

LESSON 4:
**The Cost of College:
Financing Your
Education**



Your Life, Your Decision: Researching College Options

There's a lot to consider when deciding what you want to do after high school. What are your interests? Where do you want to work someday? How much money do you have to spend on your education? How much debt are you willing to take on? Doing a little research can help you make wiser decisions. Get a head start by answering the questions below.

1. What are your interests? Is there anything you know you want to study in college? Do you have any career fields in mind?

2. Which colleges offer programs in your fields of interest? Review websites such as collegeboard.org and college.gov or pick up a copy of College Board's Book of Majors to help you find the strongest college programs in your area of interest.

3. How much is tuition at the schools you researched? What other costs would be involved in going to school there (e.g., room and board, commuting to and from home, books and supplies)?

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4. What are the starting salaries in your career or field of interest? Websites such as salary.com can help you get a better idea.

5. By what age do you want to have paid off your college loans? What else do you want for your life that could affect loan repayment (e.g, staying home for a time with small children, buying a home)?
