



Jason's Story

Jason was accepted at State College and Private U, but he needed help paying for college. Jason completed a financial aid application for both schools, and he and his parents submitted a FAFSA.

When Jason received his Student Aid Report, he saw that his Expected Family Contribution (EFC) was \$8,000. Jason and his family knew that this was the amount they would be expected to pay for Jason's college the following year.

By subtracting his EFC from the cost of each college, Jason was able to determine his financial need at both Private U and State College.

	Private U	State College
Cost of the college	\$38,000	\$20,000
Minus EFC amount	<u>\$8,000</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>
Financial Need	\$30,000	\$12,000

In March, Jason received award letters from both colleges. These letters explained the financial aid package each college was offering him.

	Private U Package	State College Package
Scholarship	\$5,000	-0-
Grant	\$7,000	\$7,000
Loan	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$30,000	\$12,000

Not wanting to borrow \$18,000 for his first year of college, Jason decided to go to State College.

Financial aid can be confusing, but high school counselors and college financial aid administrators can help you figure it out. There is also great information online at studentaid.ed.gov and finaid.org.

College is an investment in your future!



WOODBURN PRESS

Plan & Prepare for College InfoGuide

Paying for College
woodburnpress.com
 Copyrighted Material

615-19

Paying for COLLEGE



How to Get Financial Aid

1. Complete college applications

In the fall of your senior year, complete applications for admission and financial aid.

2. Complete a FAFSA – *this is very important*

For information and instructions on how to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), go to fafsa.ed.gov.

3. Complete the PROFILE, if necessary

Some colleges (generally smaller, private colleges) require the completion of this application also.

4. Apply for scholarships

Search for scholarships online at fastweb.com and scholarships.com. Also ask your counselor for information on local scholarships.

Ways to Cut College Costs

1. Live at home and commute

Living in a dorm on campus can add a significant amount of money to the cost of a college education. Students who want to save money can live at home and commute to a local college.

2. Start at a community college

Students who want to earn a bachelor's degree can save money by starting at a community college and transferring to a four-year college after a year or two.

Plan & Prepare for College



Paying for COLLEGE

With college costs continuing to rise, most families are concerned about how to pay for college—and everyone is looking for ways to make college more affordable.

Attending college can be expensive. The average cost of attendance (tuition, fees, books, room and board) at an in-state four-year public college is approximately \$22,000. But don't let that figure scare you.

There is a great deal of financial aid available, and there are a number of ways to cut college costs.

Never let financial concerns stop you from furthering your education! There are lots of ways to make college affordable.

How to Pay for College

Use savings

Students and their parents are expected to use their income and savings to pay for as much as they can. For information on ways that families can stretch their college dollars, go to collegesavings.org.

Take out a loan

Students who need additional money to pay for college often take out a loan. The government has some excellent low-interest loan programs for college students and their parents.

College students can get a Direct Loan. Repayment doesn't begin until after a student graduates or leaves college. Parents of college students can also get a PLUS Loan. For information on these loans, go to finaid.org.

Work to earn money

Many college students get a part-time job on campus or in the surrounding community to help pay for their education. Students who qualify for financial aid may be offered a job through a work-study program as part of their financial aid package.



Apply for financial aid

Financial aid is money that is given, earned, or lent to help students pay for college. There is a great deal of financial aid available for students who qualify. Most of this aid comes from the federal government.

Types of Financial Aid

- ▶ **Grants** – money given, usually because of financial need
- ▶ **Scholarships** – money awarded for academic achievement or an outstanding talent or skill
- ▶ **Work-Study** – money earned at a part-time job
- ▶ **Loans** – borrowed money that must be repaid

Financial aid is most often awarded in the form of a “package.” Packages, which consist of grants, scholarships, work-study, and/or loans, are put together by the college's financial aid office.

Financial aid is usually awarded on the basis of **financial need**. (Scholarships are the exception.) Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending a college (tuition, fees, books, room and board) and the amount a family can afford.

For example, if a family can afford \$7,000 and the cost of attending a college is \$22,000, the student has a financial need of \$15,000.

To apply for financial aid, families must complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).