

What's Next?

College: You Can Do It!

Being a college or university student is hard, but it's also fun and exciting. It's a time in life where you can concentrate fully on learning what you enjoy and on what will help you find a well-paid and meaningful career.

Quite a few myths are out there, however, about getting into college and paying for it. So before you let the myths discourage you, check out the articles in this section on the real story about getting in and paying for an education.

Just so you know, we've also included a table to show how college education, jobs, and salaries are related.

- ◆ **Paying for College—You Can Do It!**
- ◆ **Myths About Getting in and Getting Through College**
- ◆ **Jobs, Money, and Education**

Paying for College: You Can Do It!

(see www.stanford.edu/dept/CTL/Tomprof/postings/639.html; and www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/pay/8.html)

Public and private colleges offer degrees in all areas of professional life. Degrees vary in time and cost, ranging from a two-year associate's degree for many skilled labor professions (e.g., nurse, mechanic) to a four-year bachelor's degree and beyond (master's and doctoral degrees).

Here are some myths (and some truths!) about affording college:

MYTH #1: You Can't Afford College

You may not have heard this, but you have to spend money to make money. Average college graduates earn about twice as much money per year during their lifetime as average high school graduates. Put another way, college graduates earn an average of \$1 million more over their careers than high school graduates. You can't afford NOT to go to college.

MYTH #2: There's Less Financial Aid Than Before

Wrong. Student financial aid in 2002-2003 rose to a record level of more than \$105 billion. Most students receive some form of aid. Less of this aid now comes in the form of grants, however. Most aid is awarded through low-interest loans, institutional and other grants, or work-study programs.

MYTH #3: I'm Not a "Straight-A" Student, So I Won't Get Financial Aid

It's true that many scholarships reward merit, but the vast majority of federal aid is based on financial need and does not even consider grades.

MYTH #4: Private Schools Are Out of Reach for My Family

The most important thing is finding a school that meets your academic, career, and personal needs. In fact, you might have a better chance of receiving aid from a private school than from a public one. Private colleges often offer more financial aid to attract students from every income level. Higher college expenses also mean a better chance of demonstrating financial need.

MYTH #5: My Parents Will Have to Sell Their Home to Pay for College

Home value is not considered in calculations of need for federal financial aid. Colleges may take home equity into account when determining how much you are expected to contribute to college costs, but income is a far greater factor in this determination. No college will expect your parents to sell their house to pay for your education.

Note: Costs Vary

- Tuition for a two-year associate's degree at a community college averages about \$2,000.
- Costs of tuition and room and board at a four-year college adds a lot to the cost—about \$2,500-\$3,000 per semester.

Worried About the Cost?

It Pays to Study the Financial Aid System

Take some time to figure out how financial aid works. It may seem tough or boring, but the more help you can find, the better you'll enjoy and focus on your studies.

"Financial aid" comes in many forms—you can get loans (high- and low-interest), grants, stipends, and scholarships. Loans must be paid back, but the others are free money. When you apply for financial aid, make sure to check on "strings attached," such as the case with the military's claims about financial aid.

Qualified students whose families do not earn a lot of money should not shy away from applying to private colleges that appear to be too pricey. These schools often have "need-based" aid, and if they are interested in you (combination of good grades, involvement in interesting activities, minority status, where you live, etc.), they often will provide large grants-in-aid to reduce your tuition costs.

Also, remember that unemployment of a parent, single-parenthood, and major non-discretionary expenses such as medical bills makes your application move more readily into a "need-based" category. If you have such situations, it may be that you are eligible for more funding than you think.

NC Resource for Financial Aid Information

Look at information on federal and state sources of aid at www.cfnc.org. Or contact a college financing specialist at **866-866-CFNC**.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Government Money

A number of government loan programs can help you. The **Pell Grant**, the **Perkins**

Note: Read the Fine Print!

Military assistance for college is not free, not automatic, and not guaranteed on the enrollment contract. You have to pay \$1,200 for the first year out of your salary. And if you leave college early, decide to continue later, or if you get less than an honorable discharge, the military has no obligation to pay. Read the fine print. Note: This is not the same GI Bill of World War II!

Cost of College in North Carolina '05

NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY **ONE SEMESTER (Tuition, Fees & Room)**

UNC-CHAPEL HILL	\$7,150
NC STATE UNIVERSITY	\$6,860
UNC-WILMINGTON	\$4,663
UNC-ASHEVILLE	\$4,217
UNC-PEMBROKE	\$4,065
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY	\$4,045
NC CENTRAL UNIVERSITY	\$4,076
DAVIDSON COLLEGE	\$18,410
DUKE UNIVERSITY	\$22,120

TUITION ONLY

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES	\$500
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Loan, and the **Stafford Loan** are sources of low-interest loan money.

To get these loans from the government, you, or you with your parent(s) or guardian(s) must complete a **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is used to determine the amount of your **Expected Family Contribution** (EFC) and your eligibility for federal and state financial aid (e.g., your age and if you registered for the Selective Service).

Ways to File Your FREE FAFSA Application

The FAFSA form is long and confusing so *don't*

hesitate to ask for help from your guidance counselor or the financial aid office of *any* college you are applying to, or visit www.ed.gov/thinkcollege.

