM
FUTURE FASTER.**
Take a path to earn your
bachelor's degree that saves
you time & money.



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WHAT IS CAREER EDUCATION?

Career Education gives you the hands-on, practical training needed to earn a certificate, open the door to a rewarding career, or get you started on your path toward a bachelor's degree.

The California Community Colleges is the nation's largest provider of career training programs.

We prepare students for rewarding jobs in high-demand programs that can lead to immediate employment.

Choose from more than 200 career programs that can prepare you for jobs in fields such as Advanced Manufacturing, Digital Media, Automotive Technology, Architecture, and many more.

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER A CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAM?

Think a high school degree opens the door to a good job? Think again!

By 2020, 65% of all jobs in the U.S. will require training beyond high school.

Career Education is the smart, affordable way to get the practical skills you need to compete in today's fast-changing job market.

Our classes are taught by industry experts who have worked in their fields. You won't just be sitting in lectures — you will be gaining hands-on experience.

Career Education is a smart investment in your future.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS CURRENTLY PAY
\$46 PER UNIT
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES



Some career fields with the highest median annual salary five years after graduating from Career Education programs include.*



WATER TECHNOLOGY

\$86,391



ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS & POWER TRANSMISSION

\$110,829



AERONAUTICAL & AVIATION TECHNOLOGY

\$76,187

*Based on wage data available through salarysurfer.cccco.edu



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CAREER EDUCATION

CHOOSE FROM MORE THAN 200 DIFFERENT CAREER PROGRAMS

to get the hands-on training and skills you need for the new-collar jobs that need you.

Visit CaliforniaCareerEducation.com to get started on your path to a rewarding, good-paying career today!

OTHER HELPFUL TOOLS

SalarySurfer.cccco.edu

Find salary information for different career fields.

Here To Career Mobile App

Take the quiz to find your career path.

Stepforward.cccco.edu

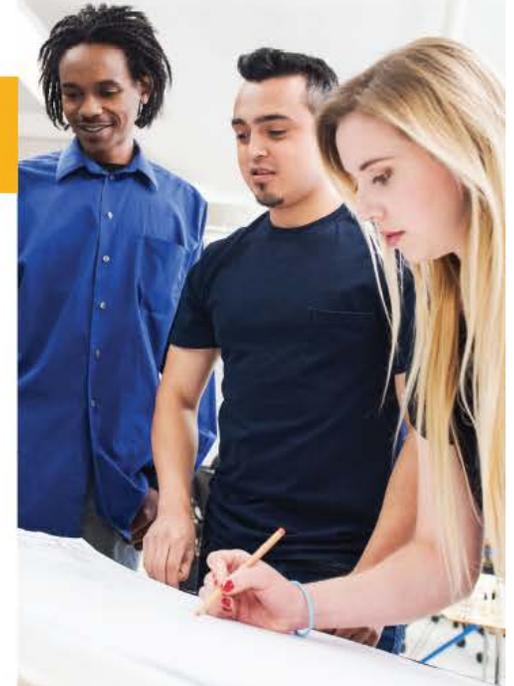
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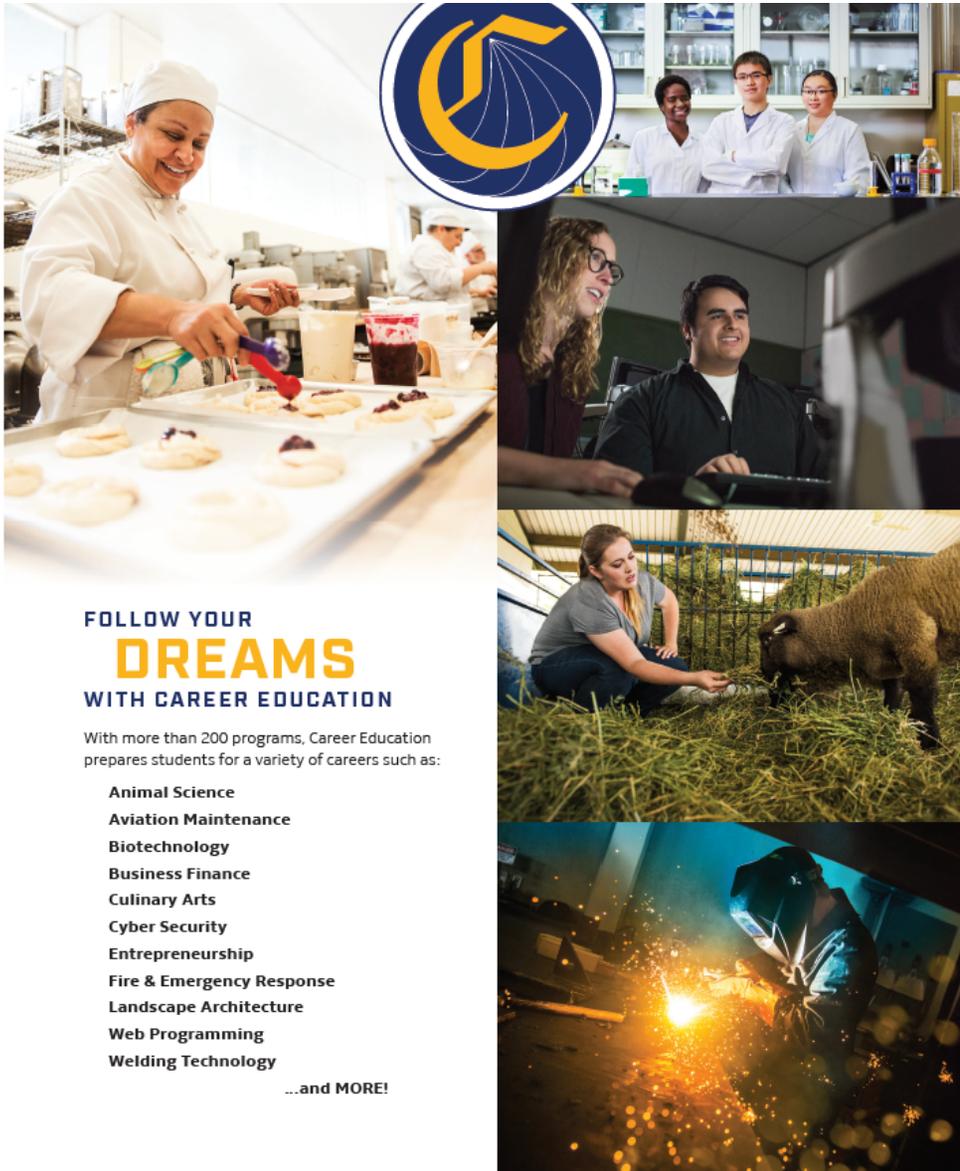
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The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, with 114 colleges annually serving 2.1 million students. For more information, visit californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu

FOR THE JOBS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CAREER EDUCATION



FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS WITH CAREER EDUCATION

With more than 200 programs, Career Education prepares students for a variety of careers such as:

- Animal Science
- Aviation Maintenance
- Biotechnology
- Business Finance
- Culinary Arts
- Cyber Security
- Entrepreneurship
- Fire & Emergency Response
- Landscape Architecture
- Web Programming
- Welding Technology
- ...and MORE!

HOW WILL I AFFORD IT?

Financial aid is available year-round to help cover the cost of fees, books, supplies, and sometimes even rent.

There are many different types of financial aid (see chart).

COMMON TYPES OF STATE AND FEDERAL AID	AWARD AMOUNT (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
Federal Pell Grant	Up to \$5,920 per academic year*
Cal Grant B	Up to \$1,672 per academic year**
Fee Waiver	Waives enrollment fees*
Cal Grant C ¹	Up to \$1,094 per academic year (up to two years)***
Full-Time Student Success Grant ²	Additional \$1,000 per academic year (up to two years)
Completion Grant ³	Up to \$1,500 per academic year

For a comprehensive list of different types of financial aid, visit Icanaffordcollege.com or visit your local community college financial aid office.

* Apply year-round.

** Apply between October 1 and March 2 for Entitlement awards, or by September 2 for Competitive awards. Visit calgrants.org for more information.

*** To apply for a Cal Grant C award, students need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For those attending college now, the FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2017. For those attending college from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, the FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2018.

¹ To qualify, students must be enrolled in a vocational program that is at least four months long at a California community college.

² All full-time community college students receiving Cal Grant C awards will be offered this assistance. Only full-time students (those enrolled in at least 12 units per term) can receive this benefit. Funding is available for up to two years, depending on the length of the program.

³ To qualify, students must receive the Full-Time Student Success Grant and enroll in 15 units per term—all units part of their comprehensive Ed Plan.

HOW CAN I GET STARTED?

Visit CaliforniaCareerEducation.com to:

EXPLORE a variety of programs designed to get you fast-tracked to the career you want, with the skills you need.

LOCATE a college near you.

APPLY (at CCCApply.org).



The first step in accessing these resources is to apply, even if you aren't sure you'll qualify.

Complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** – which opens the door to most types of financial aid – at Icanaffordcollege.com.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available every year on October 1. It's best to apply as soon as you can, so you get the most financial aid possible.

You are a **California Dream Act (AB 540 eligible)** student, and exempt from paying non-resident enrollment fees, if you meet all of the following criteria:

- Attended a California high school for at least three years, OR attained the equivalent of at least three years of credits from a California high school and attended at least three full years at California K-12 schools;

AND

- Graduated from a California high school, got a GED or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam;

- Are registered or enrolled at a California community college;

AND

- If required, complete an affidavit saying you have filed (or will file when you are eligible to do so) for legal immigration status.



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For more information:

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE Promise Grant

▶ *Helping Students Succeed*

Formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver

Eligibility Information

Everything you need to know to
remain eligible for the California
College Promise Grant.



9/20/16 392,700

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youtube.com/CACommunityColleges

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, with 115 colleges serving 2.1 million students annually. For more information, visit CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu.

Brought to you by the California Community Colleges, the "I **Can** Afford College" campaign informs current and prospective students and their families about the year-round availability of financial aid. For more information, visit icanaffordcollege.com.

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California
Community
Colleges

icanaffordcollege.com

icanaffordcollege.com

► **Minimum requirements for maximum success.**

Whether you want to move into a career or move on to a four-year university, California community colleges want to help you achieve your educational goals. The California College Promise Grant, available to eligible students, will waive your per unit enrollment fee at any California community college throughout the state.

Once you've qualified for the California College Promise Grant, it's important to ensure that you're meeting the academic and progress standards in order to avoid losing it.

Academic — Sustain a GPA of 2.0 or higher

If your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 for two consecutive primary terms (fall/spring semesters, or fall/winter/spring quarters), you may lose your grant eligibility.

Progress — Complete more than 50 percent of your coursework

If the cumulative number of units you complete is not more than 50 percent in two consecutive primary terms (fall/spring semesters, or fall/winter/spring quarters), you may lose your grant eligibility.

Combination of Academic and Progress Standards

Any combination of two consecutive terms of cumulative GPA below 2.0, and/or cumulative unit completion of not more than 50 percent may result in loss of grant eligibility.

► **How will I know?**

You'll be notified within 30 days of the end of each term if you are being placed on either academic (GPA) and/or progress (course completion) probation. Your notification will include the information that a second term of probation will result in loss of fee waiver eligibility. After the second consecutive term of probation, you may lose eligibility for the fee waiver at your next registration opportunity.

► **How to regain eligibility.**

If you lose eligibility for the California College Promise Grant, there are a few ways that you can have it reinstated:

- Improve your GPA or course completion measures to meet the academic and progress standards
- Successful appeal regarding extenuating circumstances (see below)
- Successful appeal based on significant academic improvement (see below)
- Not attending your school district for two consecutive primary terms (fall/spring semesters, or fall/winter/spring quarters)

The appeals process for extenuating circumstances includes:

- Verified accidents, illness or other circumstances beyond your control
- Changes in economic situation
- Evidence of inability to obtain essential support services
- Special consideration factors for CalWORKs, EOPS, DSPS and student veterans
- Disability accommodations not received in a timely manner

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the financial aid office or registrar at your college.

Please note that foster youth and former foster youth (age 24 years and younger) are not subject to loss of the California College Promise Grant under these regulations.



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CALIFORNIA COLLEGE Promise Grant

Formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver

► *Helping Students Succeed*

What's New?

The Board of Governors Fee Waiver program will be renamed the California College Promise Grant. The program, including the application process and eligibility requirements, will remain the same.

What's Changed?

Just the name! The fee waiver program, including the application process, and eligibility requirements, will remain the same. The California College Promise Grant, available to eligible students, will waive your per unit enrollment fee at any California community college throughout the state.

Eligibility Requirements

Once you've qualified, it's important to ensure you're meeting the academic and progress standards in order to avoid losing it.

- Sustain a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Complete more than 50% of your coursework

► What to expect

Fall 2017

California College Promise Grant is officially introduced to public



Fall 2018

Integration of California College Promise Grant* begins

Fall 2019

'Board of Governors Fee Waiver' officially becomes a thing of the past

**You will hear both names used interchangeably until Fall 2019.*

For more information, visit Icanaffordcollege.com or contact the financial aid office or registrar at your college.

2018/30,000

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Campaign Materials

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to offer a variety of collateral and promotional materials free of charge for their statewide awareness campaigns on financial aid, transfer programs, and career education opportunities. Items include brochures, flyers, folders, T-shirts and more. Quantities of materials are limited so please order only what you need. Visit the "I Can Afford College" and/or "Associate Degree for Transfer" campaign websites today and place your order using the simple steps listed below!

Steps to Order Collateral Materials

Through the "I Can Afford College" website:

Step 1: Go to www.icanaffordcollege.com

Step 2: On the top right tabs hover over "ABOUT US"

Step 3: A dropdown menu should appear click on "Campaign Materials".

Step 4: After the brief intro, you will find a link to the "California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office online order form"

Through the "Associate Degree for Transfer" website:

Step 1: Go to www.adegreewithaguarantee.com

Step 2: On the top right tabs hover over "RESOURCES"

Step 3: A dropdown menu should appear click on "Campaign Materials"

Step 4: Under the green "Campaign Materials" header you will find a link to the "California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office online order form"

Ordering Form:

Step 5: Click on "Self-Registration" link if this is your first time ordering to register for current and future orders. If you have already previously registered, please enter your username or email and password than click "login". **Note: all users who were formally registered through the "I Can" campaign materials site will need to re-register for the new site.**

Step 6: Once inside the online store you can search for specific materials or filter by which campaign you are looking for by using the tools on the top left hand side of the screen. Type in the search bar and/or click on the check box of the campaign materials you are looking for.

Step 7: Review the items and select the quantity desired of each item to order. Make sure you click “add to cart” to include those items selected in your order.

Step 8: You can review your order by clicking “Shopping Cart” at the top of the page.

Step 9: Click “Finished Shopping” when viewing your shopping cart to complete your order.

Step 10: Enter your shipping address for your order to be sent to; **“WE CANNOT SHIP TO PO BOXES”**.

Step 11: Please provide answers to the three questions under your Order Item Summary; those questions are:

- Please describe the event where you will hand out our materials
- Please enter the number of attendees expected
- Please describe the targeted audience that will attend the event

Step 12: Click “Review Order” to take a final review.

Step 13: Click on “Change Item(s)” if you would like to make any changes. If you have no further changes, click on “Place Order” to complete your order.

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FINANCIAL AID TOOLKIT

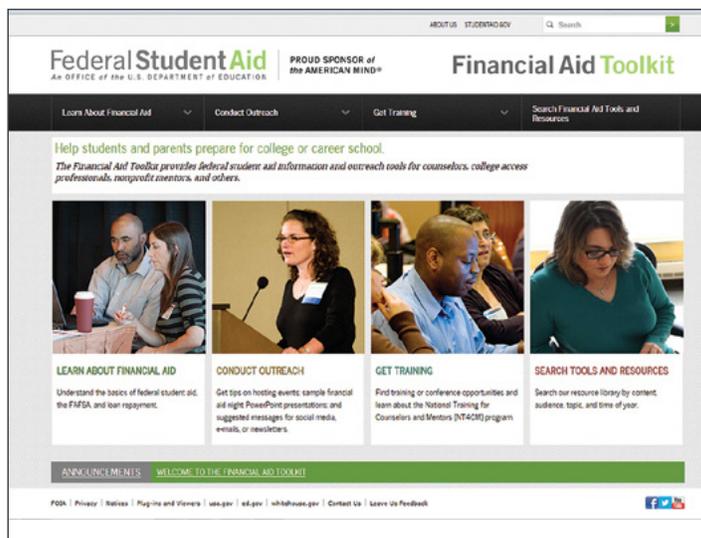
A Resource for School Counselors and Other Mentors Who Prepare Students and Families Financially for College

Counselors and college access advisors: Federal Student Aid (FSA) created the Financial Aid Toolkit (FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov) website just for you. The toolkit consolidates FSA resources into a searchable online database intended for use by organizations and individuals who interact with, support, or counsel students and families on making financial preparations for postsecondary education. While the toolkit's target audience is high school counselors and college access professionals, financial aid administrators may also find toolkit resources useful for their student outreach efforts.

What the Toolkit Offers You

The toolkit provides the following for counselors and mentors:

- Updates. Find announcements about changes to the FAFSA or loan repayment programs. Learn when a draft of next year's FAFSA will be available.
- Answers. Get basic financial aid information, tips and talking points, and links to details so you can advise students with confidence.
- Resources. Access a searchable library of resources to hand to, screen for, or email to your students.
- Outreach. Stay in touch with FSA by subscribing to the resources and announcements RSS feeds on the site and by using the Contact Us page when you have questions or comments.



Key Feature: The “Search Tools and Resources” Function

Use the toolkit's search function to find and sort resources by

- audience,
- topic,
- time of year for best use, and
- type of resource.

Simply visit the Search Tools and Resources page at FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources.

Examples of the kinds of resources in the toolkit include

- outreach resources such as financial aid night materials, fact sheets, videos, infographics, and PowerPoint presentations;
- suggested messages for social media in the form of tweets, Facebook posts, and blog posts;
- information on embedding videos and infographics in your website;
- sample articles for organization newsletters and sample emails; and
- FSA publications.

