## Financial Planning For College

Parents, as well as people planning to resume their education, are keenly interested in knowing what it will cost to attend college, but many people cannot estimate costs because they are unsure about the arithmetic.

## WORKSHEETS

This worksheet will enable anyone with a simple calculator to calculate college costs quickly and easily. Estimating college costs requires making certain assumptions about the future. These important assumptions include:

1. Assume you have $\qquad$ years until college begins. This will range from 1 to 18 years, but in some cases, may be more than 20 years.
2. Assume your child will attend college for $\qquad$ years. This may vary from one to four years or longer if graduate, professional or specialized education is planned.
3. Assume that the cost of attending the institution of choice for the current year is $\$$ $\qquad$ . This figure will depend upon the type and location of the institution chosen. The figure will be adjusted for inflation on the worksheet.
4. Assume that the cost of education will rise $\qquad$ \% per year. Current projections indicate costs will rise steadily by about $6-7 \%$ each year.
5. Assume you will finance $\qquad$ \% of your child's education. This figure may range from less than $10 \%$ up to $100 \%$. How much you finance will depend on your family's financial situation as well as the availability of alternate sources of financing, such as scholarships, grants, loans and student employment.
6. Assume that you can earn $\qquad$ $\%$ on your savings after taxes. This may range from $5 \%$ to $12 \%$ or more, depending on how you have invested your money and what your tax bracket is.
7. Assume that you have already saved \$ $\qquad$ towards college education. This may range from no money to several thousand dollars.

As with any worksheet, it is important to follow instructions carefully. You will be using several interest factor tables, so make sure you use the correct tables to calculate your answers.

Once you estimate how much you will need for college costs, you may wish to analyze your investment and tax strategies to maximize the return on money you set aside for college.

## WORKSHEET FOR ESTIMATING COLLEGE COSTS

1. Names of children
2. Current ages
3. Number of years until children reach college age
4. Estimated number of years in school
5. Calculate years for inflation adjustment (add half of line 4 to number from line 3)
6. Estimated annual inflation rate between now and time children finish college
7. Inflation factor (use Table A for rate on line 6 and years on line 5)
8. The cost of one year of college today
9. The cost of one year of college in the future (multiply line 8 by the factor on line 7)
10. Total cost of college in the future (multiply line 9 by line 4)
11. Percentage of total college costs to be paid by parents (enter as a decimal)
12. Total cost to be paid by parents (multiply line 10 by line 11)
13. Expected rate of return on savings after taxes
14. Compound interest factor (use Table A for rate on line 13 and years on line 5)
15. Current value of money saved for college
16. Future value of current education funds (multiply line 15 by the interest factor on line 14)
$\qquad$ Example
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

| 2 |
| :--- |
| 16 |

$\qquad$
$\qquad$

$\qquad$
$\qquad$


$$
7 \%
$$

$$
3.379
$$

$\qquad$
18,246
72.984
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
.75

$$
54,738
$$

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
17. FINANCIAL GOAL: amount needed $\qquad$ for college (subtract line 16 from line 12)
18. Interest factor (use Table B
 for rate on line 13 and years on line 5)
19. AMOUNT THAT MUST BE SAVED EACH YEAR TO MEET FINANCIAL GOAL ON LINE 17 (divide line 17 by the factor on line 18)

