

Content Outline

Pathways: Financing Higher Education™



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

DESCRIPTION	<p>Many students and parents don't understand how to calculate the true cost of college in order to accurately determine an institution's return on investment (ROI). In this lesson, students will explore the variety of factors that can influence the ROI of various institutions and the importance of calculating it before deciding where to go for higher education. Upon completion of this lesson, they will be able to calculate the "true cost" of an institution, compare it to their intended career path and determine its ROI.</p>
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why higher education typically has a positive return on investment. • Differentiate the net cost of higher education from the "true cost". • Explain how to evaluate the return on investment for higher education at a particular institution. • Explain how to evaluate the return on investment for higher education based on an anticipated career path or major.

UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

DESCRIPTION	<p>One in four families isn't filling out the FAFSA, limiting their access to helpful and, in many cases, necessary funds to pay for higher education. They are leaving money on the table. In this lesson, students will learn about financial aid options, in particular free options like scholarships and grants. Upon completion of this lesson, they will understand how to find free options for financial aid first.</p>
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the differences between scholarships, grants, and loans. • Explain how to fill out the FAFSA and why it's important. • Identify places you can look for financial aid, including merit aid.

STUDENT LOAN BASICS

DESCRIPTION	<p>Research shows that students and their parents often don't fully understand the terms of student loans they take out. It also shows that student debt load is increasing and about half of students who take out loans worry they won't be able to repay them. In this lesson, students will learn how loans work by exploring different types of loans and their associated</p>
--------------------	---

fees. Upon completion of this lesson, they will be able to evaluate the best type of student loan for their own needs and who to contact for additional guidance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Compare and contrast subsidized and unsubsidized loans.
- Compare and contrast federal and private student loans.
- Explain how loan fees and loan documentation work.
- Identify key contacts and resources for student loan information.
- Differentiate between parent loans and student loans with cosigners.

BUDGETING FOR YOUR LOANS

DESCRIPTION

Research indicates that many students would have made a different funding choice for their higher education if they had better understood their loan and repayment options. In this lesson, students will learn how to calculate the full cost of a loan, as well as understand how repayment works. Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to calculate financial aid costs in relation to their personal budget.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe how to read a Student Aid offer and identify key questions to ask the financial aid office.
- Describe how to calculate financial aid costs in relation to your personal budget.
- Explain how to calculate the appropriate borrowing amount.
- Identify key terms and factors for determining monthly payments.

REPAYING LOANS RESPONSIBLY

DESCRIPTION

Student loans make up one of the biggest sources of consumer debt in the country and many people are putting off important milestones (including marriage and home ownership) because of it. In this lesson, students will understand the potential impact of a high debt load from higher education loans and the importance of managing debt responsibly. Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to plan responsibly to manage and repay any student debt they may incur.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Compare and contrast different loan repayment methods.
- Explain how debt load can impact future opportunities including the ability to borrow.
- Explain the consequences of defaulting on a loan.
- Identify refinancing and forgiveness options.
- Identify budgeting steps that can help reduce debt load from loans.