

## HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE (WITHOUT GOING BROKE)

Whether you're a few months or a few years away from starting college, it's never too early to plan for one of life's biggest financial expenses. Here are a few tips to get you started:

### RESEARCH FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS ASAP

The sooner you understand your many options, the easier it is to create a financial plan of attack. Even if college is a few years away, learn as much as possible today about financial aid and savings plans.

**TIP:** Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to learn more.

### TAKE ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

AP courses help high school students prepare for AP exams. High AP exam scores can earn college course credit—saving you money on tuition at most four-year colleges.

**TIP:** Speak to your high school's AP teacher or coordinator.

### TAP THE POWER OF CREDIT TRANSFER

Consider earning general education credits at a two-year college or less expensive four-year college. Many times, these credits can transfer to an elite, private university—at a fraction of the cost.

**TIP:** Before registering, confirm with your advisor that the credits will transfer.

### SELECT YOUR MAJOR CAREFULLY

Your future career path and potential salary can have a huge impact on how much money you'll be able to pay back in student loans. Some degrees will be worth more (or less) money to potential employers in the future.

**TIP:** Discuss career options with your guidance counselor

# BEYOND TUITION

## A DIFFERENT LOOK AT COLLEGE EXPENSES

For most people, the first word that comes to mind when you mention college expenses is "tuition." Unfortunately, there are other potential expenses to think about. Check these out:

### GREEK LIFE.

Joining a fraternity or sorority isn't free. Dues can be as little as a few hundred dollars a year, but can go up to several thousands, depending on the chapter.



### LAB FEES.

Even if you don't plan to be a science major, you'll probably have to take a few science classes. Lab fees can run about \$50 a class.



### DORM SWEET DORM.

Decorating a dorm room can get expensive. A laptop, TV, refrigerator, Xbox, coffee maker and microwave can take college expenses over-the-top.



## 3rd Annual Tweet for College Scholarship

A scholarship essay contest in 140 characters or less.



## FEATURING \$2,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Follow these three simple steps

**STEP 1: SIGN UP FOR A TWITTER ACCOUNT.**  
If you already have a Twitter account, you're ready to go.

**STEP 2. TWEET YOUR ESSAY IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS.**

Be sure to include @ElementsofMoney in your tweet.

**STEP 3. FOLLOW US.**

Follow [twitter.com/ElementsofMoney](http://twitter.com/ElementsofMoney) to keep track of winners.

The Tweet for College scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors around the U.S. who belong to the Elements of Money program. There are four (4) \$250 scholarships—one given every two weeks beginning on January 16, 2012 and ending March 11, 2012—and one (1) \$1,000 first place scholarship to be awarded to an overall winner.

For essay topic and official rules, visit:  
[www.ElementsofMoney.com/ampcathfcu](http://www.ElementsofMoney.com/ampcathfcu)



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## THE COSTS (AND REWARDS) OF GOING TO COLLEGE

The average college debt for a 4-year degree in 2010 was  
**\$25,250<sup>1</sup>**



The expected lifetime earnings for a bachelor's degree is  
**\$2.3 MILLION<sup>2</sup>**

**23%**  
of college students use scholarships to help pay for college<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The Project on Student Debt, 2011. <sup>2</sup> The College Payoff Report, 2011. <sup>3</sup> How America Pays for College Report, 2010