Financial Pur$suit

SELF-PACED MODULE

EDUCATOR GUIDE

Copyright © 2017 Discovery Education. All rights reserved. Discovery Education is a Division of Discovery Communications, LLC.
Students and families often feel overwhelmed and confused by the college financial aid process, and paying for college can be a concern. Many families are unable to pay for an entire year of college up front, let alone four. There are also several misconceptions about what financial aid is, who is eligible, and what it takes to be eligible.

The Financial Pur$uit e-learning module was created to help debunk these misconceptions, build student confidence about affording college, and provide a pathway that includes resources and information to help students (and their families) successfully access college financial aid.

Throughout the module, students will learn strategies for understanding college costs, completing financial aid forms, and deciphering financial aid award letters. It also includes steps students can take before and during senior year to help them pay for college.

The primary audience is high school students, but middle school students and parents can also benefit from Financial Pur$uit. While it is primarily designed for students to move through at their own pace in a 1:1 environment, this Educator’s Guide has been designed to help educators, guidance counselors, and parents/guardians support or lead the learning in a 1:many environment or at home.

FINANCIAL PUR$UIT SUMMARY

Students go on a digital quest to reach a fictional college campus. In order to reach the campus, they must unlock important information and answer questions about financial aid.

Upon entering the module, students are introduced to their quest: to reach a college campus by unlocking information about financial aid. At each stop along the way, they learn information, answer questions, reveal truths about misconceptions, and learn from other students. Once students reach all of the stops and unlock all information in the module, they can reach the college campus and complete their quest successfully.

HOW THE MODULE WORKS

1. When students enter the module, they are taken to the home screen.
2. Users will be prompted to select a game piece (avatar) which will move as they do from stop to stop.
3. To advance through the experience, users will click on (turn) a spinner. The results of each spin will determine where students (and their game pieces) move next.
4. In addition to information and interactivity, several stops will include pre- and post- challenge assessment questions.
5. Once students complete all stops, they will successfully “arrive” on campus.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Content in this module was guided by two sets of education standards: the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) College Access Standards and the Council for Economic Education’s (CEE) National Standards for Financial Literacy. To read more about these associations and the standards refer to the Educational Standards for College Preparation section of this document.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Financial Pur$uit has been designed to help students:

- feel confident that they can go to college, regardless of their economic circumstances.
- know how to calculate the true cost of attending college.
- understand the differences between financial aid options: grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study.
- know how to access different financial aid options.
- understand why some types of financial aid might be better for them than others.
- understand the FAFSA and CSS Profile.
- understand the parts of a financial aid award letter.
- be able to analyze and compare financial aid award packages.
- know strategies to help them close the gap between true cost of college and what they receive in their financial aid package.
- learn how to develop a personal financial aid plan.
**PREPARATION**

It is recommended that you complete the Financial Pursuit module yourself prior to sharing it with students. This will allow you to build your background knowledge and understand what students will experience so that you are better able to anticipate their reactions, questions, and misconceptions.

**HOW TO USE FINANCIAL PUR$UIT**

The Financial Pursuit module is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of many different learning environments. Examples include:

- **Self-guided learning**—Students using Financial Pursuit for independent, self-guided learning can move through at their own pace. Educators in a classroom environment can also assign Financial Pursuit as an out-of-class activity. Then, they can discuss and debrief the topics.

- **Working in pairs or at centers**—Students can either take turns or work together to answer the questions throughout Financial Pursuit and in this guide. Educators who are working with students at different reading levels and with varying knowledge will want to make sure they provide all group members with an opportunity to read and comprehend the information before moving on.

- **Class environment**—If you are leading a group in a 1: many environment, you can use a projector and screen or whiteboard to make Financial Pursuit the focus of instruction and discussion. Use the questions in this guide and a variety of feedback strategies during each topic to gauge student comprehension. Feedback strategies could include the use of manipulatives, brainstorming sessions, or think-pair-share.