You can get a paper FAFSA application from any school. You can also fill it out on-line (free at fafsa.ed.gov). The on-line FAFSA requires moving between about 50 screens, and getting an electronic PIN number for both yourself and at least one parent or guardian. This takes time so plan ahead.

Other Sources of Aid

- Your school counselor or public library has good information on **local sources of financial aid**. For example, churches, civic groups, parents' employers, Veteran's Administration, and vocational rehabilitation services all offer financial aid.
- For a listing of loan sources provided by churches, colleges and universities, see www.feat.centeronconscience.org, the Fund for Education and Training (FEAT) or contact Center on Conscience and War by phone: 202-483-1242
- Check out *College Financial Aid for Dummies*, by Herm Davis and Joyce Lain Kennedy (IDG Books Worldwide, 1999).

Special Sources of Aid for Non-Registrants

If you did not register with Selective Service when you turned 18, or are considering not registering, federal law does not allow you to enroll in federally funded job training programs, or to receive federal financial aid for college.

To help those who for reasons of conscience do not comply with Selective Service laws, the **Center on Conscience and War** (CCW) also provides loans from the **Fund for Education and Training** (FEAT) (www.nisbco.org/FEAT.htm). Priority is given to those with no other source of aid. Contact the Center on Conscience and War by phone: **202-483-1242**. **Earlham College** also assists non-registrants (www.earlham.edu. Phone: **1-800-EARLHAM**).

The Education Resources Institute

The Education Resources Institute (TERI at www.teri.org) sponsors a **TERI Supplemental Loan Program** that is open to non-registrants, but has a broader goal of helping families plan and pay for college. Through its free college information services, it helps students and families with career decisions, selecting colleges, navigating the financial aid process, and finding resources. (A co-borrower is required.)

TERI also realizes that many people need help filling the financial aid gap. To help meet this need, TERI offers loans based on good credit, with no income limitations, for elementary and secondary, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education studies. Founded in 1985 as a nonprofit organization, TERI has assisted over one million students at over 6,800 colleges and universities worldwide.

Loan Requirements:

- Either the student or the co-borrower must be a permanent US resident and must have lived in the United States for at least two years.
- No educational achievement is required.
- The co-borrower must have had a positive income for at least two years.
- Loans cover a maximum period of one calendar year.
- Applications have no deadlines, but once an application is provided, the applicant has 90 days to complete the process.

Contact Information:

The Education Resources Institute, 330 Stuart Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02116. Phone: **1-800-255-TERI** (8374) and a representative will respond to your message within 24 hours. Email: custserv@teri.org Website: www.teri.org/

For questions about your loan application or TERI loan programs, representatives can serve you M-Th 8 AM to 8 PM EST and Fri 8 AM to 5:30 PM EST. An automated telephone system is available 24/7 for loan status updates. Call 1-800-255-TERI (8374) press 2, then press 1 and follow the prompts.

Myths About Getting in and Getting Through College

MYTH #1: Working While I'm in School Will Hurt My Academic Success

If you try to juggle full-time work and full-time studies—that's really hard. But research shows that students who work a moderate amount often do better academically than those who don't work at all. Look for an on-campus job related to what you think you might like to do.

MYTH #2: Living at Home Will Cut Costs

It's good to think about how to cut your costs, but living at home may also cut opportunities. You'll still have to pay for transportation, parking, and food—and in some cases you may still pay rent. Living on campus may create more opportunities for work and other benefits.

MYTH #3: An Education From a Community College Is Not as Good as One From a University

Maybe that was true in the past, but it's not necessarily true any longer. Community colleges are becoming popular choices among students because they have flexible schedules, are often more affordable, and offer more practical training courses.

MYTH #4: College Is Only for Unusually Bright People

Most college graduates are perfectly ordinary people in terms of memory, attention span, arithmetical understanding, comprehension of concepts, and other abilities. How they differ from most people is in their willingness to stretch their minds and exercise their mental abilities.

MYTH #5: College Is Only for Unusually Creative People

College students needn't be more creative than others. But they do have to apply their creative abilities to learn new things, new ways of doing things, new ways of seeing things, etc.

MYTH #6: You Need to Have a Lot of Free Time to Go to College

Community colleges often have evening classes and programs specifically designed for part-time students. When attending college part-time, it is best to take only two or three courses at a time. If you're arranging your classes around work or family responsibilities, you also need to arrange regular times and places to study.

MYTH #7: It Takes a Long Time to Complete a College Program

If you go part-time, it can take you longer to earn a degree. However, many schools allow students to earn credit at the beginning by taking examinations such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP); others offer certificate programs in trades and vocations that can be completed in less than two full-time years.

MYTH #8: You Have to Pass an Entrance Examination to Get into Community Colleges

High scores on standardized examinations such as the SAT or ACT are required for admission to some state universities and selective private colleges but not for community colleges. Many other colleges and universities do not require entrance examinations. Most community colleges welcome all applicants. If you do your first two years of college work toward a bachelor's degree at a community college, your work can transfer to a four-year college or university without entrance examinations.