**The Financial Aid Toolkit is for you, the counselor or mentor.
Please send students and parents to StudentAid.gov for financial aid information.**

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GUIDE TO PLANNING AND CONDUCTING A FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

INTRODUCTION

High school and financial aid counselors, as well as counselors employed by community social service agencies, are major sources of information about financing education beyond high school. Counselors share their basic knowledge and information about financial aid with interested students and family members via many different methods.

Perhaps the most obvious way of providing financial aid information to students and parents is through individual counseling sessions. However, individual sessions may not be practical given increasing student to counselor ratios and other counselor duties. Other methods, such as financial aid newsletters and brochures, the Internet, group sessions, email, and public presentations are more efficient in getting basic and essential information to those who are preparing financially for college.

Conducting a financial aid information night is a great way to deliver important financial aid information to students and families. Properly planned and executed, it can save counselors hours of time in disseminating information. Due to unique family circumstances, individual sessions still may be necessary and desirable for some families. By providing general information in a written format and group presentations to the majority of families, more time will be available for those families who require special attention.

NASFAA has developed its *Financial Aid Night* materials to assist counselors in planning and conducting a financial aid night for students and parents. It is divided into three parts:

1. Part one is the ***Guide to Planning and Conducting a Financial Aid Night***.
2. Part two is ***What You Need to Know About Financial Aid***, a financial aid night presentation slide show and a presentation guide providing the basic information students and families need to know when applying for financial aid.
3. Part three consists of handouts that can be copied and given to students and parents to help them through the financial aid application process. These include:
 - ***FAFSA on the Web Worksheet***: The student and parent should complete and use this worksheet as a guide while electronically completing the FAFSA on the Web. Once the 2017–18 worksheet is available, download and print at www.fafsa.ed.gov/help/ffdef44.htm.
 - ***Paper Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)***: While the preferred method of FAFSA completion is electronically via FAFSA on the Web, the draft paper copy of the FAFSA is provided in these materials primarily as a reference, so students and parents will have a good idea as to what information is collected and what to expect during the application process.
 - ***Application Form Tracking Worksheet***: A student should use one of these worksheets to keep track of the many application and documentation requirements for each school to which he or she applies. Like the *Financial Aid Application Checklist*, it can also be used as a review sheet in counseling sessions.

- **Financial Aid Application Checklist:** This running list of necessary actions has space for the student to enter due dates and to check off accomplished items. Designed to be used over a period of months, it can be used independently by the student or serve as a progress review sheet in counseling sessions with individual students.
- **Award Letter Comparison Worksheet:** Once actual aid offers are received from the schools to which the student has been admitted, this tool guides the family and counselor in comparing aid packages. The worksheet was a recommendation of the NASFAA Award Notification and Consumer Information Task Force; it includes a glossary with specific terms necessary for a better understanding of award letters.
- **Cost of Attendance Comparison Worksheet:** This chart allows the student and parent to record and compare the costs for each school under consideration. Using this worksheet ensures that the family has *all* costs for each school. Wide discrepancies in estimates for living costs (expenses other than tuition, fees, and books) should be questioned. It can also be used by the counselor to help focus a student's expectations on what is reasonably manageable given the family's financial situation.
- **Federal Student Aid Program Summary:** This chart describes the eligibility requirements and features of the various federal student aid programs. It should be used in conjunction with the financial night presentation. Information regarding available state and institutional student financial aid funds may be obtained from each school.
- **Financial Aid Consultants and Scholarship Search Services Fact Sheet:** Should a family pay for someone to help them through the financial aid process? This fact sheet helps families avoid being scammed by unnecessary and costly reliance on paid consultants to obtain help and advice that is available from true experts at no charge.
- **Sample Scholarship Inquiry Letter:** This letter suggests how a student might inquire about financial aid from a private organization (that is, a source of funding other than the school or a government agency).
- **Financial Aid Glossary.** Financial aid is full of unique terms and acronyms. The glossary defines many of the terms that students and families will encounter as they navigate the financial aid process.

Counselors who do not have a financial aid knowledge base should consider asking a financial aid administrator from a nearby college or a representative of the state student assistance agency to conduct or assist in conducting a financial aid information night. Many state associations of financial aid administrators routinely conduct or provide support for such presentations. The following ***Eight Steps from Start to Finish*** will be helpful to the presenter in making the necessary arrangements.

PLANNING AND CONDUCTING A FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: EIGHT STEPS FROM START TO FINISH

1 Setting the date

Selecting an appropriate date for a financial aid information night is critical to its success. When selecting a date, consider the following:

- **Do** pick a date far enough in advance of the application deadline for your state’s student assistance program(s) and the priority filing dates announced by the schools to which your students typically apply. Check state and institutional application instructions, websites, and catalogues to determine these dates and count back four to six weeks to allow sufficient time for application completion and processing.
- **Do** pick a date that complements other school-related activities for families. For example, you might make the financial aid information night part of the program for a monthly PTA meeting. If not, be sure to pick a date that does not compete with the PTA meeting or other school or community events appealing to college-bound students and their parents.
- **Do** be sensitive to religious observances affecting the families that may need financial aid information.
- **Don’t** pick a date too close to major holidays or holiday weekends. Family scheduling conflicts will affect your attendance.
- **Do** host a Financial Aid Night with the FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) Worksheet if it is available. This “pre-application” worksheet includes many of the questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Once available, download and print to accompany NASFAA’s Financial Aid Night materials via the FAFSA website at www.fafsa.ed.gov/help/ffdef44.htm.

Students are encouraged to file the FAFSA online. Beginning with the 2017–18 application, the online version is scheduled to be available on October 1 prior to the start of the application cycle (e.g., October 1, 2016 for the 2017-18 award year). The paper FOTW Worksheet is normally distributed to secondary schools prior to availability of FAFSA on the Web, although changes to the FOTW Worksheet or procedures for distributing it may delay its availability.

- **Don’t** try to compete with entertainment or athletic events that attract parents and students.
- **Don’t** ignore the possibility of inclement weather. Plan for and advertise inclement weather procedures and an alternate date.

2 Setting a time

Financial aid is a topic that concerns most families, so you should hold financial aid presentations at a time convenient to students and families, most likely weekday evenings or weekends. To schedule the presentation during the day when parents or other family members are working deprives you of many of your potential participants and deprives families of the information they seek.

3 Selecting a facility

Based on anticipated attendance, identify a facility with a room that will comfortably accommodate the group and the following:

- **Tables, or at least chairs with writing arms**, since many participants will take extensive notes;
- **Lighting control** to accommodate visual aids such as PowerPoint presentations, etc.;
- **Data projector and screen**, if required by the presenter;
- **Chalkboard or flipchart** at the front of the room for impromptu notes and calculations; and
- **Microphone**, if the presenter or the size of the room requires it.

The facility should be readily accessible to individuals with disabilities and from available parking areas. Plan to provide signs that direct participants to the appropriate location. Some facilities require special notification or arrangements for meetings held after normal business hours. To avoid problems with heat, air conditioning, lighting, and so on, be sure that the proper persons are advised of your meeting and what is needed.

4 Advertising the event

Once the date, time, and facility have been determined, you are ready to advertise the financial aid information night. Begin promotion at least two to four weeks in advance so that families can “pencil it in” their calendars, yet late enough that they don’t forget about it.

Beyond the obvious announcements at schools and in flyers sent home, consider using postings on your school and/or local high school websites if applicable and accessible, public service announcements by local television and radio stations, news or calendar items in local newspapers, items in PTA or school newsletters, posters in shopping areas, social networking, and public address announcements at sporting events and other school or community activities. If possible, send an email announcement to families at your school who might have interest in your event.

5 Determining the presenters

If you are making the presentation yourself, you may want to consider getting assistance from others with specialized information to share with your audience. It is likely not easy for you or the audience to cover all the information by yourself, and it frequently makes for a more interesting presentation to have an occasional change of pace and voice.

Since it may be impossible for you to be an authority on all aspects of college financing, consider bringing in an outside “expert.” Having additional speakers often increases the credibility of the presentation. We suggest inviting a local financial aid administrator to address federal assistance and a representative from the state agency to describe state aid programs. These outside presenters will add a positive touch to most presentations.

6 Making a list, checking it twice

The rest of the planning process involves following up to make sure that all arrangements are implemented as requested. Confirm everything about a week before your presentation and then again the day before. It is only human to forget, and periodic reminders are more easily managed than a last-minute frantic phone call ten minutes after the auditorium should have been opened, with 50 participants waiting in the hallway.

7 Delivering the information

With thorough planning, the presentation should go smoothly. Arrive well in advance of the stated starting time to make sure doors are unlocked, the lights are on, the room is properly arranged, and audiovisual equipment is set up and in working order. Put out directional signs early and as necessary to help people find their way. Have the registration materials organized and set up by the time the first audience member arrives.

Make every effort to start at the scheduled time. If anyone is to miss a portion of the session, it should be those who arrive late, not those who arrived on time but had to leave before you were finished.

Leave ample time for questions either during or after the formal presentation. The presenter(s) should expect that some families will want to ask personal questions after the session.

8 Finishing touches

If the room and/or building needs to be secured after the event, be sure you have made those arrangements with the appropriate individuals.

If outside presenters have assisted with the financial aid information night, thank them both publicly during the presentation and in writing shortly thereafter. Also be sure to thank those individuals who assisted with arranging and/or managing the facility where the presentation was held. In most cases, these individuals will have donated their time and perhaps some expenses for which they will not be reimbursed. A sincere and timely “thank you” may encourage them to assist you in the future.

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Host a Cash for College Workshop

The Cash for College program, funded by the California Student Aid Commission, is one way high schools can help students make the transition from high school to college. Cash for College workshops are free and provide assistance to students to complete their FAFSA, CA Dream Act application, or Chafee Grant application. CSAC is proud of our program and invites all high schools, colleges, student advocacy groups and community organizations to consider hosting at least one workshop per application season.

Workshop Benefits

- ◆ Access to marketing resources
- ◆ Student data and “How Did We Do” reports
- ◆ Financial aid training resources
- ◆ \$300 support stipend*
*subject to available funding

Workshop Requirements

- ◆ Provide free assistance with completing financial aid applications
- ◆ Workshop hosts must administer Student Exit Survey
- ◆ Sites must have free internet access
- ◆ Office additional language support specific to community language needs

TO REGISTER TO BECOME AN
APPROVED CASH FOR COLLEGE PARTNER, PLEASE VISIT
<https://CASH4COLLEGE.csac.ca.gov>

OR CONTACT US AT
CASHFORCOLLEGE@CSAC.CA.GOV

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ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The **California Community Colleges** system is made up of 113 two-year public colleges that serve 2.1 million students every year. That makes it the largest system of higher education in the world, which is pretty impressive. At a California community college, you can take a single course or a series of courses in more than 175 different fields of study. These courses can lead you to an associate degree, transfer to a four-year college or university, or a Career Technical Education (CTE)/vocational certificate.

Due to the success of these programs, the California Community Colleges system has become the single largest provider of workforce training in the nation. California community colleges currently educate 70 percent of the state's nurses and 80 percent of the state's firefighters, law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians. CTE/vocational programs excel at getting you fast entry or advancement in these and other career fields, including:

- Green technology
- Advanced manufacturing
- Biotechnology
- Computer science
- Electronics
- Automotive
- Engineering
- Accounting
- Health care
- Broadcasting

Many California community colleges also offer English as a Second Language for non-native English speakers who want to learn the language or improve their English skills. Students should contact their community college's admission office or go to the college's website for a complete listing and description of available programs.

Are you interested in transferring from a California community college to a four-year college or university?

Starting your higher education at a California community college is a great way to take your general education and major preparation courses at a lower cost, and then transfer to a four-year college or university to complete your bachelor's degree.

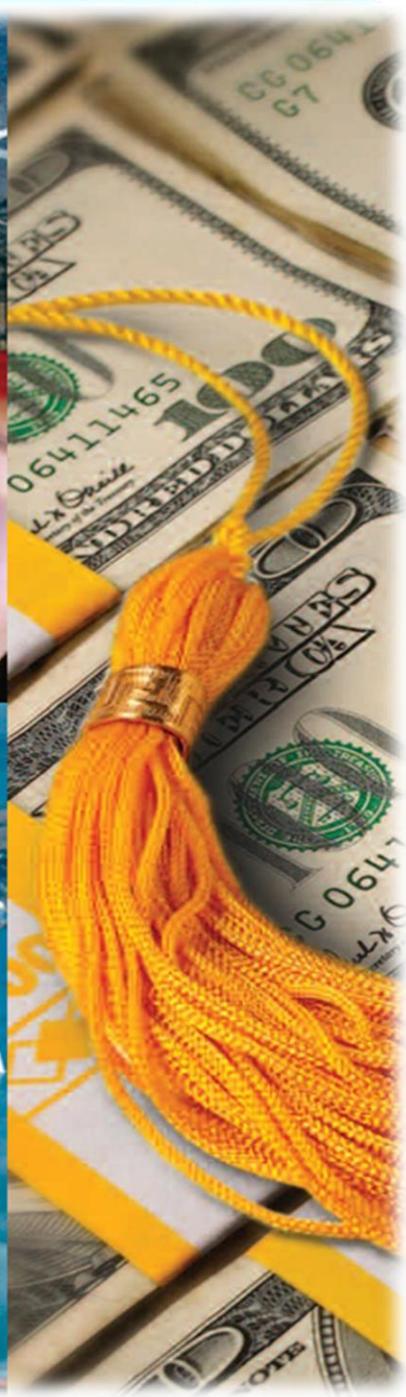
Community college offers many ways to prepare you to transfer to a four-year college or university. One way is the new Associate Degree for Transfer program (AA-T/AS-T), which makes it easier for students to transfer between the California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU) systems. This program gives you the opportunity to complete both your associate and bachelor's degrees in only 120 units. For more information on the Associate Degree for Transfer, visit ADegreeWithAGuarantee.com.

Additionally, thanks to an agreement signed in March 2015 between the California Community Colleges and nine historically black colleges and universities, California community college students who complete certain academic requirements are now guaranteed transfer to a participating historically black college and university campus. For more information, please visit the [HBCU Transfer website](#).

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CCCSFAAA

California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association



The California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA) is a professional association representing over 500 financial aid staff and programs at all 114 community colleges serving 2.4 million students. CCCSFAAA was founded in 1969 as a non-profit organization. Volunteers are elected to the Executive Board along with regional representatives to ensure the voice of each community college is heard. We have many things that make this organization stand apart from others, but the shining star is the policy work we do in conjunction with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office. We work collaboratively to develop policy and find solutions that are always in the best interest of the student.

www.cccsfaaa.org

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Avoiding & Preventing Identity Theft

How can you protect yourself from being an ID theft victim?

- Shred and crosscut documents such as old bank, brokerage and credit card statements, old credit cards and pre-approved credit card offers.
- Make sure you receive replacement credit or bank cards in a timely manner. If not, contact the issuer immediately.
- Do not provide personal or financial information after clicking on a link in an email message from your bank or financial institution. The email message may be a forgery designed to collect your personal and financial information.
- Do not post personal information on blogging, instant messaging and community websites. This includes your photo, home address, the school you attend or home and cell phone numbers, your Social Security number (SSN) and/or date of birth.
- Password protect all your accounts with made-up words and change them frequently. Do not use your mother's maiden name as a password or confirmation. For passwords, use a combination of letters and numbers, not anybody's name as a password, nor abcdef, 123456 or qwerty, as it is standard for a cracker to try all dictionary words (including combinations of two words) and names. Use a different password for each account.
- Memorize your SSN and passwords so they do not need to be written down.
- Never give out SSN, credit card or bank numbers to an unsolicited e-mailer or caller, even from parties that seem legitimate (e.g., your bank or credit card company).
- Order your free credit report three times per year. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228 for more information. You are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the three main credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). Place a fraud alert on your file right away if you find fraudulent items on your report. Warning: Avoid "look-a-like" web sites with a similar name to annualcreditreport.com; these sites aren't really free.
- Do not use your SSN as an ID number. Also, do not include SSN on your driver's license or school ID.
- Notify your credit card company if you are missing a statement in the mail. It may have been stolen.
- Keep a list of all credit cards, bank account and customer service numbers and a photocopy of the front and back of each card in a locked, safe place. Do not store this information on your computer, PDA or cell phone.
- Do not apply for any scholarship that asks for your SSN on the application form. They do not need to know your SSN unless you win the scholarship.

What to do if you're an ID theft victim

- Contact your bank and credit card issuers.
- File a report with your local law enforcement.
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at: www.consumer.gov/idtheft.
- Contact the main credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) to place a fraud alert on your file.
- Notify your post office if mail was stolen.
- Notify your phone company and / or your internet service provider if your ID was stolen over the phone.
- Notify the Social Security Administration (www.ssa.gov) if your SSN was compromised.

Beware of Phishing & Pharming!

"Phishing" refers to unsolicited emails that bear the logo of your bank or credit card. They appear legitimate, but are traps to lure you into giving out your information. Never give out your SSN, credit card, PINs, passwords, bank account numbers or date of birth to an unsolicited emailer or caller. Banks and other financial institutions will never ask you to give them your password.

"Pharming" refers to a virus or program planted on your computer that takes over your browser. When you type in legitimate websites, you are then taken to a false copy of that site that captures your usernames and passwords. Install virus protection software and run it often!

Identifying Scholarship Scams

- You have to pay a fee or "taxes"
- Money-back offers or guarantees
- Credit card or bank account required
- Provides "exclusive" information

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Top Ten Student Loan Tips

Debt is often unavoidable when it comes to paying for college, with two-thirds of Bachelor's degree recipients graduating with student loans. Smarter borrowing, however, can help you reduce your debt burden.

