

Paying for college 101

Understanding the cost of a college education and allowing adequate time to save are key to reaching your goals.

Get ready to do a little homework

☐ Explore the costs

Calculators can help you estimate the cost of college and the amount to save to get closer to your goal when the time comes. Visit ameriprise.com/research-market-insights/financial-calculators/college-savings-calculator.

☐ Apply for scholarships

Don't overlook scholarship opportunities.

Check out scholarships.com¹ and fastweb.com¹ for searchable scholarship listings. Keep in mind that depending on the school and the scholarship, outside awards may count against your financial aid.

☐ Apply for financial aid

Visit fafsa.ed.gov to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Apply for aid no matter what your financial situation. Aid is often based on merit, not just financial need. Keep in mind that financial aid formulas generally favor parents' assets over a child's. (Parental assets are currently assessed at a maximum of 5.6%. Student's assets are assessed at a maximum of 20%.)²

☐ Start saving now

A long-term approach to saving allows you to contribute at a sustainable level over a period of time.

Common education savings vehicles are 529 plans, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and Uniform Transfers to Minors (UTMA) custodial accounts. A financial professional can help you assess your situation and goals to help you select the education saving vehicle that's right for you.



For help creating a plan that best suits your needs, contact:

¹ Suggested websites are for informational purposes only. Ameriprise does not endorse and is not affiliated with these resources.

² https://www.savingforcollege.com/financial_aid_basics/financial_aid_and_your_savings.php