

YOUR GUIDE TO PAYING FOR COLLEGE



Tips and Tactics for Lowering the Cost of Your College Education

As a senior, your life is already busy with classes, after-school activities, and the ever-looming stress of finding the perfect college. Taking action now can reduce your college costs by thousands of dollars.

Ready? Set? Go!

#1. Get Started Now

Every day that goes by is a lost opportunity for a scholarship, grant, or other cost-saving opportunity. Make cutting college costs a top priority. Spending a little time now means you and your family will spend less on college later.

Did you know that Guilford is committed to giving every first-time applicant generous institutional financial aid? **It's called the Guilford College Commitment, and awards start at \$15,000 per year and go up to \$27,000 a year or more,** depending on your prior academic success. Yes — Guilford College promises every new student at least \$15,000 a year — and even more if you can show us you're a leader and an achiever.

Plus, Guilford College is dedicated to making your on-campus experience affordable. **We offer a \$4,000 Guilford Housing Grant per year to any student who lives on campus.**

#2. Talk to Your Home Team

Who makes up your home team? Your parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and anyone else who might support you through college. Include people who believe in your dreams and can offer encouragement. Talk about your ideal college plans with them and ask how they can help.

#3. Develop a Plan

Work with your team to develop a clear and realistic plan. Who is responsible for gathering tax returns and helping you fill out the FAFSA? Is someone willing to research scholarships? Develop a calendar that includes everyone's tasks and deadlines for financial aid, scholarship applications, and college applications. Set a time to meet each week to discuss progress and new information. Check out Guilford's [Office of Financial Aid](#) for tons of useful information during the application process, including deadlines.

#4. Calculate Your Needs

Would you order new headphones without knowing the price? Research and calculate exactly how much you'll need for four years at the schools you're interested in. College websites provide much of the information you'll need. Factor in costs for books, housing, extra furnishings, meals, clothes, transportation, and entertainment. Check out Guilford's [Net Price Calculator](#) and discover the value of a Guilford education.

#5. Know the Difference

Understanding the differences between grants, scholarships, and loans will save you headaches down the road. When researching the types of aid available, consider whether they have to be repaid, your eligibility to apply, requirements or restrictions on the use of the funds, if awards can be renewed, and how much debt you'll incur. Learn more about your eligibility for Guilford's scholarships and grants now!

#6. Look Into Work-study, Part-time Jobs

Most colleges have opportunities to work on campus as a federal work-study student or through a student employment program. Research shows that students who work on campus tend to do better academically! You can also explore other part-time employment options on or off campus, taking into account how far away off campus they are, as well as the cost of transportation. For example, Guilford offers work-study opportunities for students performing community service projects.

#7. Talk to Your Guidance Counselor

Guidance counselors are experts – they've worked with students with all kinds of financial challenges, and they can point you to information and resources you need to help you through it all.

#8. FAFSA Is Free

You never have to pay a fee to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**). Look out for scam websites that say otherwise ***When filling out your application, be sure to include Guilford's Federal School Code, 002931.***

#9. Utilize the Financial Aid Office

Be willing to call, email, or visit **financial aid staff**. Their job is to help you! Answering your questions and helping you get the best financial aid package possible is why your counselor is here. Help them help you by knowing deadlines, following instructions, and responding quickly to requests for information. They're a great resource and are there for the benefit of you and your family.

Contact Guilford College's Financial Aid Office at **336.316.2354** or email **financialaid@guilford.edu**.



#10. Apply for Multiple Sources of Aid Early

The FAFSA process and college financial aid offices may not find all of the financial aid that you need. Research national, state, regional, and local scholarships and grants – and be sure to apply early. It's never too early to start looking for additional forms of aid.

Learn More About Guilford College

To us, you're a multi-faceted individual. So we look at everything you offer – grades, coursework, SAT and/or ACT scores or your high-school portfolio (we're 100% test-optional!), class rank, leadership, community service, and extracurricular activities. Guilford awards more than **\$25,000 in financial aid on average to each student.**

Contact Guilford's Office of Financial Aid now and you'll be assigned a personal financial aid counselor to assist you. They can help you figure out ways to bridge the gap between college costs and your ability to pay.

Guilford College
Office of Financial Aid
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www.guilford.edu/financialaid