- 1. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** The FAFSA is a prerequisite for federal student and parent loans. The unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans do not depend on financial need, so you do not need to be poor to qualify for low-cost federal education loans. You might also qualify for government grants and other forms of financial aid. You can file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- 2. Minimize debt.** Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student after you graduate. Do not treat loan limits as targets. Students who borrow more than \$10,000 a year will graduate with more debt than 90% of their peers. Even \$7,500 for each year in school may be too much (75th percentile). Every dollar you borrow will cost you about two dollars by the time you've repaid the debt. So before you spend student loan money on anything, ask yourself if you'd still buy it at twice the price. Borrow only what you really need to pay for school.
- 3. Plan ahead.** Your total education debt at graduation should be less than your expected starting salary, and ideally less than half your starting salary. Otherwise you will have difficulty repaying your student loans and you may be forced to abandon your dreams by the need to repay your debt. Estimate your debt at graduation by multiplying your first year's debt by the number of years in your degree program. If you borrow more than your expected starting salary, you will need to use a longer term repayment plan to afford your monthly loan payments. This means you will still be repaying your own student loans by the time your children enroll in college. Extending the repayment term will double or even triple the total interest paid over the life of the loan. If you borrow more than twice your expected starting salary, you will be at high risk of default.
- 4. Borrow federal first.** Federal student loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal education loans are fixed, while the interest rates on most private student loans are variable and will probably increase over the life of the loan. Federal student loans are eligible for income-based repayment (www.finaid.org/ibr) and public service loan forgiveness (www.finaid.org/pslf), while private student loans are not. Get federal student and parent loans through your college's financial aid office.

Key Student Loan Resources

FinAid's Student Loans Section and Student Loan Calculators

www.finaid.org/loans

www.finaid.org/loans/calculators.phtml

Student Loan Checklist

www.finaid.org/studentloanchecklist

Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project

www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org

Project on Student Debt

www.projectonstudentdebt.org

Federal Student Loans

www.studentloans.gov

Federal Direct Loans

www.direct.ed.gov

Direct Loan Servicing

www.dlsonline.com

1-800-848-0979 or 1-315-738-6634 or fax 1-800-848-0984

1-800-848-0983 TDD

Federal Direct Consolidation Loan

www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov

1-800-557-7392, TDD 1-800-557-7395 or fax 1-800-557-7396

Private Student Loans

www.finaid.org/privatestudentloans

Private Loan Comparison Sites

www.finaid.org/loancomparison

Private Consolidation Loans

www.finaid.org/privateconsolidation

Federal Student Aid Ombudsman

The FSA Ombudsman mediates disputes and helps resolve problems concerning federal student loans.

www.ombudsman.ed.gov

1-877-557-2575 or fax 1-202-275-0549

fsaombudsmanoffice@ed.gov

Private Student Loan Ombudsman

The PSL Ombudsman mediates disputes and helps resolve problems concerning private student loans.

help.consumerfinance.gov/app/studentloan/ask

1-855-411-CFPB (2372) or fax 1-855-237-2392

Federal Student Aid Information Center

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665

1-800-730-8913 TDD

studentaid@ed.gov

Forgot Your Lender? Ask your college's financial aid administrator or visit www.finaid.org/lostlender

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

www.nsls.ed.gov

5. **Ask about tuition installment plans.** Most colleges offer tuition installment plans which let you spread out the college bill over 9 or 12 equal monthly installments. These plans typically charge an up-front fee of less than \$100 and do not charge interest. This can be a cheaper alternative to borrowing the money through education loans.
6. **Pay the interest on unsubsidized loans during the in-school and grace periods** to prevent the loan balance from growing larger. Most student loans allow borrowers to defer repaying the loans during the in-school and grace periods. If you don't pay the interest as it accrues, however, the interest is capitalized (added to the loan balance). This is negative amortization (www.finaid.org/negamort) and can increase the loan balance by 15% to 20% by the time you enter repayment. Federal and private student loans do not have prepayment penalties (www.finaid.org/prepay), so nothing prevents you from paying the interest during the in-school period. Even if you can't afford to pay the full amount of interest, try to pay something, as this will save you money in the long term. Some lenders will even give you a lower interest rate or other discounts if you agree in advance to make payments during the in-school period.
7. **Apply for private student loans with a creditworthy cosigner.** Not only will this increase your chances of getting the loan, but it usually results in a lower interest rate since eligibility, interest rates and fees are based on the higher of the two credit scores. But beware, a cosigner is a co-borrower, equally obligated to repay the debt. If the primary borrower is delinquent or defaults on the loan, the late payments and default will be reported on the cosigner's credit history too.
8. **Get organized.** Create a student loan checklist that lists all of your student loans. A blank student loan checklist is available at www.finaid.org/studentloanchecklist. Put all of your paperwork for each loan in its own file folder labeled with the lender name, date borrowed, original loan balance and loan id. Put a note on your calendar at least a week before your first payment is due. Tell the lender about your new address whenever you move.
9. **Sign up for auto-debit with electronic billing**, where the monthly loan payments are automatically debited from your bank account. Borrowers with auto-debit are much less likely to miss a payment. Many lenders offer discounts for borrowers who set up auto-debit with electronic billing. Federal education loans offer a 0.25% interest rate reduction while many private student loans often offer a 0.25% or 0.50% interest rate reduction for auto-debit.
10. **Claim the student loan interest deduction on your federal income tax return.** Up to \$2,500 in student loan interest on federal and private student loans can be deducted on your federal income tax return each year. This deduction is taken as an above-the-line exclusion from income, letting you claim the deduction even if you don't itemize. You can take the deduction only if you are required to make payments and you can't be claimed as an exemption on someone else's return. (www.finaid.org/interestdeduction)

Criteria for Choosing a Student Loan

When evaluating an education loan, most families focus first on cash flow considerations:

- *How much money can you get to pay for college costs and/or living expenses?*
- *How much are the monthly payments?*
- *When do the payments start and when do they end?*
- *What is the total cost of the loan (the total payments over the life of the loan)?*
- *Who is responsible for paying back the loan?*

The cost of the loan depends on several factors. Of these, the interest rate has the biggest impact on loan costs. Generally, families should prefer loans with the lowest after-tax interest rate, such as federal education loans.

- **Interest rate.** Is it variable or fixed? If it is variable, how frequently does it change and is there a cap? Beware: Not everybody qualifies for the best advertised rate.
- **Fees.** Origination, disbursement and guarantee/default fees are effectively a form of up-front interest, like points on a mortgage. A good rule of thumb is that every 4% in fees is the equivalent of about a 1% increase in the interest rate on a 10-year loan and about a 0.5% increase in the interest rate on a 30-year loan (e.g., 7.9% interest rate + 4% fees equivalent of 8.84% interest rate and no fees with a 10-year repayment term, 8.33% interest rate and no fees with a 30-year term). Some private student loans charge a second fee when the loan enters repayment. Most loans also charge late fees (typically up to 6% of the late payment) and collection charges (for loans in default).
- **Subsidized loans.** The government pays the interest on subsidized federal loans, such as the Federal Perkins loan and the Federal subsidized Stafford loan, during the in-school, grace and other eligible deferment periods. Eligibility for subsidized loans is based on financial need. Unsubsidized loans are not based on financial need and may be used to pay for the family's share of college costs.

- **Interest capitalization.** Borrowers can defer repaying unsubsidized loans and private student loans during the in-school, grace and other deferment periods by capitalizing the interest (adding it to the loan balance). The frequency with which capitalization occurs can affect the cost. Monthly capitalization is the most expensive, increasing the total interest by as much as 10%. One-time capitalization when the loan enters repayment is the least expensive.

Capitalization Frequency	Capitalized Interest	Total Interest Comparison
Monthly	\$4,978	+10.5%
Quarterly	\$4,947	+9.8%
Annually	\$4,835	+7.3%
At Repayment	\$4,505	+0.0%
\$27,000 unsubsidized Stafford loan (\$5,500, \$6,500, \$7,500, \$7,500) over 4 years with 2 disbursements per year, 6.8% interest.		

- **Discounts.** Some lenders offer interest rate reductions or one-time rebates that can reduce the cost of the loan. Some discounts require the borrower to agree to have monthly payments automatically debited from the borrower's bank account and to receive monthly statements by email. Other discounts require the borrower to make all payments on time. Some discounts are provided when the student graduates. Some lenders provide slightly lower interest rates for borrowers who make payments during the in-school period, choose a shorter repayment term or have a cosigner.
- **Tax deduction.** The student loan interest deduction allows borrowers of qualified education loans, such as federal and most private student loans, to deduct up to \$2,500 a year in student loan interest on their federal income tax returns.

Other criteria focus on eligibility, flexibility and convenience:

- **Who is the borrower?** Some loans are borrowed by the student (Perkins, Stafford, Grad PLUS, Private) and others are borrowed by the parent (Parent PLUS, Private) or someone else (Private). Some private student loans require a cosigner. A cosigner is a co-borrower, equally responsible for repaying the loan. If the payments are late or the loan goes into default, the loan's status will be reported on the credit history of both the borrower *and* cosigner. Some loans that require a cosigner offer a cosigner release option, where the cosigner can be removed from the loan after the borrower makes the first 12, 24, 36 or 48 payments on-time, subject to credit criteria.
- **Borrower eligibility.** Is the loan eligibility based on satisfying credit underwriting criteria (e.g., good credit scores, debt-to-income ratios, secondary criteria) or is

everybody eligible? Most student loans require the student to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis.

- **Eligible expenses.** Some loans are limited to just institutional charges (e.g., tuition and fees), while others include living expenses such as room and board, books and personal expenses or the full cost of attendance.
- **Loan limits.** What are the annual and aggregate (cumulative) loan limits?
- **Deferment.** Does the loan allow borrowers to defer repayment during the in-school period or does it require that repayment begin immediately? Is there a grace period after graduation before repayment begins? How long is the grace period?
- **Repayment plans.** Does the lender offer a variety of flexible repayment plans? Does the lender offer income-based repayment? How often can you change repayment plans? How long is the repayment term in years? Will the borrower still be in repayment when his or her children enroll in college? Is the monthly loan payment affordable?
- **Prepayment penalties.** By law, neither federal nor private student loans may have prepayment penalties.
- **Tools for dealing with financial difficulty.** Does the lender offer forbearances (temporary suspensions of the obligation to repay) if the borrower loses a job or encounters financial difficulty? Is the forbearance full (suspend payments of principal and interest) or partial (suspend payments of just principal)? What are the limits on the duration of forbearances? Does the lender charge a fee for each forbearance?
- **Cancellation.** Federal education loans and some private student loans will discharge the debt if the borrower dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled. Federal loans also offer public service loan forgiveness.
- **Customer service.** Are customer service hours limited, or can you reach the lender in the evening and on weekends? Will you have to navigate a call tree or spend hours on hold? Does the lender provide an online loan application and a self-service online account management tool? Does the lender ever sell the loans to another lender, which can yield a change in the loan servicer, or does the lender provide life-of-loan servicing? How well does the lender resolve problems? Are there a lot of complaints?

Be sure to read the fine print in the promissory note before signing it. Details matter, especially since you will be in repayment for a decade or longer. The promissory note is a binding legal agreement between you and the lender.

Calculating Monthly Loan Payments (Loan Amortization)

A level repayment plan on a fixed-rate loan has the same monthly payment throughout the loan. During the first few years of the loan, more of each payment is applied to interest. As the end of the loan term approaches, more of each payment is applied to reducing the loan balance. It takes years before the borrower will notice a lot of progress in reducing the debt, especially if there is accrued but unpaid interest. Increasing the monthly payment will accelerate progress in paying off the loan, the equivalent of choosing a shorter repayment term.

The following table shows the monthly payments on a \$25,000 loan for various repayment terms using several of the most common interest rates for education loans. To calculate the monthly payments on a \$50,000 loan, just double the monthly loan payments in this table. The monthly loan payments increase in proportion to the amount owed.

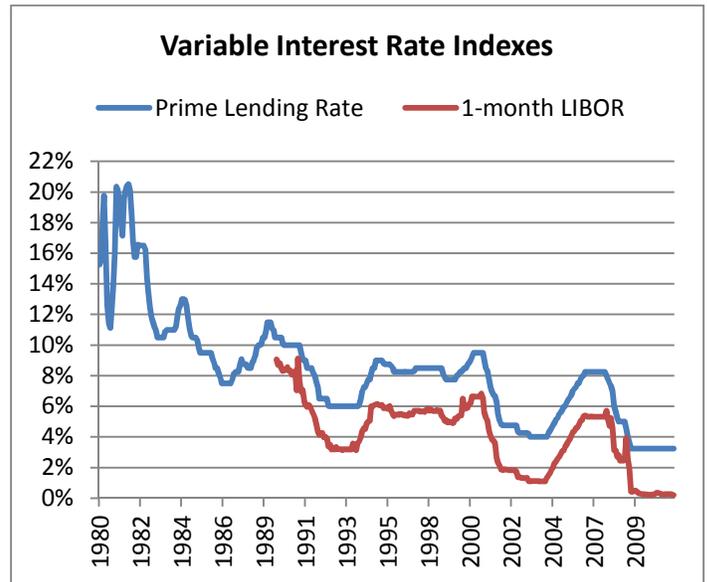
Monthly Loan Payment on a \$25,000 Loan							
Loan Term	3.4%	4.5%	5.0%	5.6%	6.0%	6.8%	7.9%
10 Years	\$246	\$259	\$265	\$273	\$278	\$288	\$302
12 Years	\$212	\$225	\$231	\$239	\$244	\$254	\$269
15 Years	\$177	\$191	\$198	\$206	\$211	\$222	\$237
20 Years	\$144	\$158	\$165	\$173	\$179	\$191	\$208
25 Years	\$124	\$139	\$146	\$155	\$161	\$174	\$191
30 Years	\$111	\$127	\$134	\$144	\$150	\$163	\$182

The following table shows the maximum cumulative debt corresponding to a particular monthly payment. Multiply the monthly loan payment by 100 to 150 to calculate the annual salary needed to repay the debt at 12% and 8% debt-service-to-income ratios, respectively (e.g., \$500/month → \$50,000/year).

Loan Term	Monthly Payment	Maximum Cumulative Debt			
		3.4%	5.0%	6.8%	7.9%
10 Years	\$50	\$5,100	\$4,700	\$4,300	\$4,100
10 Years	\$100	\$10,200	\$9,400	\$8,700	\$8,300
10 Years	\$250	\$25,400	\$23,600	\$21,700	\$20,700
10 Years	\$500	\$50,800	\$47,100	\$43,400	\$41,400
10 Years	\$1,000	\$101,600	\$94,300	\$86,900	\$82,800
20 Years	\$50	\$8,700	\$7,600	\$6,600	\$6,000
20 Years	\$100	\$17,400	\$15,200	\$13,100	\$12,000
20 Years	\$250	\$43,500	\$37,900	\$32,800	\$30,100
20 Years	\$500	\$87,000	\$75,800	\$65,500	\$60,200
20 Years	\$1,000	\$174,000	\$151,500	\$131,000	\$120,400
30 Years	\$50	\$11,300	\$9,300	\$7,700	\$6,900
30 Years	\$100	\$22,500	\$18,600	\$15,300	\$13,800
30 Years	\$250	\$56,400	\$46,600	\$38,300	\$34,400
30 Years	\$500	\$112,700	\$93,100	\$76,700	\$68,800
30 Years	\$1,000	\$225,500	\$186,300	\$153,400	\$137,600

Impact of Variable Interest Rates

Most private student loans have variable interest rates. Since interest rates are unusually low right now, these interest rates are likely to increase over the term of the loan. The following chart shows how the two major variable rate indexes have changed over time. Given that these rates dropped by about 5.5% during the credit crisis, they can just as easily increase by a similar amount during the economic recovery.



This graph also shows that the spread between the Prime Lending Rate and the LIBOR index is about 3%. The spread rises gradually by about 0.19% every 10 years. Borrowers should prefer variable rate loans that are pegged to the LIBOR index, since the LIBOR index increases more slowly than the Prime Lending Rate. This can yield an average interest rate that is about 1/8% to 1/4% lower over the life of the loan.

An increase in a loan's interest rate can significantly affect the monthly loan payment, as demonstrated by the following table. For example, a 5% increase in the LIBOR index will increase monthly loan payments by about a quarter for a 10-year term, by almost half for a 20-year term and by about three-fifths for a 30-year term.

Increase in Monthly Loan Payment Per 1% Increase in the Interest Rate	
Loan Term	Increase
10 years	4.9% ± 0.2%
15 years	7.1% ± 0.5%
20 years	9.0% ± 0.7%
25 years	10.8% ± 1.1%
30 years	12.2% ± 1.4%

As shown in the previous table, each 1% increase in the interest rate yields about a 5% increase in the monthly loan payment for a 10-year term. Longer repayment terms yield a bigger increase in the monthly payment, such as about 9% for a 20-year term and about 12% for a 30-year term. One can approximate the increase as 4.5% per each 10 years of repayment per 1% increase in the interest rate, or as 1% plus 4% per each 10 years of repayment per 1% increase in the interest rate.

Warning about Borrowing Too Much Money

Education debt might be considered by some to be good debt, because it is used to invest in your future. Yet too much of a good thing can be harmful.

You can't get away from this debt, as student loans are almost impossible to discharge in bankruptcy and there is no statute of limitations on federal education loans. A successful discharge requires demonstrating undue hardship in an adversary proceeding, a very harsh standard. Of roughly 72,000 borrowers in bankruptcy in 2008, only 29 had all or part of their federal student loans discharged. That's 0.04%. You are more likely to get cancer or die in a car crash than to have your student loans discharged in bankruptcy.

The federal government has very strong powers to compel repayment of defaulted federal education loans. The federal government can garnish up to 15% of your wages and intercept your income tax refunds without a court order. They can even garnish Social Security benefits and take your lottery winnings. A student loan default on your credit history will make it more difficult to get credit cards, auto loans, home mortgages. It can even affect your ability to get a job or rent an apartment.

Education debt can also have a big impact on your lifestyle after graduation. Students who graduate with no debt are almost twice as likely to go on to graduate and professional school as students who graduate with some debt. Students who graduate with excessive debt or who default on their loans are more likely to be depressed. They often delay getting married, having children, buying a car and buying a home. Borrowing excessively can be like having a mortgage without owning a home. The debt may make it more difficult to save for retirement or your own children's college educations.

Warning about Advance Fee Loan Scams

Beware of advance fee loan scams, in which a scam artist requires you to pay a fee before you can receive the loan. When you pay the money, the promised loan never materializes. Real educational loans deduct the fees from the disbursement

check. They never require an up-front fee when you apply for the loan.

Also watch out for scam artists sending you a realistic but fake loan check. They will have a plausible excuse for you to send them some money, such as payment of origination and guarantee fees, before the check clears your bank. By the time the check is rejected by your bank, the thief is long gone with your money. Most student loan proceeds are paid directly to the school by EFT, not paper check.

Test Your Loan IQ

Think you understand how interest affects a loan? Answer this multiple choice question.