“Educator Tips” have been included to provide additional ideas to explore content further or to help students apply the content in new ways.

**Educator Tip**: Are you ready for your students to begin? Here are some questions that can help set the stage for learning.

- What criteria, if any, are you using to create your list of prospective colleges?
- How much money do you think you will need to go to college?
- What steps can you take to plan ahead and apply for financial aid while in high school?
INTRODUCTION AND CONFIDENCE SURVEY

Students are asked to consider how they will pay for college. They learn about their quest to reach a college campus. They choose a game piece and learn how to advance through their quest as they unlock information about financial aid. Students then move on to the Confidence Rating to answer four questions to gauge their current knowledge and confidence about accessing financial aid.

CONFIDENCE RATING

Students are asked to rank how much they agree or disagree with the following statements.

- I know the different types of financial aid that may be available to me.
- I feel confident I will attend college.
- I know the steps to take to apply for financial aid.
- I feel confident in my ability to find and apply for scholarships.
STOP 1 | TRUTH: THE COST OF COLLEGE

The first stop in the quest covers the true cost of college. Students learn that, regardless of their economic circumstances, they can go to college. They also learn how to calculate the true cost of attending college, which includes tuition and fees; room and board; books and supplies; transportation; and personal expenses.

THE COST OF COLLEGE

Students learn that college is an investment that can pay off.

Educator Tip 1: This is a great stop to help build student confidence about affording college. Reinforce that financial aid is available if they understand where to find it and how to access it.

Educator Tip 2: Before they complete Challenge 1, encourage students to make a mental list of some items that might make up the costs of college, such as tuition and textbook fees.

CHALLENGE 1

Throughout Financial Pur$uit there are challenge questions to reinforce and help students gauge their own learning. Students are not expected to know the answers to the pre-challenge questions but encouraged to answer the questions to see what they know. The post-challenge questions will assess what they have learned in each stop.

In this question, students select all of the items that make up the “true cost” of college. (The correct answers are bold.)

Question: When you’re trying to figure out the “true cost” of college, which of the following should you do? Select all that apply.

a. Focus on tuition because that will tell you exactly what you’ll pay for college.

b. Include tuition, fees, books, and transportation.

c. Add together the total price with your financial aid to get the true cost.

d. Include personal expenses and room and board.
BREAKING DOWN THE TRUE COST

The animated text in this section explains why college, although it is expensive, does pay off. An interactive pie chart illustrates what makes up college costs and how the costs break down. This includes:

Tuition & Fees

55–60% Tuition covers the cost of your classes and other fees, like labs and parking.

Room & Board

25–30% Room and board is basically where you live and what you eat. This is your second highest expense. Colleges usually have different options for where you live and a variety of meal plans.

Books & Supplies

3–6% In college, you actually have to pay for your books! You can save money by renting textbooks or borrowing from the campus library or a friend. But this expense must still be considered when figuring out your true cost.

Transportation

3–6% Transportation costs can vary. The farther your college is from home, the higher it can be.

Personal

5–10% Most college students need personal items like shampoo and toothpaste, and they may even need a laptop. Many also enjoy going out and doing fun things in their free time. This also comes with a price tag!

CHALLENGE 2

In this post-test challenge question, students complete each statement by selecting the correct word tile and moving it into the correct spot. (The correct answers are bold.)

Complete each statement by moving the tiles into the correct spot.

• During college, where you live and what you eat are called **room and board**.

• Your highest college expense will most likely be **tuition and fees**.

• **Stocks and bonds** are not a part of the true cost of college.

• You have to pay for **books and supplies** during college, but you can save money by borrowing or renting.
STOP 2 | WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

The second stop explains what financial aid is. Students learn the differences between various types of financial aid: grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study.

### CHALLENGE 1

In this pre-test challenge question, students choose all of the statements about financial aid that are true. (The correct answers are bold.)

