



FYE FINANCE FREEBIES

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FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS (NEW/EXISTING)

1. Grades Matter

No matter where you are on your college journey, grades will play an important role in funding options and course opportunities. It's important to keep your grades at an average that reflects a healthy GPA; when I attended college that was a 3.5 GPA or higher. Having a higher GPA afforded me opportunities to various scholarships, grants and became a requirement to advance during my MBA program.

2. Apply for Scholarships/Grants

Unlike loans, grants/scholarships are funds you are not required to repay. This option is the most appealing and financially savvy for most college students with limited resources. Please see a list below of some recommended sites that match you with scholarships based on your profile.

- **Scholarships.com**
<https://www.scholarships.com/scholarship-search>
- **Fastweb.com**
<https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>
- **Chegg.com**
<https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>
- **Cappex.com**
<https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>
- **Niche.com**
<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>
- **The College Board**
<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

3. Participate in Work Study Programs

This is a prime opportunity to sample what life after college may look like for you. As adults we are encouraged and sometimes forced to “juggle” multiple things such as work, school, parenthood, a social life, etc. If you are seriously considering a work study program you have to start early; these slots go very fast. I would suggest inquiring as soon as you start your college search.

4. Get a Part-Time Job

This option is for similar reasons as mentioned in the work study suggestion. It will help you become a more well rounded college student. This is a great second choice if there are no work study opportunities available on your campus.

5. Intern in your Junior & Senior year

At this point in your college career you hopefully have a firm grasp on what you want to do after college. If this is the case then I would encourage you to intern at a firm / place of business to get real life exposure to what life will look like for you should you continue on this career path. Internships are usually performed during your summer break and although most are unpaid, there are some paid internship options. In either case the experience and skills you can develop during your internship would be considered invaluable. Hopefully, you walk away from the experience confident that you made the right choice.

6. Know Your ROI

Special Bulletin!! Know your return on investment (ROI). If your college tuition costs you \$50,000 then you should seek out a job right out of college earning at least that. If the career choice/path should align with investment you have made in furthering your education.