The total amount paid back (including principal and interest) for a \$10,000 loan with a 10-year term at 10% interest is:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A. \$1,000 | D. \$18,100 |
| B. \$11,000 | E. \$20,000 |
| C. \$15,858 | F. \$32,479 |

The answer appears on the second to last page of this quick reference guide.

Federal Perkins Loan

The Federal Perkins Loan is a need-based loan awarded by the college to students with exceptional financial need.

The money for the Perkins loan comes from a revolving student loan fund. As current borrowers repay their loans, the money is used to make loans to new students. The number of Perkins loans varies from college to college.

The Perkins loan has a fixed 5% interest rate with no fees. Repayment begins 9 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status. The repayment term is 10 years, but borrowers can obtain longer repayment terms by consolidating Perkins loans.

The Perkins loan is subsidized, meaning that the federal government pays the interest on the loan during the in-school and grace periods and other deferments. The subsidized interest benefit is lost upon consolidation of a Perkins loan.

The Perkins loan previously provided up-front loan forgiveness for borrowers who worked in certain occupations. A portion of the loan was forgiven for each year of full-time service.

However, Congress has not provided funding for this loan forgiveness program since FY2010 and is unlikely to provide funding in the future. However, Perkins loan borrowers may obtain public service loan forgiveness (a back-end loan forgiveness program that requires 10 years of full-time service) by consolidating their loans into the Direct Loan program.

Perkins Loan Limits Year in School	Annual Loan Limit	Aggregate Loan Limit	Average Loan
Undergraduate Students	\$5,500	\$27,500	\$2,000
Graduate and Professional Students	\$8,000	\$60,000	\$3,650

Federal Stafford Loan

The Federal Stafford Loan has two versions, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized Stafford loans are awarded based on financial need. Unsubsidized Stafford loans are not based on financial need. The government pays the interest on subsidized Stafford loans during the in-school and grace periods and other deferments. The interest on unsubsidized Stafford loans continues to accrue during the in-school, grace and deferment periods. The borrower may defer paying the interest by capitalizing it, which adds it to the loan balance. Capitalizing interest can increase a borrower's debt by as much as 20% by the time the borrower enters repayment.

Since July 1, 2010, all new Stafford and PLUS loans have been made through the Direct Loan program, with money provided by the US Department of Education through eligible colleges and universities. Federal education loans are no longer made by banks and other financial institutions, although some education lenders may be involved in the servicing of loans in the Direct Loan program.

Repayment begins 6 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status. The standard repayment term is 10 years (up to 25 years with income-based repayment), but borrowers can obtain longer repayment terms by consolidating their Stafford loans.

The Stafford loan has fixed interest rates and a 1% default fee. The default fee is deducted from the disbursement check. The interest rate on the unsubsidized Stafford loan is 6.8%

Year	Undergraduate Students Stafford Loan Interest Rate	
	Subsidized	Unsubsidized
2007-08	6.8%	6.8%
2008-09	6.0%	6.8%
2009-10	5.6%	6.8%
2010-11	4.5%	6.8%
2011-12	3.4%	6.8%
2012-13	6.8%	6.8%

for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The interest rate on the subsidized Stafford loan for undergraduate

students depends on the academic year, as illustrated in the previous table. Subsidized Stafford loans are no longer available to graduate and professional students since July 1, 2012.

The annual limits on the Stafford loan depend on whether the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized, on the borrower's dependency status and on the borrower's year in school. Dependent students whose parents are denied a Parent PLUS loan are eligible to borrow at the independent student limits, which are \$4,000/year higher during the freshman and sophomore years and \$5,000/year higher during the junior and senior years. Students can borrow unsubsidized Stafford loans up to the overall limit minus any amounts received as subsidized Stafford loans. The subsidized Stafford loan limits are the same for dependent and independent students.

Annual Loan Limits Year in School	Subsidized Stafford	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	
		Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$3,500	\$5,500	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$6,500	\$10,500
Junior	\$5,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Senior	\$5,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Preparatory Coursework Undergraduate Programs	\$2,625	\$2,625	\$8,625
Preparatory Coursework Graduate Programs	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$12,500
Teacher Certification	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$12,500
Graduate and Professional Students	\$8,500	NA	\$20,500
Medical School Students	\$8,500	NA	\$40,500

The aggregate loan limits on the Stafford loan depend on whether the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized, on the borrower's dependency status and on the borrower's year in school. Dependent students whose parents are denied a Parent PLUS loan are eligible to borrow from the unsubsidized Stafford loan program at the higher independent student limits. Aggregate loan limits for subsidized Stafford loans to graduate, professional and medical school students include undergraduate student loans.

Aggregate Loan Limits Year in School	Subsidized Stafford	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	
		Dependent	Independent
Undergraduate Students	\$23,000	\$31,000	\$57,500
Graduate and Professional Students	\$65,500	NA	\$138,500
Medical School Students	\$65,500	NA	\$224,000

Federal PLUS Loan

The Federal PLUS Loan has two versions, one for parents of dependent undergraduate students (Parent PLUS Loan) and one for graduate and professional students (Grad PLUS Loan). The terms of the loans are identical. Independent undergraduate

students are not eligible to have their parents borrow from the Parent PLUS loan program. (Independent undergraduate students have higher unsubsidized Stafford loan limits.)

The PLUS loan has a fixed 7.9% interest rate with 4% fees. The PLUS loan is an unsubsidized loan, with interest accruing during in-school, grace and deferment periods.

Grad PLUS loan borrowers may defer repayment during the in-school period, but there is no grace period after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment. Parent PLUS loan borrowers may defer repayment while the student is in school and during a 6-month grace period after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment status. Otherwise repayment begins 60 days after full disbursement.

The repayment term is 10 years (Grad PLUS loans can get up to 25 years with income-based repayment), but borrowers can obtain longer repayment terms by consolidating PLUS loans.

The PLUS loan is the only federal education loan that considers the borrower's credit history. Eligibility does not depend on credit scores, but rather on whether the borrower has an adverse credit history. An adverse credit history is defined as having a derogatory event within the last 5 years (e.g., tax lien, bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, wage garnishment or default determination) or a current delinquency on any debt of 90 or more days. Borrowers with an adverse credit history may still obtain the PLUS loan with a creditworthy endorser (cosigner). Dependent students whose parents are denied a Parent PLUS loan are eligible for the higher unsubsidized Stafford loan limits available to independent students.

The annual loan limit on the PLUS loan is up to the full cost of attendance minus other aid received. There is no aggregate loan limit. Graduate students are required to exhaust the Stafford loan limits before borrowing from the Grad PLUS loan program. There is no similar requirement for Parent PLUS loans, but families are advised to exhaust the Federal Stafford loan limits first, since the Stafford loan is a less expensive loan.

To obtain a Grad PLUS or Parent PLUS loan, contact your college's financial aid office.

Federal Consolidation Loan

The Federal Consolidation Loan is used to combine several federal education loans into a single loan. This will streamline repayment but does not save money.

Consolidation also provides access to alternate repayment plans that reduce the monthly payment by increasing the term of the loan. Borrowers can obtain repayment terms of up to 30 years,

depending on the amount borrowed. Increasing the repayment term can significantly increase the cost of the loan. For example, increasing the repayment term on an unsubsidized Stafford loan from 10 years to 20 years will cut the monthly payment by a third, but it will also more than double the total interest paid over the life of the loan (a factor of 2.18 increase).

\$25,000 @ 6.8% Loan Term	Monthly Payment	Total Interest	Total Payments
10 Years	\$288	\$9,524	\$34,524
20 Years	\$191	\$20,802	\$45,802
Difference	- \$97	\$11,278	\$11,278
Change	- 33.7%	x 2.18	+ 32.7%

The interest rate on a federal consolidation loan is a fixed interest rate that is the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated, rounded up to the nearest 1/8th of a percentage point and capped at 8.25%. The weighted average preserves the overall cost of the consolidated loans and will always be between the highest and lowest interest rates.

Private Student Loans

Private student loans (www.finaid.org/privatestudentloans), also called alternative student loans, are non-federal loans made by banks and other financial institutions. Some private student loans are made by non-profit state loan agencies. The terms of the loans are set by the lender, not the federal government, and vary from lender to lender.

Most private student loans are credit-underwritten, with eligibility based on the credit scores of the borrower and a creditworthy cosigner, if any. If the borrower has a thin or non-existent credit history, or the borrower's credit score does not satisfy credit criteria, a cosigner will be required. Even if the borrower has a satisfactory credit score, it is better for the borrower to have a cosigner. Eligibility, interest rates and fees are based on the better of the two credit scores.

Note, however, that a cosigner is a co-borrower, equally obligated to repay the loan. Delinquencies and defaults on a cosigned private student loan are reported on the credit history of both the borrower and cosigner.

Many lenders have cosigner release options, which release the cosigner from his or her obligations after 12, 24, 36 or 48 months of consecutive on-time monthly payments, provided that the primary borrower satisfies credit criteria. Borrowers have reported some difficulty in qualifying for cosigner release requirements. Another approach to cosigner release is for the primary borrower to obtain a private consolidation loan without a cosigner. This will pay off the original private student loans, effectively releasing the cosigner from his or her obligation.

Interest rates on most private student loans are variable, typically changing on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. The interest rate is pegged to a variable rate index plus a fixed rate margin. Common indexes include the 1-month or 3-month LIBOR index or the Prime Lending Rate. Given that interest rates are unusually low right now, variable interest rates will probably increase significantly over the term of the loan.

The fixed rate margin depends on the higher of the two credit scores. Typically, lenders will group credit scores into 5 or 6 tiers, with each tier being assigned to a particular interest rate. Borrowers with excellent credit (in the top tier) might get an interest rate of LIBOR + 2.0%, while borrowers with inferior credit (in the bottom tier) might get an interest rate of LIBOR + 10.0% or higher. Most private student loans require a credit score of at least 650 on an 850 scale, though some lenders have much higher minimum credit scores.

Borrowers with excellent credit scores may still be denied a private student loan because of secondary criteria, such as a high debt-service-to-income ratio (e.g., insufficient income or excessive debt), volatile annual income and self-employment.

Generally, private student loans are more expensive than federal student loans. Borrowers should exhaust federal loan eligibility (and gift aid, such as government grants and private scholarships) before considering a private student loan. Needing to borrow a private student loan (or a Parent PLUS loan) can be a sign of overborrowing. Students are more likely to need private loans at high-cost colleges or institutions that do not meet their full demonstrated financial need.

Shop around for the lowest rate when borrowing from private student loan programs. Private student loans from state loan agencies tend to be slightly less expensive for state residents and in-state students than private student loans from banks and other financial institutions, but it is impossible to predict which lender will offer an individual borrower the best rates. The lender with the lowest advertised rate will not necessarily be the lender that offers you the best rate. It is often necessary to apply for several loans to find the best rates. There are a variety of loan comparison sites (www.finaid.org/loancomparison), but most compare interest rates from only a handful of lenders or do not compare actual rates.

Private Consolidation Loans

Federal and private student loans cannot be consolidated together. Borrowers who want to consolidate their private student loans will need to obtain a private consolidation loan (www.finaid.org/privateconsolidation). Borrowers might seek a private consolidation loan to streamline repayment, to release a

cosigner from the repayment obligation, or to get a lower interest rate.

The interest rates on a private consolidation loan will depend on the borrower's and cosigner's credit scores, just like the original private student loans. Typically a student's credit score will decrease with each successive year in school, and then start increasing after graduation if the borrower makes all the payments on the loans on time as per the agreement. For a borrower to get a better interest rate on the private consolidation loan, the his or her credit score will have to be at least 50-100 points better than the higher of the borrower's or cosigner's credit scores when the original loans were borrowed.

However, you may want to keep the loans separate if the interest rates differ, because this will let you save money by targeting the loans with the highest interest rates for earlier repayment. (There are no prepayment penalties on student loans.) For example, suppose you have \$11,820 in 6.8% loans and \$10,000 in 5.6% loans and could consolidate them at 6.25%, all with 10-year repayment terms. After making the required payments on the loans, if you apply an extra \$50 a month to accelerate repayment of the 6.8% loans, you'd save about \$121 more than applying it to the consolidation loan.

Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit

Home equity loans typically have fixed rates that are competitive with the Parent PLUS loan. Home equity lines of credit (HELOC) typically have variable rates that are competitive with private student loans.

Home equity loans and lines of credit typically have a 10 or 15 year repayment term. Federal education loans start off with a 10-year repayment term, but borrowers can get alternate repayment plans with loan terms of up to 30 years. However, parent borrowers should stick with a 10-year term, since they should seek to pay off all debt by retirement.

There is no in-school deferment or economic hardship deferment on home equity loans and lines of credit, unlike the Parent PLUS loan.

Interest paid on home equity loans and lines of credit is tax deductible on your federal income tax return, if you itemize deductions on Schedule A of IRS Form 1040. This includes the interest on up to \$100,000 used to pay for items other than improvement of the home, such as paying for college.

If you default on a home equity loan or line of credit, you can lose your home. Remember: Education lenders can't repossess your education.

Credit Card Debt

The Credit CARD Act of 2009 has made credit cards less available to college students by requiring a cosigner for most financially dependent students under age 21. Even so, college students should pay off their credit card balances in full each month to avoid spending beyond their means and to cut costs.

Credit cards are generally more expensive than private student loans. They are not eligible for the student loan interest deduction, even if used to pay for school. While some credit cards may offer rebates of up to 1%, the fine print usually excludes tuition from eligibility. Colleges may even charge a fee for tuition payments made with a credit card.

Credit card limits are usually lower than the aggregate limits on student loans. Most credit cards do not have flexible repayment plans. Credit card debt cannot be deferred while the student is in school or during an economic hardship. Minimum payments on a credit card are based on a percentage of the outstanding balance (e.g., 4%), so they start off higher and gradually decrease. Credit card debt can be discharged in bankruptcy.

Borrowing from Retirement Plans

You may be able to borrow for college expenses from a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan but not from an IRA. You can borrow up to half of the vested balance in your 401(k) plan or \$50,000, whichever is less, to pay for college expenses for yourself, your spouse, or your children. (Some plans provide an exception which lets you borrow up to \$10,000 if 50% of the vested balance is less than \$10,000.) The debt must be repaid within 5 years in substantially level payments on at least a quarterly basis over the life of the loan. You may have to repay the debt immediately if you lose your job, otherwise you will have to pay income taxes and a 10% tax penalty on the remaining loan balance (including any accrued but unpaid interest). Usually the loan's interest rate will be a percentage point or two above the prime lending rate. The interest is not tax deductible. Although you are paying yourself interest, those interest payments are merely substituting for the money the retirement funds would have been earning otherwise.

Answer to Loan IQ Test

C. \$15,858 is the correct answer

A good rule of thumb for estimating the interest paid over the lifetime of a loan is to multiply the loan amount, interest rate and loan term in years, and divide the result by 2. This yields an underestimate of the total interest, \$5,000 in this example. (The actual amount is \$5,858.) Don't forget that the monthly loan payments also pay off the original \$10,000 loan balance.

Glossary of Terms

Adverse Credit History. To be eligible for a Federal PLUS loan, the borrower may not have an adverse credit history, which is defined as having had a bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or default determination in the last five years or a current delinquency of 90 or more days.

Alternative Student Loan. See *Private Student Loan*.

Amortization. Amortization is the gradual paying off of a debt through periodic installments of principal and interest.

APR. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annualized rate of interest, including the nominal interest rate, fees and term of the loan, as well as the impact of the in-school deferment. A 10-year 6.8% loan with 1% fees and no deferment has an APR of 7.02%. With a 20-year term the APR is lower (6.93%), because the fees are amortized over a longer term. A 10-year 7.9% loan with 4% fees and no deferment has an APR of 8.84%.

Capitalization of Interest. Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the loan balance. This causes the loan to grow larger, increasing the cost of the loan. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest, also referred to as compounding of interest.

Consolidation. Consolidation is a form of refinance, where multiple loans are combined into a new loan with a single monthly payment.

Cosigner. A cosigner is a co-borrower, equally as obligated to repay the debt as the primary borrower.

Cost of Attendance. The cost of attendance is the full one-year cost of enrolling in college, including tuition and fees, room and board, textbooks and supplies, as well as travel and transportation, personal expenses, computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

Default. Default occurs when a borrower fails to make payments on a federal loan for 360 days and on a private student loan for 120 days. A defaulted loan is due in full immediately and may be sent to a collection agency.

Default Fee. See *Guarantee Fee*.

Deferment. Deferment is the temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest on subsidized loans is paid by the federal government during a deferment. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue and remains the responsibility of the borrower and is capitalized if unpaid. Federal education loans may be deferred while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time, during the grace period and during

periods of economic hardship. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. See also *Forbearance*.

Delinquent. A delinquency occurs when a borrower fails to make payments on a loan when due. If a borrower is delinquent long enough, the loan will go into default.

Disbursement. Disbursement is the payment of a loan's proceeds to the student and college. Loans may be paid in multiple disbursements.

Federal Education Loan. Federal education loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal loans are fixed, while most private loans have variable rates. Examples include the Federal Perkins, Stafford and PLUS Loans. Since July 1, 2010, all new federal education loans have been made through the US Department of Education's Direct Loan program.

Forbearance. A forbearance is a temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest continues to accrue during a forbearance and will be capitalized if unpaid. Unlike a deferment, the borrower is responsible for the interest on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans during a forbearance. Forbearances on federal education loans have a five-year limit.

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is cancellation of a debt, usually for working in a particular occupation, such as a public service job, teaching in a national shortage area or serving in the military.

Grace Period. The grace period is the time after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment and before repayment begins. The grace period is 6 months for the Federal Stafford and Parent PLUS loans and for most private student loans, and 9 months for the Federal Perkins loan. The Grad PLUS loan does not have a grace period.

Guarantee Fee. A guarantee fee, sometimes called a default fee, is a fee charged by a lender to cover the cost of defaults. It effectively insures the lender against borrower defaults.

Interest. Interest is a periodic fee charged for the use of borrowed money. The interest rate is expressed as a percentage of the loan balance and may be fixed or variable.

Lender. A lender is a bank, government agency or financial institution that lends money to borrowers.

LIBOR. The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is a variable rate index that is based on the average interest rate paid on deposits of US dollars in the London market. It is used in the pricing of securitizations of student loans.