## TABLE A



TABLE B

| YRS | 5\% | 6\% | 7\% | 8\% | 9\% | 10\% | 11\% | 12\% | 13\% | 14\% | 15\% | 16\% | YRS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1 |
| 2 | 2.050 | 2.060 | 2.070 | 2.080 | 2.090 | 2.100 | 2.110 | 2.120 | 2.130 | 2.140 | 2.150 | 2.160 | 2 |
| 3 | 3.152 | 3.183 | 3.214 | 3.246 | 3.278 | 3.310 | 3.342 | 3.374 | 3.406 | 3.439 | 3.472 | 3.505 | 3 |
| 4 | 4.310 | 4.374 | 4.439 | 4.506 | 4.573 | 4.641 | 4.709 | 4.779 | 4.849 | 4.921 | 4.993 | 5.066 | 4 |
| 5 | 5.525 | 5.637 | 5.750 | 5.866 | 5.984 | 6.105 | 6.227 | 6.352 | 6.480 | 6.610 | 6.742 | 6.877 | 5 |
| 6 | 6.801 | 6.975 | 7.153 | 7.335 | 7.523 | 7.715 | 7.912 | 8.115 | 8.322 | 8.535 | 8.753 | 8.977 | 6 |
| 7 | 8.142 | 8.393 | 8.654 | 8.922 | 9.200 | 9.487 | 9.783 | 10.089 | 10.404 | 10.730 | 11.066 | 11.413 | 7 |
| 8 | 9.549 | 9.897 | 10.259 | 10.636 | 11.028 | 11.435 | 11.859 | 12.299 | 12.757 | 13.232 | 13.726 | 14.240 | 8 |
| 9 | 11.026 | 11.491 | 11.977 | 12.487 | 13.021 | 13.579 | 14.163 | 14.775 | 15.415 | 16.085 | 16.785 | 17.518 | 9 |
| 10 | 12.577 | 13.180 | 13.816 | 14.486 | 15.192 | 15.937 | 16.722 | 17.548 | 18.419 | 19.337 | 20.303 | 21.321 | 10 |
| 11 | 14.206 | 14.971 | 15.783 | 16.645 | 17.560 | 18.531 | 19.561 | 20.654 | 21.814 | 23.044 | 24.349 | 25.732 | 11 |
| 12 | 15.917 | 16.869 | 17.888 | 18.977 | 20.140 | 21.384 | 22.713 | 24.133 | 25.650 | 27.270 | 29.001 | 30.850 | 12 |
| 13 | 17.712 | 18.882 | 20.140 | 21.495 | 22.953 | 24.522 | 26.211 | 28.029 | 29.984 | 32.088 | 34.351 | 36.786 | 13 |
| 14 | 19.598 | 21.015 | 22.550 | 24.214 | 26.019 | 27.974 | 30.094 | 32.392 | 34.882 | 37.581 | 40.504 | 43.671 | 14 |
| 15 | 21.578 | 23.275 | 25.129 | 27.152 | 29.360 | 31.772 | 34.405 | 37.279 | 40.417 | 43.842 | 47.580 | 51.659 | 15 |
| 16 | 23.657 | 25.672 | 27.888 | 30.324 | 33.003 | 35.949 | 39.189 | 42.753 | 46.671 | 50.980 | 55.717 | 60.925 | 16 |
| 17 | 25.840 | 28.212 | 30.840 | 33.750 | 36.973 | 40.544 | 44.500 | 48.883 | 53.739 | 59.117 | 65.075 | 71.673 | 17 |
| 18 | 28.132 | 30.905 | 33.999 | 37.450 | 41.301 | 45.599 | 50.395 | 55.749 | 61.725 | 68.394 | 75.836 | 84.140 | 18 |
| 19 | 30.539 | 33.759 | 37.378 | 41.446 | 46.018 | 51.159 | 56.939 | 63.439 | 70.749 | 78.969 | 88.211 | 98.603 | 19 |
| 20 | 33.065 | 36.785 | 40.995 | 45.761 | 51.160 | 57.274 | 64.202 | 72.052 | 80.946 | 91.024 | 102.443 | 115.379 | 20 |
| 21 | 35.719 | 39.992 | 44.865 | 50.422 | 56.764 | 64.002 | 72.265 | 81.698 | 92.469 | 104.768 | 118.810 | 134.840 | 21 |
| 22 | 38.505 | 43.392 | 49.005 | 55.456 | 62.873 | 71.402 | 81.214 | 92.502 | 105.491 | 120.435 | 137.631 | 157.414 | 22 |
| 23 | 41.430 | 46.995 | 53.436 | 60.893 | 69.531 | 79.543 | 91.147 | 104.602 | 120.204 | 138.297 | 159.276 | 183.601 | 23 |
| 24 | 44.501 | 50.815 | 58.176 | 66.764 | 76.789 | 88.497 | 102.174 | 118.155 | 136.831 | 158.658 | 184.167 | 213.977 | 24 |
| 25 | 47.727 | 54.864 | 63.249 | 73.105 | 84.700 | 98.347 | 114.413 | 133.333 | 155.619 | 181.870 | 212.793 | 249.214 | 25 |

## Technical Notes

1. Table values have been dropped, without rounding, to three places beyond the decimal point.
2. Table A shows how $\$ 1$ left at compound interest will grow. The formula for deriving values is $(1+i){ }^{N}$ where $\mathrm{i}=$ rate of interest and $\mathrm{N}=$ number of periods.
3. Table B shows how $\$ 1$ deposited periodically will grow. The formula for deriving values is $\underline{(1+\mathrm{i})} \mathrm{N}-1$ where $\mathrm{i}=$ rate of interest and $\mathrm{N}=$ number of periods.
4. Tables A and B are from Financial Compound Interest and Annuity Tables, 5th Edition, Boston: Financial Publishing Company, 1970, as reprinted in Rosen, Lawrence R. The Dow Jones Irwin Guide to Interest-What You Should Know About the Time Value of Money, revised edition, Homewood, Illinois: Dow Jones-Irwin, 1981.
5. Other references used in developing this worksheet include:

Anonymous. "Can You Cope With College Costs?"' Consumer Reports, pp. 345-348, June 1985.
Porter, W. T., J.R. Connell, L.L. Dotson, and R.E. Zobel. "Educational Financing," Chapter 11 in Touche Ross Guide to Personal Financial Management, Rainier Bank 1985 Edition. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1985.

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