

Responsible Borrowing 101 - Tools and Strategies to Support Your Students

Resources & Tools: Before Applying or Selecting a School

Net Price Calculator – on each school’s website

Big Future – College Board - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- Individuals can filter by “affordability” or Percent of Financial Need Met (Cost of Attendance – EFC = Financial Need). On average, what percent of that need do schools meet with their financial aid funds.
- The affordability filter can be found after one of the four filters is used on the home page.

US Dept of Ed – College Scorecard - <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

- Variety of data including median annual earnings of individuals that received federal student aid and began college at this institution 10 years ago, regardless of their completion status.

US Dept of Ed – College Navigator - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

- Allows students to build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- Search results can be exported into a spreadsheet.

FAME’s The Path to Affording Higher Education - <https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Affordability-Handout-conversation-starters.pdf>

- Includes the piecemeal approach, the five-step path to affordability, and conversation starters

FAME’s Comparing Costs & Financial Aid Offers - <https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Comparing-Awards-online.pdf>

- Front – Comparing Costs and Financial Aid Offers – get an apples-to-apples comparison
- Back – Calculating Resources to Pay the Balance

Resources & Tools: During the Financing Process

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

VSAC – Paying for College – [VSAC.org/PAY](https://vsac.org/PAY)

VSAC’s FAME’s Scholarship Search Tool & Resources – [VSAC.org/scholarships](https://vsac.org/scholarships)

CareerOneStop.org – Salary Finder - <https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Wages/find-salary.aspx>

- Salaries can be researched at the national, state, or even city level

FAME’s Student Loan/Salary Calculator - <https://www.famemaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/calculators/student-loan-salary-calculator/>

- This tool will provide feedback as to how much income is needed to support varying levels of debt. Or the salary can be entered and the amount of debt that can be repaid “comfortably” will be displayed.

Resources & Tools: While in College

iGrad – iGrad.com

- Ttools, videos, infographics, and more

Budgeting Apps

- You Need a Budget (YNAB), Mint, and NerdWallet for just a few options

Next Gen Personal Finance – Arcade - <https://www.ngpf.org/arcade/>

FAME’s Financial Wellness Resources - <https://www.famemaine.com/financial-wellness/>