Loan. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid usually with interest. See also *Federal Education Loan* and *Private Student Loan*.

Loan Limit. The maximum amount one can borrow, either per year (annual limit) or cumulative (aggregate limit).

Master Promissory Note (MPN). A promissory note is a legal contract in which the borrower agrees to repay the loan. It specifies the terms of the loan, such as the interest rates and fees. The Master Promissory Note is a promissory note that is effective for a continuous period of enrollment up to 10 years.

Prepay. To prepay a loan is to make a payment before it is due, accelerating repayment of the loan. There are no prepayment penalties (extra charges) on federal and private student loans.

Prime Lending Rate. The Prime Lending Rate is a variable rate index that is the interest rate that banks charge their most creditworthy customers.

Principal. The principal is the amount of money borrowed or still owed on a loan, not including interest and other charges.

Private Student Loan. A private student loan is made and funded by a private lender, such as a bank or other financial institution. Private student loans tend to be more expensive than federal loans and have less flexible repayment terms.

Promissory Note. See *Master Promissory Note*.

Repayment Term. See *Term*.

Servicer. The servicer of a loan collects payments and manages all correspondence and statements.

Subsidized Loan. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. The Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan are examples of subsidized loans. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need.

Term. The length of time during which a loan is repaid. Also referred to as the *Repayment Term*.

Tuition Installment Plan. A tuition installment plan or tuition payment plan spreads out college costs into 9-12 equal monthly installments. Tuition installment plans usually charge an up-front fee without separate interest charges. This is in contrast with loans which are typically repaid over a much longer term and which usually charge interest.

Unsubsidized Loan. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. If the borrower does not pay the interest as it accrues, the interest is capitalized (added to the loan balance). The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal PLUS Loan are examples of unsubsidized loans. Eligibility is not based on financial need, so even wealthy families may qualify.

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Get Organized

Create a student loan checklist that lists all of your student loans. A blank form is available at www.finaid.org/studentloanchecklist

Put all your paperwork for each loan in its own file folder labeled with the lender name, date borrowed, original loan balance and loan id.

Put a note in your calendar at least a week before your first payment is due.

Don't Miss Payments

One quarter to one third of borrowers are late or delinquent on the very first payment on their student loans. Most student loans have a six-month grace period before repayment begins. Students often move after graduation, losing track of bills. The loan payment is due even if you do not receive a statement or coupon book. Be sure to notify the lender about any changes in address or contact information.

Borrowers who consolidate their federal student loans are more likely to pay on time, with less than one fifth missing the first payment, in part because the first payment is due soon after consolidation.

Set Up Automatic Monthly Payments

Set up an automatic direct debit from your checking account to make the monthly payments on your loans. Borrowers with auto-debit are much less likely to miss a payment.

Many lenders offer discounts for borrowers who set up auto-debit. Federal loans offer a 0.25% interest rate reduction while private student loans often offer a 0.25% or 0.50% interest rate reduction for the remainder of the repayment period. Some lenders will require electronic billing to get the discount.

Accelerate Repayment of High Interest Debt First

Student loans do not have prepayment penalties. Making an extra payment can save you money. After you make the requirement payments, direct any extra money toward accelerating repayment of the most expensive debt first. The most expensive debt is the debt with the highest interest rate, not the lowest monthly payment. Usually this is credit card debt and private student loans. Paying an extra \$100 on a 10% loan is like earning 10% interest, tax-free, and may save you more than \$200 over the life of the loan depending on the type of loan.

Student Loan Interest Deduction

You may be able to get a few hundred dollars back on your federal income taxes for the interest you pay on your federal and private student loans. Up to \$2,500 in student loan interest may be deducted each year. The deduction is an above-the-line exclusion from income and can be taken even if you don't itemize. The deduction is not affected by the higher "alternative minimum tax" (AMT) like the mortgage interest deduction. Only the borrower responsible for making payments can take the deduction. You must also not be claimed as an exemption on someone else's tax return.

Key Student Loan Resources

FinAid's Student Loans Section

www.finaid.org/loans

FinAid's Student Loan Calculators

www.finaid.org/loans/calculators.phtml

Forgot Your Lender? Ask your college's financial aid administrator or visit www.finaid.org/lostlender

Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project

www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org

Federal Student Loan Consolidation

loanconsolidation.ed.gov

1-800-557-7392 or TTY 1-800-557-7395

Private Student Loan Consolidation

www.finaid.org/privateconsolidation

US Department of Education's Debt Collection Service and Default Resolution Group

www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DCS/

1-800-621-3115 or TTY 1-877-825-9923

drghelp@ed.gov

Federal Student Aid Ombudsman

The FSA Ombudsman mediates disputes and helps resolve problems concerning federal student loans.

www.ombudsman.ed.gov

1-877-557-2575 or fax 1-202-275-0549

fsaombudsmanoffice@ed.gov

Federal Student Aid Information Center

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665

1-800-730-8913 TTY

Tradeoffs of Federal Student Loan Consolidation

Federal student loan consolidation streamlines repayment by replacing several loans with a single loan. The interest rate on a federal consolidation loan is the weighted average of the interest rates on the original loans, rounded up to nearest 1/8th of a point and capped at 8.25%. The use of the weighted average preserves the costs of the loans, so consolidation usually does not save money.

Consolidation provides access to alternate repayment plans which reduce the monthly payment by increasing the loan term, but this will also increase the total interest paid over the life of the loan. Consolidation can also be used to switch lenders. But borrowers who consolidate lose the remainder of the grace period on their loans. They also lose favorable benefits on Federal Perkins loans such as subsidized interest and loan forgiveness.

It may not be necessary to consolidate to simplify repayment or get a lower monthly payment. Many lenders offer unified billing which provides a single bill for all your student loans. Some alternate repayment plans are available without consolidation, such as extended repayment and income-based repayment.

Tradeoffs of Private Student Loan Consolidation

Like federal consolidation, private student loan consolidation replaces several private student loans with a single loan. The new loan has a variable interest rate just like the original loans, but the new rate is based on your current FICO (credit) scores. So if your credit score has improved significantly (say, because you've graduated, got a good job and have been paying all your bills on time), you might be able to get a better interest rate. Private consolidation may also be used to remove the cosigner from a loan if the new consolidation loan does not include a cosigner. (Some lenders offer a cosigner release option which removes the cosigner from the loan without consolidation if the primary borrower has excellent credit and has made the first 24, 36 or 48 payments on time.) Note that federal and private student loans cannot be consolidated together.

Repayment Plan	Monthly Loan Payment	Total Interest	Total Loan Payments
Standard – 10 Years	\$288	\$9,524	\$34,524
Extended – 12 Years	\$254	\$11,639	\$36,639
Extended – 15 Years	\$222	\$14,946	\$39,946
Extended – 20 Years	\$191	\$20,802	\$45,802
Extended – 25 Years	\$174	\$27,054	\$52,054
Extended – 30 Years	\$163	\$33,674	\$58,674

Assumes \$25,000 unsubsidized Stafford loan at 6.8% interest and ignores balance-based setting of extended repayment term.

Federal Student Loan Repayment Plans

There are four main types of federal student loan repayment plans: Standard Repayment (10-year term), Extended Repayment (10- to 30-year term), Income-Based Repayment (payments based on income) and Graduated Repayment (low payments are increased every two years). Either income-based repayment or extended repayment will yield the lowest monthly payment.

Extended Repayment

If you have more than \$30,000 in federal student loans with a single lender you can get 25-year repayment without consolidating. Otherwise you can consolidate to get up to a 30-year repayment term based on the loan balance, as illustrated in this table.

Debt	Loan Term
Less than \$7,500	10 years
\$7,500 to \$9,999	12 years
\$10,000 to \$19,999	15 years
\$20,000 to \$39,999	20 years
\$40,000 to \$59,999	25 years
\$60,000 or more	30 years

Impact of Extended Repayment

The next table shows the impact of extended repayment on the monthly loan payment and the total interest paid on an unsubsidized Federal Stafford loan as compared with standard 10-year repayment.

Extended Repayment Loan Term	Reduction in Size of Monthly Loan Payment	Increase in Total Life-of-Loan Interest
12 years	12%	22% (factor of 1.22)
15 years	23%	57% (factor of 1.57)
20 years	34%	118% (factor of 2.18)
25 years	40%	184% (factor of 2.84)
30 years	43%	254% (factor of 3.54)

Switching from a 10-year term to a 20-year term will cut the monthly payment on an unsubsidized Stafford loan by a third but will also more than double the total interest paid over the life of the loan. This adds thousands of dollars in extra interest to the cost of the loan, more than \$4,500 extra for every \$10,000 borrowed. With a 25-year term you'll pay more in interest than the original amount borrowed.

With a 20-year term on a 10% private student loan you'll pay more in interest than the original amount borrowed. Increasing the term from 20 years to 30 years will cut the monthly payment by less than a tenth but will increase the total interest paid by almost two-thirds.

Income-Based Repayment (IBR)

Income-based repayment (IBR) bases the monthly payments on a percentage of *discretionary income*, not the amount owed. Discretionary income is defined as the adjusted gross income (AGI) minus 150% of the poverty line for the family size. Currently IBR caps the monthly payments at 15% of discretionary income. If a borrower's AGI is less than 150% of the poverty line, the monthly payment under income-based repayment is zero. The remaining debt and interest will be forgiven after 25 years in repayment. (A new version of IBR will cut the monthly payments by one third to 10% of discretionary income. It will also accelerate the loan forgiveness to 20 years. These changes are not retroactive and are available only to new borrowers of new loans on or after July 1, 2014.)

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Public service loan forgiveness accelerates the forgiveness under income-based repayment to 10 years and makes it tax-free. Only federal student loans are eligible. Private student loans are not eligible. You must be employed full-time for 10 years in a public service job, such as police, fire, EMT, government, military, public education, public health, social work, public interest law, public librarian and 501(c)(3) organizations. The loan forgiveness is not retroactive, so prior employment in a public service job does not count. If the loans are not already in the Direct Loan program, they can be moved into the Direct Loan program by consolidating them (even if the loans were previously consolidated). Public service loan forgiveness will generally yield a financial benefit if the borrower's federal student loan debt exceeds his or her income.

Dealing with Financial Difficulty

There are more options for dealing with financial difficulty on federal student loans than on private student loans. A temporary suspension of loan payments is best for short-term financial difficulty, such as maternity or medical leave, or short-term unemployment. Examples of temporary suspensions include the economic hardship deferment (3 year limit) and forbearances (5 year limit). Changing repayment plans is a better option for longer-term financial difficulty, such as a high debt to income ratio. Examples include income-based repayment and extended repayment, both of which reduce the monthly loan payment. (If your circumstances improve, you can change the repayment plan back to a shorter term. You can change repayment plans once a year.) All of these options will ultimately increase the cost of the loan by increasing the total interest paid over the life of the loan. But they are better than defaulting on the loan, which also adds fees and penalties.

Temporary Suspensions of Payments

Monthly payments of principal and interest are suspended during a deferment or forbearance. The difference between a deferment and a forbearance is who pays the interest. The government pays the interest on subsidized loans during deferments only. The borrower is responsible for the interest on unsubsidized loans during a deferment and on all loans during a forbearance. The borrower may defer interest by capitalizing it, which increases the amount owed. Extended periods of non-payment can cause the loan balance to get much larger. It is better to pay at least the interest if you can afford it. Before using a deferment or forbearance, consider whether income-based repayment may be more suitable.

Debt Grows with Capitalized Interest

Capitalized interest is a form of negative amortization, digging you into a deeper hole because the interest continues to accrue and is added to the loan balance. You will also end up paying interest on interest. Extended periods of nonpayment will cause your loan to grow much bigger, as is illustrated by this chart.

Forbearance Duration	Capitalized Interest	Increase in Loan Balance	Increase in Life-of-Loan Interest
3 months	\$171	1.7%	\$236 (6.2%)
6 months	\$345	3.4%	\$476 (12.5%)
1 year	\$702	7.0%	\$967 (25.4%)
3 years	\$2,256	22.6%	\$3,115 (81.8%)
6 years	\$5,021	50.2%	\$6,933 (182.0%)
9 years	\$8,409	84.1%	\$11,613 (304.8%)
12 years	\$12,562	125.6%	\$17,348 (455.4%)
Increases in loan costs from capitalized interest on a \$10,000 Stafford loan with a 6.8% interest rate and a 10-year loan term			

Get Written Confirmation of Changes

Keep notes during any telephone call with a lender, including the date and the name of the person with whom you spoke. Ask for confirmation numbers for any changes. Ask the lender to send you written confirmation and call the lender if you don't receive it within a week. Continue paying the loans until you receive written confirmation of a deferment or forbearance. Send forms by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Talk to the Lender before You Default

There are many options, such as deferments and forbearances, that may help prevent you from defaulting on your loans. You will lose access to these options if you default on your loans first. Ignoring the problem will not make it go away; it just digs you into a deeper hole as interest continues to accrue.

Penalties for Defaulting on Your Loans

The penalties for defaulting on your loans can be quite severe. The federal government has strong powers to compel payment. The government can garnish (seize or withhold) up to 15% of your wages and Social Security benefits and intercept (offset) your federal and state income tax refunds and state lottery winnings. You may be charged late fees of up to 6% of each late payment. Collection charges of up to 25% may also be deducted from each payment on your defaulted loans, slowing the repayment trajectory and increasing your costs. The government can block the renewal of professional licenses. The default may prevent you from getting credit cards, auto loans and home mortgages and may make it harder to rent an apartment or get a job. You will be ineligible for more federal student aid. You may be harassed by collection agencies.

Loan Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is a one-time opportunity to remove a federal student loan default from your credit history and to regain student aid eligibility. You will be able to consolidate the defaulted federal student loans after making 3 consecutive full and voluntary on-time payments or if you agree to repay the debt using income-based repayment. You will regain eligibility for federal student aid after making 6 consecutive full and voluntary on-time payments. After you've made 9 of 10 consecutive on-time payments, you can apply to have the loan rehabilitated and the default removed from your credit history. Voluntary payments do not include wage garnishment or offset of income tax refunds. On-time is defined as within 15 days of the due date for regaining student aid eligibility and consolidation and within 20 days for rehabilitation.

Loan Cancellation

Federal student loans offer several loan cancellation provisions.

Closed School Discharge. If the college closed while you were in attendance or up to 90 days after withdrawal.

Unpaid Refund. If you withdrew and the college owed you or the lender a refund but never returned the funds to the lender.

False Certification Discharge. For improper certification of ability to benefit from college or for victims of identity theft.

Death Discharge. If the borrower (or the student for whom a parent borrowed a Parent PLUS loan) dies.

Total and Permanent Disability Discharge. If a doctor certifies that the borrower is totally and permanently disabled, or if a veteran is unemployable due to a service-connected condition.

Bankruptcy Discharge

It is very difficult to get student loans discharged in bankruptcy. Less than 1% of bankrupt borrowers succeed in getting student loans discharged because of the requirement to demonstrate undue hardship in an adversarial proceeding. Undue hardship is a present and future inability to repay the debt and maintain a minimal standard of living even after exhausting options for repayment relief and cutting living costs. Discharge is more likely if the financial difficulty was due to circumstances beyond your control. Discharge is also more likely on private loans than on federal loans, since there are fewer options for repayment relief (e.g., disability discharge) on most private student loans.

Settling Defaulted Federal Student Loans

If you want to pay off your defaulted federal student loans with a lump sum payment, try negotiating a lower settlement. Ask for a waiver of collection charges and offer either the current principal balance plus half of the accrued but unpaid interest or at least 90% of the current principal and interest balance. Get the compromise offer in writing and have an attorney review it to ensure that it will satisfy all debts in full. Keep the "paid in full" statement in case of future problems.

Budgeting Tips for High Debt Students

Start with a *descriptive* budget, where you track and categorize all spending for a month. Record the spending each night in a spreadsheet or a program like Quicken or Microsoft Money (or a free version like Mint.com or GNUcash.org). Distinguish mandatory spending (needs) from discretionary spending (wants) and classify your spending into broad expense categories such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, transportation, taxes, student loans, entertainment. Also generate subtotals by vendor to identify excessive spending.

If your total mandatory spending exceeds your total income, you have a serious problem that cannot be solved just by controlling discretionary spending. You may need to switch repayment plans or get a second job on weekends.

If your total income exceeds your total mandatory spending, you can get your budget under control by eliminating some discretionary spending. Try substituting lower cost options, such as living with your parents to save on rent, cut luxuries like cable TV and cell phone service, and sell extra belongings.

Avoid credit cards, as spending \$500 on a credit card feels the same as spending \$5, so it is harder to exercise restraint when you pay with plastic.

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College Choice Guide

College Research Tips

- **Consult your school counselor.** Your high school guidance counselor can assist you with information on career options, college preparation and choosing a college.
- **Visit the college and university web sites.** This will allow you to learn more about the school's size, location, admissions policies and cost and financial aid information.
- **Go to your local library.** You can find college books and college guides that offer detailed school profiles, programs offered, tuition costs, campus culture and more. Just be sure you are looking at a recent publication.
- **Online College Search. Fastweb has a free comprehensive college search at <http://colleges.fastweb.com>.** Other Internet sites also provide a free college search. Look for college blogs online to give you an inside look at campus life and activities.
- **Talk with a college / university admissions representative.** An admissions representative can answer just about all of your questions with a single phone call.
- **Call the college's alumni association.** Schedule an interview with an alumnus of the school who can offer advice and share his/her collegiate experience, including activities in which you may be interested in participating.

Campus Visit Tips

- **Pick a regular day to visit.** Visit the college when classes are in session. Check the college's online calendar when planning a visit. Avoid major events or holidays, such as Spring Break. Ask for a guided tour. Arrange to speak to other students, alumni, faculty members, financial aid, admissions and career offices. Send a thank-you note to all those you meet!
- **Pack smart.** Pack less formal clothing for walking around campus and something more formal for an interview with the admissions office.
- **Stay in a dorm overnight.** Sit in on a class to see how it is conducted. Speak with current students and professors about what life on campus is like.
- **View other campus buildings.** Check out residence hall rooms, cafeterias, computer labs, health and recreational facilities, the library, etc.
- **Take pictures and/or video.** Capture your visit with pictures of the campus, the buildings, the dorms and the town.
- **Eat in the dining hall.** This is a great place to see students and even see what you could eat if you attend.
- **Record your experience.** After your campus visits, make a list of the good and bad points about each school while your memory is still fresh. Use the questions provided here to guide you in your college choice.
- **Meet current students from your school.** Meet with a student from your school or your local area to get a better idea about the transition.