MYTH #9: You Need to Know What You Want Before Enrolling

You don't necessarily have to know what major you want to pursue before you begin taking college courses. You can use the first two years of college as a way of discovering what you want your major to be—for example, by declaring a general major such as "Liberal Arts." In most cases, it is not necessary to take more than two or three courses in your major in your first two years.

Jobs Money and Education

Source of publication: <http://eslmi15.esc.state.nc.us/soicc/education3.asp?txtName=>

JOBS	YEARLY SALARY	EDUCATION REQUIRED
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ENGINEERING

K = \$1,000

Electrical, Chemical	\$66-68k	College
Civil Engineer	\$58k	College
Architect	\$52k	College
Industrial, Mechanical	\$47-48k	College
Robotics Engineer	\$46k	College
Designer/Drafter, Engineering Tech	\$32k	College
Surveyor	\$30k	College

SCIENCE, MATH, COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Physicist, Astronomer, Mathematician	\$67-83k	College+
Chemist, Agricultural Scientist	\$59-65k	College+
Computer Programmer, Analyst	\$58-62k	College
Biologist	\$51k	College+
Geologist	\$42k	College+
Geological Technician	\$36k	College
Laboratory Technician	\$26k	College

MANAGERS & ADMINISTRATION

Medical Administrator	\$169k	College+
Financial, Communications Manager	\$72-73k	College+
Sales Manager	\$68k	College
Education Administrator	\$68k	College+
Production Manager	\$65k	Technical
Purchasing Manager	\$61k	College
Service, Transportation Manager	\$54-58k	Technical
Accountant, Auditor	\$47k	College
Government Inspector	\$27k	College

CONSTRUCTION

Power Line Worker	\$43k	Technical
Bricklayer	\$39k	Technical

JOBS

YEARLY SALARY

EDUCATION REQUIRED

CONSTRUCTION

K = \$1,000

Ironworker, Plumber/Pipe Fitter, Electrician	\$33-36k	Technical
Plaster/Drywall Hanger	\$31	High School
Paver	\$30	Technical
Carpenter	\$28	Technical
Painter/Paperhanger, Roofer	\$26-27k	High School

MECHANICS & REPAIRERS

Aircraft Mechanic	\$45k	Technical
Auto Body Repair	\$39k	Technical
Millwright, Railroad Mechanic	\$36-37k	Technical
Equipment Repair, Watch/Clock Repair	\$34-35	Technical
Vehicle and Heavy Duty Mechanic	\$33	Technical
Appliance, Office Machine Repair	\$31k	Technical
Instrument Repair	\$25,450	Technical

PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

Aircraft, Instrument Manufacturing	\$41-44k	High School
Cabinet/Furniture Maker	\$23k	High School
Tailor, Upholsterer	\$21-22k	High School

PROCESSING

Furnace Operator	\$27k	High School
Meat cutter, Tree Cutter Operator	\$24-25k	High School
Textile Worker, Baker, Knitter	\$20-22k	High School
Fish Processor	\$16k	High School

MACHINING

Boilermaker, Engraver	\$39k	Technical
Toolmaker, Machinist	\$32-33k	Technical
Welder, Woodworker, Sheet Metal Worker	\$30k	Technical
Cutter, Machine Tool Operator	\$30k	Technical

AGRICULTURE, FISHING & HUNTING

Crop Farm Worker	\$42k	High School
Conservation Officer	\$28k	College
Farm Machinery Operator	\$29k	No HS degree
Animal Farmer, Breeder	\$18-20k	High School
Farm, Nursery Worker	\$16	No HS degree

JOBS

YEARLY SALARY

EDUCATION REQUIRED

SOCIAL SCIENCE & LAW

K = \$1,000

Economist, Lawyer	\$76-85k	College+
Geographer/Historian, Psychologist	\$61-69k	College+
Community Planner	\$52k	College+
Social Worker	\$36k	College+
Legal Assistant	\$36k	Technical

SERVICE

Flight Attendant	\$62k	High School
Firefighter, Police Officer	\$34-38k	Technical
Investigator	\$33k	College
Chef	\$31k	Technical
Hair Stylist	\$26k	Technical
Guards/Security Officer	\$19k	High School
Cook	\$19k	No HS degree
Janitors/Cleaner, Dry Cleaner Worker	\$16k	No HS degree
Waiter/Waitress, Child Care Worker	\$15-16k	No HS degree

TEACHING, COUNSELING & RELIGION

University Teacher	\$62k	College+
School Counselor	\$40k	College
Community College Teacher	\$37k	College+
HS, VocEd Teacher	\$36-38k	College

MEDICINE & HEALTH

Doctor, Dentist	\$120k	College+
Pharmacist, Veterinarian	\$70-71k	College+
Optometrist	\$63k	College+
Dental Hygienist	\$59k	Technical
Physical Therapist	\$54k	College+
Nutritionist, Nurse RN	\$42-43k	College
Lab, X-Ray Technician	\$33-35k	Technical
Nurses Assistant-LPN	\$34k	College
Paramedic, Optician	\$24-28k	Technical
Home Health Aide, Nurse's Aide	\$16-18k	Technical

