

College Payment Options Checklist

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General information	Yes	No	N/A
1. Has relevant personal information been gathered? • Child's name and date of birth • Type of college child will be attending (e.g., public, private, two-year, or four-year) • Parent's name(s) and date(s) of birth • Names and dates of birth of other children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Has financial situation been assessed? • Parents' income, expenses, assets, liabilities, tax rate, and filing status • Child's income tax rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:			
Drawing on existing assets	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are there assets available from which to draw on for college costs? • Section 529 college saving plans • Section 529 prepaid tuition plans • Coverdell education savings account • UGMA/UTMA custodial account • Series EE bonds • Mutual funds, stocks, bonds • Certificates of deposit • Money market or savings accounts • Cash value life insurance • IRAs (traditional or Roth) • Assets of child • Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are there grandparents who wish to use some of their assets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has it been discussed that grandparents can pay tuition costs directly to the college without triggering gift tax?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:			
Using current income	Yes	No	N/A
1. Has a monthly budget been prepared to examine overall cash flow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is it possible and desirable for parent to return to the workforce?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Is it possible and desirable for parent to obtain higher-paying job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. What impact does using current income to pay college costs have on saving for other goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:			
Borrowing	Yes	No	N/A
1. Has credit history been reviewed and a credit report ordered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have the following types of loans been examined? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsecured personal loan • Home equity loan • Secured loan using collateral other than home • Loan using employer-sponsored retirement plan • Margin loan using brokerage account • Loan using cash value life insurance policy • Federal PLUS loan program 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:			
Using financial aid	Yes	No	N/A
1. Has basic financial aid information been discussed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans, grants, scholarships, work-study • Need-based aid versus merit aid • Main sources of financial aid • Federal methodology versus institutional methodology • EFC (expected family contribution) and financial need • Names and descriptions of major federal loan programs 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Has the financial aid impact of various saving options been explored?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Can assets/income be positioned to enhance financial aid eligibility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has a dry run through the federal aid application been done to estimate EFC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has the financial aid application process been reviewed and all paperwork for the application assembled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Has a full scholarship search (need-based and merit) been done?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is financial aid needed for graduate school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

Understanding federal education tax credits and deductions

Yes No N/A

1. Have the American Opportunity credit (Hope credit) and Lifetime Learning credit been evaluated?

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2. Has the deduction for qualified higher education expenses been discussed?

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3. Has the interplay between these tax credits/deductions and Coverdell education savings accounts and 529 plans been evaluated?

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Notes:

Exploring other ways to lower college costs

Yes No N/A

1. Have other ideas to lower future college costs been considered?

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- Attend public over private college or two-year over four-year

- Attend community college for two years, then transfer

- Student lives at home while attending college

- AP courses in high school for college credit

- Three-year accelerated college degree program

- Joint undergraduate/graduate degree program

- Canadian schools

- Cooperative education

- Parents purchase housing for student

- Military programs

Notes:

Balancing need for college savings with other goals

Yes No N/A

1. Are there any other children for whom college saving is a priority?

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2. Will there be more than one child in college at a time?

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3. Has a retirement savings program been implemented?

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4. Have expected retirement income needs been calculated?

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5. Have other short-term and long-term financial goals been examined?

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Notes:

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