Academics and Career Planning

- Does the college offer the academic major that interests me? What's the reputation of the program? Can you graduate in four years, or does the program take longer?
- What is the average class size? What is the student-to-faculty ratio? Are most classes taught by full-time professors or by a teaching assistant or part-time adjunct?
- What kinds of career-planning services are available? How many graduates find jobs in their field of study? Does the school offer internships and opportunities in your major?
- How easy is it to switch academic majors? Will it mean spending more time in school?

Finances

- What is the out-of-pocket as a true bottom line cost (difference between the cost of attendance and gift aid, such as grants and scholarships)?
- What is my actual cost? Other expenses beyond just the "sticker price" for tuition can include:
 - Application fees, add/drop a course fees, food and clothing expenses, health insurance, student activity fees, transportation expenses (insurance, gas, parking fees)
- What is the average yearly increase in tuition and other costs.
- If I'm offered financial aid, how might the award or package change with new each year? What is the average loan indebtedness of those who graduate?

Student Life

- Do you feel you fit in and feel comfortable on campus?
- Is the campus diverse?
- What student organizations are on campus? Does the school offer a variety of recreational activities, varsity and intramural and club sports? Are they ones you would want to join?
- What's the social scene like? What is the campus like on the weekends? Do many students leave campus? What kinds of student activities are planned?
- Do you need a car? Are jobs close to campus? Do you need to drive to any classes? Is public or campus transit accessible?

Housing and Campus Resources

- What is the status of student housing? What is the cost? Is off-campus housing available? Is campus housing available for all four years? Are the dorms well-maintained?
- Is the campus safe? What services does campus security provide: safe ride program, call boxes, regular patrols
- What is the surrounding area like? Have there been any campus or safety issues in the past 2 years?
- Are campus facilities up-to-date? Is wireless Internet access available and is there an extra cost for it?
- What meal plans are available? What is served in the dining hall? Are special dietary plans available? Are there after-hours options? Does the meal plan extend off campus? What about money/meals that go unused?

What is a Financial Aid Award Letter?

The financial aid award letter provides prospective and current college students with information about the student's college costs and the financial aid available to help the student pay for these costs. The award letter may also include details on the college's calculation of the student's demonstrated financial need. The letter will provide a determination of financial aid eligibility and, if the student is eligible for financial aid, a detailed breakdown of the financial aid package according to the type, amount and source of financial aid. The award letter may also include information about the terms and conditions for the financial aid.

Financial aid award letters for prospective students typically arrive with or soon after the offer of admission. (For most students this is late March or early April.) Financial aid award letters for continuing students may arrive later. Some financial aid award letters will be provided online, through a secure web site.

Some colleges require students to accept or reject each source of financial aid. Others do not. If you reject one form of financial aid, such as loans or student employment, they will not increase other types of financial aid to compensate.

Compare College Financial Aid Award Letters Based on the Bottom Line Cost

To compare financial aid award letters from different colleges, compare them based on the out-of-pocket cost.

The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and the total gift aid (grants and scholarships). The cost of attendance includes tuition and required fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, dependent care and possibly student health insurance and the cost of a computer. Gift aid does not need to be repaid and includes grants, scholarships, tuition waivers and housing waivers. The out-of-pocket cost is the bottom line cost of college, the amount the family must pay, earn or borrow to cover college costs. The out-of-pocket cost is sometimes called the net price. Since each college awards different amounts of gift aid, the out-of-pocket cost may vary from college to college.

This is in contrast with the net cost, which is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. But the financial aid package includes loans, which have to be repaid (often with interest). This means the actual bottom line cost to the family will be higher than the net cost.

The net cost is a measure of cash flow requirements, not the bottom-line cost of college. The net cost will correspond to the expected family contribution (EFC) and will be similar at most colleges. If there are significant differences in net cost, it may be a sign of unusual circumstances that were taken into account at one college but not the others.

Thus, families should compare college financial aid award letters based on the out-of-pocket cost and not the net cost.

If the difference in out-of-pocket cost is less than \$500, the difference is not significant enough to affect the choice of college. But if the difference is greater, especially if it is more than

\$5,000, the family should consider the out-of-pocket cost along with other criteria when choosing a college. Higher out-of-pocket costs lead to a greater debt and work burden, potentially affecting college success and potentially increasing the chances of graduating with excessive debt. The amount of education debt has an impact on further education, career choices and lifestyle after graduation.

Tools for Comparing Financial Aid Award Letters from FinAid.org

Simple Award Letter Comparison Tool: The tool compares the financial aid packages from three colleges, highlighting any significant differences. It also calculates the net cost and out-of-pocket cost figures, and estimates the lifetime cost of any education loans.
www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml

The Advanced Award Letter Comparison Tool: This tool compares financial aid packages and includes non-financial criteria. The financial and non-financial differences are displayed visually in a matrix format.
www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletteradvanced.phtml

Problems and Pitfalls with Financial Aid Award Letters

No standard for financial aid award letters. There is no standard format for financial aid award letters, making them difficult to interpret and to compare and contrast.

Actual costs may be higher than the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is not the price you pay. Financial aid packages usually include loans, which have to be repaid, and there may also be unmet need. Some colleges use two different EFCs, one for federal and state aid and another for the college's own funds. Often the price you pay is much higher than the expected family contribution. On the other hand, the amount you pay will probably be lower than the overall cost of attendance

Inconsistent cost of attendance information. Colleges may use different definitions of the cost of attendance. Some colleges only report direct costs, which are usually billed by the college, while some report both direct and indirect costs. You can find detailed cost information in the college's catalog or on its web site. Make sure you have current figures for each of the major costs, including tuition, required fees, room and board, textbooks, supplies, travel and transportation, personal expenses such as student health insurance and dependent care, and technology such as a computer.

Cost allowances may be underestimates and unrealistic. There may be significant differences in the various cost allowances, such as textbooks, travel and transportation, personal expenses and off-campus housing. Some colleges will underestimate these figures to make their costs look less expensive, so make sure the costs are reasonable. You may wish to use the same estimate of textbook costs for all colleges, say \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year, to ensure that the costs are comparable. Transportation costs may vary based on distance of the college from the student's home, number of trips home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute. Make sure the transportation costs are reasonable. If you will be commuting, the transportation figures should be based on the round-trip distance from home to school, the IRS mileage rate, the number of days on campus and the cost of parking on campus. If you will be living on campus, assume the cost of four round-trip tickets home per year, one for fall break, one for winter break, one for spring break and one for summer break

Discretionary costs are under your control. Some of the indirect costs are discretionary. You can control how much you spend on housing or textbooks. Living off campus with a roommate can reduce your housing costs. Buying only required textbooks, buying textbooks online, buying used textbooks (or older editions or re-imported international editions), renting textbooks, buying textbooks through a co-op, buying ebooks or reselling textbooks to the bookstore at the end of the semester can save you as much as half the cost of the textbooks. You can also borrow textbooks from the college library (or the preview copies from the faculty) or share textbooks with your roommate.

Packaging of non-need based loans. Some colleges include non-need-based loans such as the unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans on the financial aid award letter in order to increase awareness of lower-cost federal loans. Families are eligible for these loans at every college, regardless of financial need. You are under no obligation to accept the loans and can request a lower loan amount. (Refusing these loans, however, will not increase your grants.) Try to avoid borrowing the maximum allowable amounts if you don't need to, as every dollar you borrow will cost you about two dollars by the time you've repaid the debt. Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student, after you graduate.

Gapping. Some colleges do not provide enough financial aid to meet the full demonstrated financial need. This leaves the student with unmet need, also referred to as a gap. This is more likely at colleges with limited financial aid resources. Some colleges may try to mask the existence of a gap by including loans in the financial aid package, by increasing work expectations or by underestimating costs

Cost of Attendance Check List

- Direct Costs (Required)
 - o Tuition and Required Fees
 - o Room and Board
 - o Textbooks and Supplies
- Indirect Costs (Discretionary)
 - o Travel and Transportation
 - o Personal Expenses
 - o Computer
 - o Student Health Insurance
 - o Dependent Care

It may be difficult to determine the type of each award.

Financial aid award letters sometimes use cryptic acronyms or abbreviations for awards or fail to identify the type of an award, making it difficult to distinguish loans, (which have to be repaid) and student employment from gift aid such as grants and scholarships (which do not have to be repaid). Most financial aid award letters do not mention interest rates, fees, monthly payments and total payments next to the loan amounts. A loan might be identified as a “LN” or just by name. Loans include the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal PLUS Loan and private or alternative student loans. The Federal TEACH Grant is actually a forgivable loan. Federal Work-Study and College Work-Study are forms of student employment. Even when awards are identified as loans, it may be difficult to determine which are less expensive and which are more expensive in the long term.

Student employment is not guaranteed. Federal work-study funding is paid as it is earned. If students work fewer hours, they will not earn the full amount of their awards. It may also be difficult to find a desirable work-study job.

Front-loading of grants. Some colleges award more grants during the freshman year and fewer grants in subsequent years. The intention is partly to ensure that students who drop out have fewer loans to repay, since students who drop out are three times as likely to default as students who graduate.

Financial aid award letters provide information for just one year. For one year, the financial aid award letter provides cost and financial aid information. The cost of attendance will probably increase every year, and may be higher by the senior year in college. Cumulative debt at graduation will typically be about four to five times freshman year debt for Bachelor’s degree recipients.

Types of Financial Aid

- Gift Aid
 - o Grants
 - o Scholarships
 - o Tuition Waivers
 - o Housing Waivers
- Self-Help Aid
 - o Student Employment
 - o Student Loans
 - o Installment/Payment Plans

10 Questions to Ask College Financial Aid Administrators

1. Does the college meet the full demonstrated financial need for all four years, or is there unmet need (a gap)?
2. How much on average do the college costs increase per year?
3. Does the college practice front-loading of grants? Can students expect to receive a similar amount of grants in subsequent years, assuming their financial circumstances are similar? If the college practices front-loading of grants, how much will the grants change each year?
4. What is the college’s outside scholarship policy? How does the college reduce the need-based financial aid package when a student wins a private scholarship? Does the scholarship reduce the loan and work burden (and unmet need, if any) or does it replace the college’s grants and scholarships?
5. What are the residency requirements for in-state public college tuition?
6. How many hours will I need to work to earn the full work-study award I’ve been offered? How much will I be paid per hour? Are work-study jobs readily available, or are they hard to get?
7. What are the requirements for keeping my grants and scholarships in future years? Do I need to maintain a minimum grade point average? Do I need to take a particular number of units? Do I need to participate in any special activities such as community service?
8. How does one appeal for more financial aid if the financial aid award is insufficient or the family’s financial circumstances have changed?
9. What percentage of first-time, full-time students graduate within a normal timeframe? How many years, on average, does it take to earn the degree?
10. What percentage of students graduate with debt and what is the average cumulative debt at graduation?

Glossary of Terms

Adverse Credit History. To be eligible for a Federal PLUS loan, the borrower may not have an adverse credit history, which is defined as having a bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or default determination in the last five years or a current delinquency of 90 or more days.

Alternative Student Loan. See Private Student Loan.

Asset. An asset is property with a financial value, such as bank and brokerage accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, trusts, tax shelters, college savings plans (529 plans, prepaid tuition plans, Coverdell education savings accounts), real estate (house, land, farm), businesses, retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), Traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, SIMPLE, pension plans), life insurance policies and income-producing property.

Capitalization of Interest. Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the loan balance. This causes the loan to grow larger, increasing the cost. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest.

Co-signer. A co-signer is a co-borrower, equally as obligated to repay the debt as the primary borrower.

Cost of Attendance (COA). The cost of attendance is the full one-year cost of enrolling in college. It includes direct (required) costs, such as tuition and required fees, room and board, textbooks and supplies, as well as indirect (discretionary) costs, such as travel and transportation, personal expenses, computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The PROFILE form is used to apply for financial aid at about 250 colleges, to apply for the college's own financial aid funds and does not affect eligibility for government aid. It calculates the student's expected family contribution (EFC) under the Institutional Methodology (IM).

Deferment. Deferment is the temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest on subsidized loans is paid by the federal government during a deferment. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue and remains the responsibility of the borrower and is capitalized if unpaid. Federal education loans may be deferred while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time, during the grace period and during periods of economic hardship. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. See also Forbearance.

Demonstrated Financial Need. Demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. (Financial Need = COA – EFC)

Dependency Status. Students may be considered dependent or independent. Dependent students must provide financial information for their parents on the FAFSA. Independent students must provide financial information for their spouse, if any, on the FAFSA, but do not provide parental information. Independent students include students who are over age 24 as of December 31 of the award year, married students, graduate students, orphans, veterans, active duty members of the Armed Forces and students with dependents other than a spouse. Students who are not independent are considered dependent. If there are unusual circumstances, such as the incarceration or institutionalization of both parents, the student can appeal for a dependency override, which is granted at the discretion of the college financial aid administrator. The definition of dependency for federal student aid purposes differs from the definition used by the IRS for federal income tax purposes

Education Tax Benefit. An education tax benefit is a form of student aid obtained by filing a federal income tax return. Examples include the Hope Scholarship (American Opportunity Tax Credit) and Lifetime Learning tax credits, the Tuition and Fees Deduction and the Student Loan Interest Deduction.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The expected family contribution is a measure of the family's financial strength. It is based on the income and assets of the student. For dependent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student's parents and the age of the older parent. For independent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student's spouse, if any. The EFC is also based on family size and the number of children in college. The EFC does not consider certain forms of unsecured consumer debt, such as credit cards and auto loans. There are two main formulas for calculating an EFC, the federal methodology (FM) and the institutional methodology (IM). The two formulas differ in the types of assets that are included (e.g., family home, assets of siblings), the assumption of a minimum student contribution, the treatment of paper losses, regional differences in cost of living, allowances for educational savings and emergency funds, the treatment of children of divorced parents and adjustments for more than one child in college at the same time. The FM EFC is used for determining eligibility for federal and state aid and financial aid at most colleges. About 250 colleges use the IM EFC instead for awarding their own financial aid funds.

Federal Education Loan. Federal education loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal loans are fixed, while most private student loans have variable rates. Examples of federal education loans include the Perkins, Stafford and PLUS Loans. Since July 1, 2010, all new federal education loans have been made through the US Department of Education's Direct Loan program.

Federal Methodology (FM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Financial Aid. Financial aid is money to help families bridge the gap between the expected family contribution and the cost of attendance. It includes gift aid and self-help aid.

Financial Aid Appeal. See Professional Judgment.

Financial Aid Award. A financial aid award is a component of the financial aid package. Awards come in many types, such as grants, scholarships, loans and student employment.

Financial Aid Package. A financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources.

Financial Need. See Demonstrated Financial Need.

Forbearance. A forbearance is a temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest continues to accrue during a forbearance and will be capitalized if unpaid. Unlike a deferment, the borrower is responsible for the interest on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans during a forbearance. Forbearances on federal education loans have a five-year limit.

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is cancellation of a debt, usually for working in a particular occupation, such as a public service job, teaching in a national shortage area or serving in the military.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a financial aid application form used to apply for federal and state student financial aid, as well as financial aid at most colleges. It is filed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The student will receive a Student Aid Report containing his or her expected family contribution about a week after filing the FAFSA.

Gift Aid. Gift aid is financial aid that does not need to be repaid, such as grants, scholarships, and tuition and housing waivers. Gift aid will vary by college, depending on available funds.

Grace Period. The grace period is the time after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment and before repayment begins. The grace period is 6 months for the Federal Stafford and PLUS loans and for most private student loans, and 9 months for the Federal Perkins loan.

Grant. A grant is a form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. The Federal Pell Grant is the largest need-based college grant program.

Institutional Methodology (IM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Interest. Interest is a periodic fee charged for the use of borrowed money. The interest rate is expressed as a percentage of the loan balance and may be fixed or variable.

Loan. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid usually with interest. See also Federal Education Loan and Private Student Loan.

Master Promissory Note (MPN). A promissory note is a legal contract in which the borrower agrees to repay the loan. It specifies the terms of the loan, such as the interest rates and fees. The Master Promissory Note is a promissory note that is effective for a continuous period of enrollment up to 10 years.

Merit-Based Aid. Merit-based aid is based on academic, artistic or athletic talent or other student attributes or activities.

Need Analysis. Need analysis is a process of evaluating the family's financial strength by considering income, assets, family size, the number of children in college and the age of the older parent. See Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Need-Based Aid. Need-based aid is based on demonstrated financial need.

Net Cost. The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. (Net Cost = COA – Financial Aid)

Net Price. The net price is the same as the out-of-pocket cost, the amount the family pays, earns or borrows to cover college costs.

Out-of-Pocket Cost. The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and total gift aid. (Out-of-Pocket Cost = COA – Gift Aid)

Principal. The principal is the amount of money borrowed or still owed on a loan, not including interest and other charges.

Private Student Loan. A private student loan is made and funded by a private lender, such as a bank or other financial institution. Private student loans tend to be more expensive than federal loans and have less flexible repayment terms.

Professional Judgment (PJ). (Special Circumstances Review) Professional judgment is a process by which the college financial aid administrator reviews unusual circumstances to determine a possible adjustment to the need-based financial aid package. Unusual circumstances include changes in the family's financial situation from the previous year, such as job loss, salary reductions and death of a wage earner, as well as non-typical situations such as high unreimbursed medical expenses, childcare or eldercare costs or private K-12 tuition. The review is driven by independent third party documentation of the unusual circumstances. If the financial aid administrator decides that the unusual circumstances are worthy of consideration, the adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA or cost of attendance will be based on the financial impact of the unusual circumstances on the family. This may then yield a new EFC which will lead to a new or revised financial aid package.

Promissory Note. See Master Promissory Note.

Room and Board. Housing and meal plan costs.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Satisfactory academic progress is required for continued receipt of student financial aid. It usually involves a requirement that the student maintain a particular grade point average (e.g., 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and that the student be passing classes at a rate consistent with the requirements for graduation within no more than 150% of the normal timeframe (e.g., within 6 years for a Bachelor's degree).

