The Co$t of College
A common myth about college is that it’s too expensive. The biggest part of college costs is usually tuition. Tuition is the price you pay for classes. Other costs include fees, books, room and board (meals), living expenses, and transportation.

Financial aid is money to help pay for college. It comes from the federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and organizations. Most students receive some kind of financial aid to help pay for the cost of their education, including:

- **Scholarships** are money for college given by businesses, individuals, organizations, or universities to students with good grades, athletic ability, community service or other qualities.
- **Grants** are called gift aid because grants do not have to be paid back if students successfully complete the courses in which they were enrolled. They are usually based on your family’s financial need (or what your family can afford to pay).
- **Loans** are borrowed money from a bank, government or lending company. It must be paid back with an extra charge called interest. The federal government offers low-interest loans to students with financial need.
- **Work-study jobs** pay your child for part-time work, often on campus.

With financial aid, many students are able to earn their degrees. In fact, most full-time college students receive some type of financial aid. **Most students only pay about 60 percent of the advertised price** of a four-year college, once grants are included (and don’t forget about scholarships!).

**Did You Know?**

The states with the most job openings for college graduates include Massachusetts, Delaware, and Washington.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** Only students with good grades get financial aid.

**REALITY:** While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school, and may help with scholarships, most federal student aid programs do not take a student’s grades into consideration.

As long as students maintain satisfactory academic progress in their college program of study, federal student aid will help them complete their education.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- Click here to enter text.

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**Student Checklist**

- **Get the facts about paying for college.** Learn the basics about financial aid so you and your family can get the most money for college.
- **Name the five ways college pays.** College has many benefits beyond bigger paychecks.

**Family Checklist**

- **You and your student can start preparing NOW to pay for college.** Start a college savings account. Take advantage of a 529 savings plans by visiting the [https://www.dreamahead.wa.gov/](https://www.dreamahead.wa.gov/)

Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.