

***Make a Plan, Stan...***  
***to know what college will cost and how you'll pay  
for it.***

Welcome! Join Tara Piantanida from the Financial Aid Office and Cindy Childs in defining college costs, looking at student loans, and paying them back.

This Loan Payment Calculator computes an estimate of the size of your monthly loan payments:

<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml>

This Student Loan Advisor provides you with an estimate of the amount of educational debt you can reasonably afford, given the expected starting salary for your major:

<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/undergradadvisor.phtml>

Find out how far your new salary will go in your new city:

<http://www.bestplaces.net/city/>

While you're there, you can also check any of the hypertext words on the left-hand side of that screen (listed here for your reference): people, economy, housing, health, crime, climate, education, transportation, cost of living, religion, and voting.

To figure out starting salaries separate from the Student Loan Advisor, Lisa Harsh suggests visiting:

<http://online.onetcenter.org/find/>

**Student Loans**

**Pro's**

**Con's**

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**People and Loans**

**You can't make me borrow money to go to college**

**I will borrow money for college until you make me stop**

**Pro's**

**Pro's**

**Con's**

**Con's**

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What's reasonable for you?

My career goal is \_\_\_\_\_.

In my first job (an entry-level position) in this career, I hope to make \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I should plan to have no more than \_\_\_% student loan debt to repay each month, or \$\_\_\_\_\_.

That means the total of all my student loans should not be more than \$\_\_\_\_\_.

What sort of budget should I count on?

**Income**

Take home Salary \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Total income:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenses**

Housing \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

    Renter's \_\_\_\_\_

    Health \_\_\_\_\_

Food \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

Entertainment \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

    Monthly payment \_\_\_\_\_

    Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

    Taxes \_\_\_\_\_

    Gas \_\_\_\_\_

    Upkeep \_\_\_\_\_

Child care \_\_\_\_\_

Pets \_\_\_\_\_

Savings \_\_\_\_\_

Loan repayment \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Total expenses:** \_\_\_\_\_

Can I cover all my expenses each month?

Can I put any money away into savings each month?

Will I need a second job right away?

Will I be able to afford to get married some day?

Will I be able to buy a house some day?

I'm considering living in one of these cities. Here's how they compare with my hometown:

City	_____	_____	_____
	Hometown	Preference #1	Preference #2
People	_____	_____	_____
People my age	_____	_____	_____
Economy	_____	_____	_____
Housing	_____	_____	_____
Health	_____	_____	_____
Crime	_____	_____	_____
Climate	_____	_____	_____
Education	_____	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____	_____
Cost of Living	_____	_____	_____
Religion	_____	_____	_____
Voting	_____	_____	_____
My 1 <sup>st</sup> choice:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was really important to you in making this choice?

How does your starting salary and the amount of student loan you'll need to repay figure into your decision?