Scholarship. A scholarship is a form of gift aid, usually based on merit and funded by private foundations, philanthropists, corporations, and colleges and universities.

Self-Help Aid. Self-help aid is financial aid that depends on the family's resources. It includes student loans (which have to be repaid, usually with interest) and student employment.

Sticker Price / Sticker Shock. The sticker price is the total cost of attendance. Sticker shock refers to a family's dismay when they learn about a college's sticker price. Sticker shock may cause some families to not consider a college, even if the financial aid package reduces the costs to an affordable level.

Student Aid Report (SAR). The Student Aid Report lists the data elements submitted on the FAFSA, some intermediate calculations and the student's expected family contribution, along with other information such as the graduation rates of the colleges the student is considering.

Student Employment. Student employment usually involves a part-time job of 10-15 hours per week during the academic year. Jobs may include on-campus employment, such as working in the library or cafeteria, or off-campus employment, such as inner city math and reading tutoring programs. Federal Work-Study is the largest student employment program.

Subsidized Loan. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. The Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan are examples of subsidized loans. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need.

Tuition. Tuition is a fee charged for the cost of instruction.

Tuition Installment Plan. A tuition installment plan or tuition payment plan spreads out college costs into 9-12 equal monthly installments. Tuition installment plans usually charge an up-front fee without separate interest charges. This is in contrast with loans which are typically repaid over a much longer term and which usually charge interest.

Unmet Need. The unmet need, sometimes called a gap, is the difference between the full demonstrated financial need and the student's need-based financial aid package. (Unmet Need = Financial Need – Financial Aid)

Unsubsidized Loan. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. If the borrower does not pay the interest as it accrues, the interest is capitalized (added to the loan balance). The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal PLUS Loan are examples of unsubsidized loans. Eligibility is not based on financial need, so even wealthy families will qualify.

Verification. The US Department of Education and the college financial aid office will select some FAFSAs for verification to ensure their accuracy. The family will be required to supply documentation corresponding to the data elements on the FAFSA, such as a copy of the most recent year's federal income tax return, W-2 and 1099 statements, and the most recent bank and brokerage account statements prior to the date the financial aid application was filed, etc.

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University of the United States (UUS)

Student Name, Identifier

Download

Costs in the 2018-19 year

Estimated Cost of Attendance

\$X,XXX / yr

Tuition and fees	\$	X,XXX
Housing and meals.....		X,XXX
Books and supplies		X,XXX
Transportation		X,XXX
Other education costs		X,XXX

Grants and scholarships to pay for college

Total Grants and Scholarships ("Gift" Aid; no repayment needed)

\$X,XXX / yr

Grants and scholarships from your school	\$	X,XXX
Federal Pell Grant.....		X,XXX
Grants from your state.....		X,XXX
Other scholarships you can use		X,XXX

What will you pay for college

Net Costs

(Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)

\$X,XXX / yr

Options to pay net costs

Work options

Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional) \$ X,XXX

Loan Options*

Federal Perkins Loan	\$	X,XXX
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan.....		X,XXX
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan		X,XXX

*Recommended amounts shown here. You may be eligible for a different amount. Contact your financial aid office.

Other options

Family Contribution

(As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution.)

\$X,XXX / yr

Payment plan offered by the institution	Military and/or National Service benefits
Parent or Graduate PLUS Loans	Non-Federal private education loan
American Opportunity Tax Credit *	

*Parents or students may qualify to receive up to \$2,500 by claiming the American Opportunity Tax Credit on their tax return during the following calendar year.

Graduation Rate

Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 6 years



XX.X%

Low

Medium

High



Repayment Rate

Percentage of borrowers entering into repayment within 3 years of leaving school

XX.X%

X.X%
National
Average

This institution

Median Borrowing

Students who borrow at UUS typically take out \$X,XXX in Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$X,XXX per month. Your borrowing may be different.



Repaying your loans

To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans>

For more information and next steps:

University of the United States (UUS)
Financial Aid Office

123 Main Street
Anytown, ST 12345
Telephone: (123) 456-7890
E-mail: financialaid@uus.edu

Customized information from UUS

Glossary

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total amount (not including grants and scholarships) that it will cost you to go to school during the 2018–19 school year. COA includes tuition and fees; housing and meals; and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and dependent care. It also includes miscellaneous and personal expenses, such as an allowance for the rental or purchase of a personal computer; costs related to a disability; and reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs. For students attending less than half-time, the COA includes tuition and fees; an allowance for books, supplies, and transportation; and dependent care expenses.

Total Grants and Scholarships: Student aid funds that do not have to be repaid. Grants are often need-based, while scholarships are usually merit-based. Occasionally you might have to pay back part or all of a grant if, for example, you withdraw from school before finishing a semester.

Net Costs: An estimate of the actual costs that you or your family will need to pay during the 2018–19 school year to cover education expenses at a particular school. Net costs are determined by taking the institution's cost of attendance and subtracting your grants and scholarships.

Work-Study: A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school to help pay your education expenses.

Loans: Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. Loans from the federal government typically have a lower interest rate than loans from private lenders. Federal loans, listed from most advantageous to least advantageous, are called Federal Perkins Loans, Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans. You can find more information about federal loans at StudentAid.gov.

Family Contribution (also referred to as Expected Family Contribution): A number used by a school to calculate how much financial aid you are eligible to receive, if any. It's based on the financial information you provided in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It's not the amount of money your family will have to pay for college, nor is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. The family contribution is reported to you on your Student Aid Report, also known as the SAR.

Graduation Rate: The graduation rate after 150% of normal program completion time has elapsed. For schools that award predominately bachelor's (four-year) degrees, this is after six years, and for students seeking an associate's (two-year) degree, this is after three years. For students seeking a certificate, the length of time depends on the certificate sought, for example, for a one-year certificate, after 18 months. These rates are only for full-time students enrolled for the first time.

Repayment Rate: The share of students who have repaid at least \$1 of the principal balance on their federal loans within 3 years of leaving school.

Median Borrowing: The median federal debt of undergraduate borrowers who completed. This figure includes only federal loans; it excludes private student loans and parent PLUS loans.

Customized information from UUS

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FACT SHEET: FINANCIAL AID CONSULTANTS & SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES

Updated April 2014

As the financial aid process has become more complex, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals offering professional financial aid services to students and their families. Most popular among these are financial aid consultants and scholarship search companies. Some families sing the praises of certain consultants and scholarship search companies. However, the industry also includes “bad apples” who charge very high fees and who do little more than provide information that is readily available for free. As a wise consumer, you should exercise caution to avoid being taken advantage of and to be sure you fully understand the services that are offered. The following information should help.

FINANCIAL AID CONSULTANTS

Financial aid consultants are *not* the same as financial aid administrators. Financial aid consultants usually charge a fee for a variety of services including:

- Preparing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid forms;
- Estimating your resources;
- Estimating your expected family contribution (EFC);
- Estimating your financial need; and
- Describing the types of federal, state, local, institutional, and private aid programs that are available.

TEN TIPS TO AVOID GETTING SCAMMED BY A CONSULTANT

Before you pay for the services of a financial aid consultant, remember:

1. A financial aid administrator performs these same services - free of charge!
 - Contact the Financial Aid Office at a local college or university or the reference librarian at the public library for information or assistance. Even if you are planning to attend another school, the staff in any Financial Aid Office or a reference librarian should be able to provide you with the same information and assistance that a consultant would provide. College websites, publications, and catalogs are also good sources of information.
2. The Internet is an excellent way to obtain free student financial assistance information. In particular, the U.S. Department of Education’s website provides aid information at: <http://studentaid.ed.gov>.
3. You may complete the FAFSA free of charge on the U.S. Department of Education’s FAFSA website at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov>.
 - If you or your family paid a fee to someone to complete your FAFSA or assist you in completing your FAFSA, the consultant should sign the FAFSA as a preparer.
 - After the preparer signs the FAFSA, review and sign the FAFSA and mail it yourself before the required deadline.
 - The consultant’s fee should be refundable if he or she completes the FAFSA incorrectly.

4. Never sign a blank form. You are legally responsible for the information on your FAFSA.
5. As with all important documents, keep copies of the FAFSA and other applications, forms, and correspondence for your files, even if someone has assisted in their preparation.
6. Never agree to a fee based on the percentage of aid that you receive.
7. A financial aid consultant cannot guarantee you will receive grants or any other type of financial aid.
8. Before hiring a consultant, request a list of references and be sure to contact those references.
9. A consultant may charge you for a list of scholarships and grants copied directly from a school's website or publications—information you could easily obtain for free.
 - Certain scholarships and grants awarded by schools and outside organizations are discretionary funds that may or may not be awarded again in subsequent years, even to prior recipients.
10. Check the legitimacy of a financial aid consultant or scholarship-search organization on these web resources:
 - U.S. Department of Education's "Avoiding Scams" page – www.studentaid.ed.gov/types/scams
 - Federal Trade Commission – www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams
 - Better Business Bureau – www.bbb.org

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES

Many search services charge a fee to find sources of student financial aid. Some of these services have been in existence for some time, while others are relatively new. Search services need to be used with care and only after a thorough investigation of the services they render. The value of the information provided varies widely.

A guarantee that the service will find at least a certain number of aid sources, for instance, might simply mean that the service will tell you that you can apply for the federal student aid programs. There is no need to pay a search service to identify these programs, because information on the all of the federal student aid programs is readily available free of charge in any financial aid office or on the U.S. Department of Education's website at: <http://studentaid.ed.gov>.

A little time and effort on your part browsing the Internet, or visiting your school's website, financial aid office, college counseling office, guidance counselor's office, or the reference section of a library will probably unearth any sources of assistance a search service could identify.

Also, several companies have also made free scholarship search engines available online to students. These include, but are not limited to:

- FastWeb – www.fastweb.com
- The College Board – <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

REPORTING SCAMS

If you believe you've fallen victim to a scholarship scam or financial aid fraud, file a complaint with:

- The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General (OIG) by calling 1-800-MIS-USED – <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/hotline.html>
- The Federal Trade Commission – www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0341-file-complaint-ftc
- Your state Attorney General's office – www.naag.org/current-attorneys-general.php

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Tips about Saving for College

It is cheaper to save than to borrow. If you save \$200 a month for 10 years at 6.8% interest, you will accumulate \$34,433. If instead of saving, you borrow \$34,433 at 6.8% interest with a 10-year repayment term, you will pay \$396 a month, almost twice as much.

Time is your greatest asset. Start saving for college as soon as possible. If you start saving from birth, about a third of the college savings goal will come from earnings. If you wait until your child enters high school, less than 10% will come from earnings.

It is never too late to start saving. Every dollar you save is about a dollar less you will have to borrow.

Plan on saving a third of projected college costs or the full 4-year costs the year the baby was born. Like any other life-cycle expense, the cost will be spread out over time, with one third coming from past income (savings), one third from current income and financial aid, and one third from future income (loans). Since college costs increase by about a factor of three over any 17-year period and $3 \times 1/3 = 1$, your college savings goal should be the full 4-year cost of college the year the baby was born. You might not be able to predict which college your child will choose, but you probably can predict the type of college, such as an in-state public 4-year college, out-of-state public 4-year college or a non-profit 4-year college. For a baby born in 2012, this means saving \$250/month, \$400/month and \$500/month, respectively, from birth to matriculation.

Save in the parent's name, not the student's, as this will reduce the impact on eligibility for need-based financial aid. A dependent student's 529 college savings plan is treated as though it were a parent asset.

When choosing a 529 college savings plan, choose the plan with the lowest fees. This will maximize your savings. You can invest in any state's plan. Likewise, choose the direct-sold version instead of the advisor-sold version, since the fees are lower. All else being equal, choose your own state's plan if it offers a state income tax deduction on contributions to the state's plan.

Make saving automatic, as it makes it much easier to save. Set up an automatic monthly transfer from your checking account to the college savings plan. Start saving what you can, and gradually increase it, especially when a regular expense like diapers or day care ends. Redirect at least half of windfalls, like income tax refunds and inheritances, to college savings.

Tips about Scholarships

Search for scholarships at free sites like Fastweb.com. Every dollar you win is about a dollar less you'll have to borrow.

Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are scholarships with deadlines throughout the year, so the sooner you start searching, the more scholarships you will find. If you wait until the spring of the senior year in high school, you will miss the deadlines for about half of the scholarships available to high school seniors. But students in younger grades can also win scholarships. There are also many scholarships that are available only after you have enrolled in college. The sooner you start searching for scholarships, the more you will find.

In any targeted scholarship matching service, answer the optional questions in addition to the required questions. Students who answer the optional questions match about twice as many scholarships, on average, as students who answer just the required questions. The optional questions are there to trigger the inclusion of specific awards.

To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It's a numbers game. Even among talented students, winning involves a bit of luck, not just skill. Pursue less competitive scholarships, such as small awards and essay contests. They are easier to win and help you win bigger scholarships. You can't win if you don't apply. It gets easier after your first 6 applications. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.

If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.

Google your name to ensure that you have a professional online presence. Use a clean email address, such as `firstname.lastname@gmail.com`. Review your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material.

Beware of Scholarship Scams: If you have to pay money to get money, it is probably a scam. Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for scholarships. Nobody can guarantee that you will win a scholarship. Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers. Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can't be claimed

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the gateway to financial aid from the federal and state governments and most colleges and universities. You can file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Beginning in 2016, you can file the FAFSA as early as October 1st of your senior year in high school and each subsequent year. Do not wait until you have been admitted or you file your federal income tax returns. Some states have very early deadlines for state grants, as early as February 1, and other states give out money on a first-come first-served basis until the money is gone.

Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, if possible, to prefill some of the answers on your FAFSA. This will reduce the likelihood that your FAFSA will be selected for verification. If you can't use it to file the initial FAFSA due to timing considerations, use it to update the FAFSA after you've filed your federal income taxes.

Apply for financial aid every year even if you think you won't qualify or even if you didn't qualify last year. The need analysis formulas are complicated enough that it is difficult to predict whether you will qualify. Changes in the number of children in college at same time can have a big impact on aid eligibility. The best way to evaluate eligibility is to apply. Families often overestimate their eligibility for merit-based aid and underestimate their eligibility for need-based aid. You can't get aid if you don't apply.

Tips about Comparing Financial Aid Award Letters

Compare colleges based on the *net price*, the difference between the total cost of attendance and just gift aid (grants, scholarships and tuition waivers). This is the true bottom-line cost, the amount you will have to pay from savings, income and loans to cover college costs.

This is in contrast with the *net cost*, the difference between the cost of attendance and the financial aid package. The financial aid package includes loans, which must be repaid, usually with interest.

When evaluating the net price of a college, ask the college whether it practices front-loading of grants. Colleges that practice front-loading of grants provide more grants during the freshman year, making them look less expensive. Likewise, ask about a college's outside scholarship policy. Some colleges will reduce grants instead of loans when a student wins a private scholarship.

Tips about Student Loans

Always borrow federal first. Federal student loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. Federal student loans are eligible for income-based repayment and public service loan forgiveness, while private student loans are not. The unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans do not depend on financial need, so you do not need to be poor to qualify for low-cost federal education loans.

Before you spend student loan money on anything, ask yourself if you'd still buy it at twice the price. Every dollar you spend in student loan money will cost you about two dollars by the time you repay the debt.

Education debt may be good debt because it is an investment in your future. But too much of a good thing can hurt you. Don't borrow more than \$10,000 for each year in school. Undergraduate students who borrow \$10,000 per year will graduate with more debt than 90% of their peers. Undergraduate students who borrow \$7,500 per year will graduate with more debt than 75% of their peers. If you have no choice but to borrow from private student loan programs, that may be a sign that you are overborrowing.

Consider tuition installment plans as a less expensive alternative to student loans.

Pay the interest on unsubsidized loans during the in-school and grace periods to prevent the loan balance from growing larger due to interest capitalization.

Total education debt at graduation should be less than your expected annual starting salary, and ideally a lot less. If your debt is less than your annual income, you will be able to repay your student loans in about 10 years. If your debt exceeds your income, you will need an alternate repayment plan like extended repayment or income-based repayment in order to afford your monthly loan payments, which means you will still be repaying your own student loans when your children enroll in college. If you borrow more than twice your starting salary you will be at high risk of default.

Try to minimize credit card debt. College students often get into trouble with credit cards, not just student loans. Do not charge more than you can afford to pay off in full each month. Spending \$500 with plastic feels the same as spending \$5, so it is hard to exercise restraint.

Tips about Student Loans (continued)

Choose as short a repayment term as possible. Increasing the loan term on an unsubsidized Stafford loan from 10 years to 20 years cuts the monthly payment by a third, but more than doubles the interest paid over the life of the loan.

After you graduate, accelerate repayment of the highest interest rate loan first. Student loans do not have prepayment penalties. Making an extra payment can save you money. After you make the required payments, direct any extra money toward accelerating repayment of the most expensive debt first. The most expensive debt is the debt with the highest interest rate, not the lowest monthly payment. Usually this is credit card debt and private student loans. Paying an extra \$100 on a 10% loan is like earning 10% interest, tax-free, and may save you more than \$200 over the life of the loan depending on the type of loan.

Avoid extended periods of non-payment, as this causes the size of the loan to grow. A year of capitalized interest will increase the size of the loan by 7%, and ultimately 25% when you consider the cost of paying interest on interest.

Sign up for auto-debit with electronic billing, where the monthly loan payments are automatically debited from your bank account. Many education lenders offer a 0.25% or 0.50% interest rate reduction for this.

Up to \$2,500 in student loan interest on federal and private student loans can be deducted as an above-the-line exclusion from income on your federal income tax return. You can claim the deduction even if you don't itemize.

Tips about Student Employment

Work part-time while you are in school. Even if you don't qualify for Federal Work-Study, there are plenty of part-time jobs on or near college campuses. Working 10-12 hours a week will help improve your grades by forcing you to learn time management skills. Working a full-time job will hurt your performance by taking away time from academics. Enroll full-time and work part-time, not vice versa.

Tips about Education Tax Benefits

You can get a Hope Scholarship Tax Credit (also known as the American Opportunity Tax Credit) on your federal income tax return. The Hope Scholarship provides a tax credit of up to \$2,500 (of which \$1,000 is refundable) based on \$4,000 in qualified higher education expenses, which include amounts paid with cash or loans for college tuition, fees and course materials (textbooks).

