[RETIRED] Semester Course

4.5 Financial Aid Packages

Lesson Guide

UNIT: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

This is a retired document and is no longer being maintained. Visit the new Semester Course for up to date content.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Understand what a financial aid package is and when they should expect to receive one from a college
- Read and compare different financial aid offers
- Explain the order in which they should accept different types of aid and why

Approximate Time

- Lesson length: 45 mins

Jump$tart Standards

Spending

- 2a: Select a product or service and describe the various factors that may influence a consumer's purchase decision
- 2b: Describe a process for making an informed consumer decision

Managing Credit

- 10a: Describe how failing to repay a loan can negatively impact a person's finances and life

Distribute to Students

- Student Activity Packet SC-4.5

Plan Your Unit

- Semester Course Paying for College Unit Plan
- Customizable Parent Newsletter: Paying for College

LESSON PLAN

	Resources	Questions	Est. Time
1	DISCUSSION PROMPTS	**Discussion Prompts** Discuss this question with your classmates or with a partner. You're considering a few different colleges you've been accepted into and trying to determine your net price for each school. What are some things you need to know to figure this out?	5 mins

2	INFOGRAPHIC • The Financial Aid Process • Publisher: StudentAid.gov ❖ **Teacher Tip:** In our NGPF resources created in-house, we've switched all language to financial aid "package" or "offer," rather than "award," as per this memo. Not all external resources have been updated, however, which creates slight vocab discrepancies as seen here.	**The Financial Aid Process** Congratulations! You have received an acceptance letter from a college! So what's next? We're now in the 4th stage of the financial aid roadmap. Read the 4th box labeled "Award" to learn more about the next stage of the financial aid process. Then, answer the question at right. 1. In your own words, describe what a financial aid offer is.	2 mins
3	REFERENCE • Financial Aid Flow • Publisher: NGPF	**Financial Aid Flow** Before we dive deeper into financial aid packages, let's take a step back and recap some of the important forms you use and when you use them in the financial aid process. Review this slide and answer the questions at right. 1. How are the FAFSA, SAR, and Financial Aid package connected? 2. What are some other names a Financial Aid Package may be called? 3. Your friend has been accepted into her #1 choice for college. She's so excited that she doesn't bother looking at her financial aid package and wants to confirm her spot right away. What do you tell her and why?	5 mins
4	VIDEO (1:50) • How to Read Your Financial Aid Award Letter • Publisher: Sallie Mae	**How to Read Your Financial Aid Award Letter** It's time to take a closer look at what a financial aid package includes and how to compare offers from different colleges. Watch this video to learn more about how to do so. Then, answer the questions. 1. Write a formula that will calculate what your net price of attending a school is. 2. What are some ways you can make it easier to compare different offers from schools? 3. Why might a student consider attending a school with a high sticker price?	5 mins
5	ACTIVITY • FINE PRINT: Financial Aid Package • Publisher: NGPF	**FINE PRINT: Financial Aid Package** Let's practice reading a few different financial aid offers from various schools. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete this activity.	12 mins

6	VIDEO (1:10) • How to Read a College Financial Aid Statement • Publisher: TIME	**How to Read a College Financial Aid Statement** In the previous resource, you saw how no two financial aid offer look alike! Therefore, it's extremely important to read through your offers in detail. Watch this video through from 1:07 to find out what *else* may be hiding in your offer that you should look out for. Then, answer the questions at right. 1. In the video, Kim points out two items that are included in the financial aid packages. What are these two items and why are they misleading? 2. What is the risk you take by NOT reading your financial aid offer in detail? How could skipping this step impact your life after college?	4 mins
7	ARTICLE • Accepting Aid • Publisher: StudentAid.gov	**Accepting Aid** You know by now the order in which you should accept different types of aid. Skim through this chart to review information about each type of aid. Then, read the rest of the article in more detail and answer the questions to the right. 1. You realize that the amount of aid you have been offered is more than what you need. Which type(s) of aid would you want to accept less of and why? 2. In your own words, explain the significance of signing a promissory note.	7 mins
8	EXIT TICKET ❖ **Teacher Tip:** To access this Exit Ticket, please see the Sample Completed Student Activity Packet (SSAP). You can find this on the Unit Page this resource is in.	**Exit Ticket** Follow your teacher's directions to complete the Exit Ticket.	5 mins

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!

After you have completed this lesson, we would appreciate one minute of your time to provide feedback about this lesson's relevance and ease of implementation in your classroom.

EXTEND THE LEARNING

DO MORE...	LEARN MORE...
INTERACTIVE • Quizlet Cashcabulary | Paying for College	ARTICLE • How to Read a Financial Aid Award Letter

• Publisher: Quizlet/NGPF • Compare Offers - Tools • Publisher: NGPF Paying for College Certification Course (Sallie Mae, College Board, and CFPB) FINCAP FRIDAY • And The Award Goes To... • Publisher: NGPF	• Publisher: NerdWallet • 2020-21 Annotated College Financing Plan (PDF) • Publisher: U.S. Department of Education • Example Financial Aid Packages • Publisher: NGPF PODCAST • Ask For More Money To Pay For College • Publisher: NPR

FAST FACTS...

- The average cost of college in the United States is $35,720 per student per year. The cost has tripled in 20 years, with an annual growth rate of 6.8%.
- The average in-state student attending a public 4-year institution spends $25,615 for one academic year.
- The average cost of in-state tuition alone is $9,580; out-of-state tuition averages $27,437.
- The average traditional private university student spends a total of $53,949 per academic year, $37,200 of it on tuition and fees.
- Considering student loan interest and loss of income, the ultimate cost of a bachelor's degree may exceed $400,000.

Average Cost of College [2021]: Yearly Tuition + Expenses