Tips about Cutting College Costs

Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student after you graduate.

One of the most effective ways to save on college costs is to enroll at an in-state public college. You may need an extra year to graduate with Bachelor's degree at public colleges, but you'll still graduate with less debt.

You can also save money by buying used textbooks or selling your textbooks back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.

Visit home less frequently to cut travel costs.

Live at home during college, especially if at an in-state public college, to graduate with thousands of dollars of less debt. Tell your parents that it is better if you live at home during your college education than be forced to after you graduate.

If you live off-campus, get a roommate to split the costs. Otherwise you might have higher costs than students who live on campus.

Don't switch majors or transfer colleges. This increases time to finish by about a year and increases debt.

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Federal Student Aid and Identity Theft

Before you apply for federal student aid, learn how to prevent identity theft.

How Identity Theft Happens

Criminals access personal data such as names, Social Security numbers, and bank and credit card information. Using stolen data, criminals can obtain credit cards, set up cell phone accounts, and more.

Reduce Your Risk When Applying for Federal Student Aid

- Apply for aid by filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form at fafsa.gov.
- When you exit the FAFSA site, close the browser so cookies from the session will be deleted automatically.
- Don't give your FSA ID to anyone, even if that person is helping you fill out the FAFSA form.
- Review your financial aid offers, and keep track of the amounts you applied for and received.
- Never give personal information over the phone or internet unless you made the contact. If you have questions about your financial aid, ask your college or contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at studentaid@ed.gov or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913).

How We Keep Your Information Safe

Information you share with us via our secure websites (such as fafsa.gov and StudentLoans.gov) goes through a process called “encryption,” which uses a mathematical formula to scramble your data into a format that is unreadable to a hacker.

Report Identity Theft

If you suspect that your personal information has been stolen, act quickly. Contact the credit reporting agencies and have a freeze put on your account so nobody else can open new credit accounts in your name. You'll find tips and credit agency contact information at the Federal Trade Commission's website listed below.

These federal websites offer information on reporting and repairing identity theft:

- U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of Inspector General Hotline at oighotline.ed.gov (for cases in which ED funds are involved)
- Federal Trade Commission at IdentityTheft.gov
- Social Security Administration at ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/1243/what-identity-theft.html

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Scholarship Scams Scam Warning Signs

You have to pay a fee

Money-back offers or guarantees

Credit card or bank account information required

Provides “exclusive” information

Common Scams

“Phishing”

Unsolicited emails that bear the logo of your bank or credit card

Appear legitimate but are traps to lure you into giving out your personal or account information

NEVER give out Social Security, credit card or bank account numbers to unsolicited emails or calls

“Pharming”

Unsolicited emails that encourage you to visit a website or click on suspicious links

Make sure your inbox spam filters are up to date

BE CAREFUL about giving out your contact information or email address

Reporting Scams

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)

File an online complaint at www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

File an online complaint at www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams, call 202-326-222, or write to: Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20580

State Attorney General’s Office

File your complaint with the Consumer Protection Division in your state. Visit www.naag.org to find your state Attorney General’s Office

US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

File an online complaint involving mail fraud at postalinspectors.uspis.gov, call the Crime Hotline at 877-876-2455 or write to: Criminal Investigations Service Center
222 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 1250
Chicago, IL 60606-6100

Better Business Bureau (BBB)

File an online complaint about a business at www.bbb.org or call 703-276-0100

Have a question or
comment?

memberservices@fastweb.com

2018–2019 Calendar

July 2018

27–SAT Registration Deadline for 8/25 Test

August 2018

10–ACT Registration Deadline for 9/8 Test

15–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 8/25 Test

25–SAT & Subject Tests

26–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 9/8 Test

September 2018

7–SAT Registration Deadline for 10/6 Test

8–ACT Test

26–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 10/6 Test

28–ACT Registration Deadline for 10/27 Test

27–29–NACAC National Conference

October 2018

FAFSA application period begins, submit ASAP to maximize chances for aid

5–SAT Registration Deadline for 11/3 Test

6–SAT & Subject Tests

10–PSAT/NMSQT (Primary)

13–PSAT/NMSQT (Saturday)

14–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 10/27 Test

24–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 11/3 Test

24–PSAT/NMSQT (Alternate)

27–ACT Test

November 2018

2–SAT Registration Deadline for 12/1 Test

2–ACT Registration Deadline for 12/8 Test

3–SAT & Subject Tests

19–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 12/8 Test

20–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 12/1 Test

December 2018

1–SAT & Subject Tests

8–ACT Test

January 2019

Remind students to complete FAFSA and submit

11–ACT Registration Deadline for 2/9 Test

18–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 2/9 Test

February 2019

8–SAT Registration Deadline for 3/9 Test

9–ACT Test (except in NY)

27–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 3/9 Test

March 2019

8–ACT Registration Deadline for 4/13 Test

9–SAT Test (only)

25–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 4/13 Test

April 2019

5–SAT Registration Deadline for 5/4 Test

13–ACT Test

24–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 5/4 Test

May 2019

1–National Candidate’s Reply Date

3–SAT Registration Deadline for 6/1 Test

3–ACT Registration Deadline for 6/8 Test

4–SAT & Subject Tests

6–10–AP Exams – Week 1

13–17–AP Exams – Week 2

20–ACT Late Registration Deadline for 6/8 Test

22–SAT Late Registration Deadline for 6/1 Test

June 2019

1–SAT & Subject Tests

8–ACT Test

30–Last day to submit 2018–19 FAFSA

Summer 2019

Order materials: www.fastweb.com/educators

Contacts

Associations/Organizations

ACA (American Counseling Association)

800-347-6647 / membership@counseling.org
www.counseling.org

ASCA (American School Counselor Association)

703-683-ASCA / asca@schoolcounselor.org
www.schoolcounselor.org

The College Board

212-713-8000 / www.collegeboard.com

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)

800-822-6285 / info@nacacnet.org
www.nacacnet.org

NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)

202-785-0453 / info@nasfaa.org
www.nasfaa.org

NCAN (National College Access Network)

202-347-4848 / ncan@collegeaccess.org
www.collegeaccess.org

NSPA

(National Scholarship Providers Association)

303-442-2524 / nspa@scholarshipproviders.org
www.scholarshipproviders.org

Government

U.S. Department of Education

800-USA-LEARN (800-872-5327)
www.ed.gov

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

FSAIC (Federal Student Aid Information Center)

800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.studentaidhelp.ed.gov

NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)

202-502-7300
www.nces.ed.gov

Testing

ACT (American College Testing)

319-337-1270 / www.actstudent.org

AP (Advanced Placement)

888-CALL-4-AP (888-225-5427)
apcentral.collegeboard.com

CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)

212-713-8000 / clep.collegeboard.org

PSAT (Preliminary SAT) / NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

212-713-8000
collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat

SAT and SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) Subject Tests

212-713-8000
collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat

Web Resources

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search

www.fastweb.com

AmeriCorps

www.americorps.gov

City Year

www.cityyear.org

CSS PROFILE

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.com>

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FSA ID Management

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

FAFSA 4Caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Student Loans

www.studentloans.gov

College Admissions

College Search

www.fastweb.com/college-search

Common Application

www.commonapp.org

Educational Opportunity Centers Program

www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc

Job Corps

www.jobcorps.gov

NACAC College Fairs

www.nacacfairs.org

Choosing a Career

Monster Career Advice

www.monster.com/career-advice/career-levels/entry-level

MonsterCollege

www.monstercollege.com

Career Planning

www.fastweb.com/career-planning

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco

Higher Ed News & Views

Chronicle of Higher Education

www.chronicle.com

Higher Education Watch

www.higheredwatch.org

Inside Higher Ed

www.insidehighered.com

Financial Aid Resources

Fastweb for Educators

www.fastweb.com/educators

FinAid

www.finaid.org

EduPASS: International Students

www.edupass.org

Federal Student Aid for Counselors

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid for Students

www.studentaid.ed.gov

IFAP (Information for Financial Aid Professionals)

www.ifap.ed.gov

Mapping Your Future

www.mappingyourfuture.org

NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)

www.nasfaa.org

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)

www.nacacnet.org

FTC Project Scholarship Scam

www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

OPE (Office of Postsecondary Education)

www.ed.gov/ope

Guide to Federal Student Aid

www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide

Financial Aid Calculators

www.finaid.org/calculators

Research

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)

www.eric.ed.gov

College Insight

www.college-insight.org

Student Tax Info

www.irs.gov/individuals/students

National Center for Education Statistics

nces.ed.gov

Selective Service System

www.sss.gov

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

TRIO Programs

www.coenet.us

U.S. Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Loan Information

Always borrow federal first. Federal student loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private/student loans.

Federal Perkins Loan

For undergrad and grad students

Undergrad students: loan amount up to \$5,500

Grad and Professional students: loan amount up to \$8,000

College is the lender

Direct Subsidized Loan

For undergrad and grad students enrolled at least half time

Loan amount up to \$5,500, depending on grade level and dependency

No interest charged while in school

Dept. of Education is the lender

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

For undergrad and grad students enrolled at least half time

Loan amount up to \$20,500, less subsidized amount, depending on grade level and dependency

Student is responsible for interest

Dept. of Education is the lender

Direct PLUS Loan for Parents

For parents of dependent students enrolled at least half time

Loan amount is maximum cost of attendance, less any other financial aid

Parent is responsible for interest

Dept. of Education is the lender

Direct PLUS Loan for Grad or Professional Students

For grad or professional students enrolled at least half time

Loan amount is maximum cost of attendance, less any other financial aid

Student is responsible for interest

Dept. of Education is the lender

Private/Alternative Loan

More expensive than Federal student loans

Eligibility, interest rate and fees based on credit scores

More information on private/alternative loans at www.finaid.org/loans/

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Cal-SOAP, the California Student Opportunity and Access Program was established by the state Legislature in 1978. Today, Cal-SOAP is instrumental in improving the flow of information about postsecondary education and financial aid while raising the achievement levels of low-income, elementary and secondary school students or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or college participation rates, and who are first in their families to attend college.

How does the funding work?

- 1:1 matching annual contribution requirement nearly doubles the grant funding from \$7.2M to at least \$14.4M each year (\$21.9M in 2016-17)
- 30% student stipend requirement equates to roughly \$2.2M going directly to 500+ low-income college student advisors and tutors (\$2.8M in 2016-17)
- 8% indirect cost limit requirement minimizes administrative costs to less than \$576K (\$317K in 2016-17)

Who does Cal-SOAP partner with?

Cal-SOAP projects in 15 regions spanning 25 counties partners with all education segments including:

- 424 High school and middle schools
- 126 Public school districts
- 9 UC campuses
- 18 CSU's
- 42 Community colleges
- 16 Independent colleges and universities
- 53 Community based organizations

How many Californians receive Cal-SOAP combined financial aid services?

Each year tens of thousands of students and families are provided financial aid advising and support:

- 36,000 Students through classroom workshops
- 24,000 Students through individual or small-group advising
- 11,000 Parents through financial aid workshops
- 9,000 Students through "After the FAFSA" support
- 18,000 Students and families through Cash for College workshops
- 900 Counselors and school staff through professional development workshops

How effective are we?

- 83% college going rate of high school Cal-SOAP participant's vs 47% statewide rate
- In 2013, College Access Foundation of California research on Cal-SOAP students revealed the following:
 - 94% received a Pell Grant
 - 76% received a Cal Grant
 - 97% received a BOG Waiver

The data indicate **Cal-SOAP** effectively provides vital academic support and college, career, and financial aid information and assistance to students from low-income families and those historically underrepresented in California universities.

Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO)

Contacts

Alameda, and Contra Costa

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Kern

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Jasmin Padilla - Assistant Director
Email: jpadilla@y2lef.org
Jessica Trejo—Program Coordinator
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Phone: (661) 374-8817

San Diego and Imperial

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Email: ldoughty@ucsd.edu
Phone: 858-569-1866

Los Angeles

Paola Santana - Regional Lead
Email: psantana@lachamber.com
Kristina Romero - Program Coordinator
Email: kromero@lachamber.com
Phone: 213-580-7586

All Other counties

Michael “Billy” Wagner -
Cash for College Senior Analyst
Email: Michael.wagner@csac.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 464-8022

Sacramento and Yolo

Monica Roberts - Director
Email: mroberts@scoe.net
Mayra Tijero - Program Coordinator
Email: mtijero@scoe.net
Phone: 916-228-2656

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741
cashforcollege@csac.ca.gov
(916) 464-8022

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Fast Facts about Selective Service

Virtually all men living in the U.S. are required by law to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

If a young man fails to register before he turns 26, he can permanently lose access to:

- All federally funded job training programs, along with many state and locally funded programs.
 - All federal government jobs, along with many state, county and municipal jobs, and an increasing number of private employers.
 - All federal and many state college loans and grants.
 - The ability to renew his driver's license in most states.
-

Failure to register can also significantly delay the citizenship process for immigrant men wishing to become citizens.

Registration is NOT signing up for the military. Selective Service is an independent, civilian-run government agency.

The easiest way to register is online at www.sss.gov, or by printing out the form available at the website and mailing it in. Forms are also available at most U.S. Post Offices.

What's Different for Young Incarcerated Men

- Incarcerated men are not required to register while they are incarcerated, HOWEVER:
 - A man IS REQUIRED to register within 30 days of his release if he is 18 or older and has not yet turned 26.
 - A man who spent 30 consecutive days not incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 26 IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER.
-

A man who is currently in prison CAN AND SHOULD register before his 26th birthday if he entered prison after age 18, even if he will be incarcerated beyond age 26.

Men who ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER because they were continuously incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 26 should request a STATUS INFORMATION LETTER from Selective Service showing they were not required to register. Having this letter upon re-entry should facilitate the process of receiving job training, employment, or student loans tied to Selective Service registration.

There are NO PENALTIES for registering UP UNTIL AGE 26, even if:

- A man was incarcerated after age 18 and he failed to register when he was required to do so.
 - A man fails to register within 30 days of his release.
 - A man entered prison after age 18 and will not be released until after age 26.
-

Our research and anecdotal evidence indicates that most incarcerated men who fail to register either didn't know they were required to, thought that because they had a prison record they did not have to, or that because they didn't register on time, they might make more trouble for themselves if they register late.

- You can make a huge difference in a young man's life by helping spread the word:
 - Educate young men when they are incarcerated.
 - Work to make registration part of the release process in your state or community.
 - Make sure Selective Service registration is part of the intake process for any social service, advocacy, or support organization young men may turn to when they are released.
 - Be an outreach champion. Include the registration message in any outreach you do to formerly incarcerated men and the groups that support them.
-

Learn more and register at www.sss.gov

Selective Service - Who Must Register

NOTE: With only a few exceptions, the registration requirement applies to all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants residing in the United States who are 18 through 25 years of age.

Category	YES	NO
All male U.S. citizens born after Dec. 31, 1959, who are 18 but not yet 26 years old, except as noted below:	X	
Military Related		
Members of the Armed Forces on active duty (active duty for training does not constitute "active duty" for registration purposes)		X*
Cadets and Midshipmen at Service Academies or Coast Guard Academy		X*
Cadets at the Merchant Marine Academy	X	
Students in Officer Procurement Programs at the Citadel, North Georgia College and State University, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, Texas A&M University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		X*
ROTC Students	X	
National Guardsmen and Reservists not on active duty / Civil Air Patrol members	X	
Delayed Entry Program enlistees	X	
Separatees from Active Military Service, separated for any reason before age 26	X*	
Men rejected for enlistment for any reason before age 26	X	
Immigrants**		
Lawful non-immigrants on current non-immigrant visas. A complete list of acceptable documentation for exemption may be found at https://www.sss.gov/Portals/0/PDFs/DocumentationList.pdf .		X
Permanent resident immigrants (USCIS Form I-551)	X	
Seasonal agricultural workers (H-2A Visa)		X
Refugee, parolee, and asylee immigrants	X	
Undocumented immigrants	X	
Dual national U.S. citizens	X	
Confined		
Incarcerated, or hospitalized, or institutionalized for medical reasons		X*
Handicapped physically or mentally		
Able to function in public with or without assistance	X	
Continually confined to a residence, hospital, or institution		X
Transgender People		
U.S. citizens or immigrants who are born male and have changed their gender to female	X	
Individuals who are born female and have changed their gender to male		X

*Must register within 30 days of release unless already age 26.

NOTE: To be fully exempt you must have been on active duty or confined continuously from age 18 to 26.

**Residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands are U.S. citizens. Citizens of American Samoa are nationals and must register when they are habitual residents in the United States or reside in the U.S. for at least one year. Habitual residence is presumed and registration is required whenever a national or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau, resides in the U.S. for more than one year in any status, except when the individual resides in the U.S. as an employee of the government of his homeland; or as a student who entered the U.S. for the purpose of full-time studies, as long as such person maintains that status.

NOTE: Immigrants who did not enter the United States or maintained their lawful non-immigrant status by continually remaining on a valid visa until after they were 26 years old, were never required to register. Also, immigrants born before 1960, who did not enter the United States or maintained their lawful non-immigrant status by continually remaining on a valid visa until after March 29, 1975, were never required to register.

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YOU CAN AFFORD UC!

Did you know UC's **BLUE+GOLD** opportunity plan can cover your systemwide tuition and fees?

Find out if you qualify.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- For eligible California students whose annual family income is under \$80,000, UC's systemwide tuition and fees will be fully covered during your first four years at UC (or two years if you are a transfer student) up to your financial need.
- Blue + Gold students with sufficient financial need can qualify for EVEN MORE aid to help reduce the cost of attending UC.

HOW DO I APPLY?

There's no special paperwork. Just apply for financial aid on time:

1. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application
 2. Check with your school to make sure your Cal Grant GPA verification was submitted.
- ...all by March 2 (of the year you plan to attend UC).

QUESTIONS?

Visit <http://ucal.us/payingforuc>

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OF
CALIFORNIA

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Web Resources: Other Information

1. **Award Letter Comparison Tool and Glossary**
https://www.nasfaa.org/award_letter_comparison_worksheet
2. **Selective Service System**
<https://www.sss.gov/>
3. **Tax Benefits for Education: Information Center**
<https://www.irs.gov/uac/tax-benefits-for-education-information-center>
4. **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE**
<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>