You’ve just applied for college financial aid. Choose all of the statements about financial aid that are true.

- a. Grants must be paid back.
- b. Loans, whether federal or private, are all about the same.
- c. Scholarships provide free money for college.
- d. Work-study provides money during college, but you must earn it.
- e. Grants are often based on financial need.
- f. Some scholarships are based on talent, merit, or special needs.

**Educator Tip:** Be sure to emphasize that grants, scholarships, and work-study are free money, while loans are not. Students must conduct their own research for a work-study position.

### WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Students read through a stack of cards to learn about the different types of financial aid. This section covers the following:

- Federal grants
- State and institutional grants
- Scholarships
- Work-study
- Loans

**Educator Tip:** Examples are provided for each type of financial aid. To extend the activity, students can review this U.S. Department of Education website, which includes informative text and videos: [https://studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
CHALLENGE 2

In this post-test challenge question, students answer a question to assess their understanding of the types of financial aid. (The correct answers are bold.)

You’ve just received your financial aid package. Congratulations! You’ve been awarded $6,000 in grants, $8,000 in scholarships, and $2,000 in loans. If you accept this package, how much of that money do you have to pay back?

a. $2,000
b. $6,000
c. $8,000
d. $16,000
STOP 3 | NOT ALL FINANCIAL AID IS CREATED EQUAL

There are many resources available to help students afford to pay for college. But it is important for students to understand that all financial aid is not the same.

WHY GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWESOME

Students learn that grants and scholarships are basically gifts that do not have to be paid back. Students also find out that work-study has to be earned by working during college and that loans do have to be paid back—with interest.

HOW CAN YOU QUALIFY?

This section helps students understand the many ways they can qualify for scholarships. Students learn that there are scholarships available for many categories, including:

- Talent
- Community Service
- Merit
- Sports
- Financial Need
- Special Needs

**Educator Tip:** Ask students:

- What are some skills or a talent you have that might qualify for a scholarship?
- How might you earn a scholarship through community service?
- What is a “merit scholarship”?
In this interactive question, students connect talents and skills to scholarships they could lead to. Correct answers are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talent or Skill</th>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Great at painting, dance, or giving speeches</td>
<td>Talent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Volunteer work at an elderly care center</td>
<td>Community Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Scored highest in your high school on college entrance exams</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Excel at swimming, lacrosse, or track and field</td>
<td>Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Have limited money for college</td>
<td>Financial Need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Have a learning disability or physical impairment</td>
<td>Special Needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students watch a video that explains two important secrets to unlocking financial aid: the FAFSA and the CSS Profile.

**Educator Tip:**
The FAFSA is free and available online at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov). All students who apply for financial aid must complete this form. The CSS Profile is available online at [https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org). Approximately 400 colleges require the CSS Profile if students intend to apply for financial aid. If time allows, visit these sites, read through the directions, and point out important dates/deadlines.

**CHALLENGE 1**
In this pre-test challenge question, students answer an item about the FAFSA and CSS Profile forms. (The correct answer is in bold.)

You’ve decided to apply to six colleges. At least one of them requires the CSS Profile. You want to get as much money as possible to help you pay for whichever college you decide to attend. You should:

- Fill out only the FAFSA.
- Fill out only the CSS Profile.
- Fill out both the FAFSA and the CSS Profile.
- Fill out neither the FAFSA nor the CSS Profile.

**MEET THE FAFSA AND CSS PROFILE**
Students watch a video to explain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile.
**CHALLENGE 2**

In this post-test challenge question, students categorize information into whether it describes the FAFSA, the CSS Profile, or both. (The correct answers are in the chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAFSA</th>
<th>CSS PROFILE</th>
<th>BOTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use this to apply for federal grants</td>
<td>Sometimes has a fee to apply</td>
<td>Must apply by the deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use this to apply for financial aid</td>
<td>Use this to apply for non-federal financial aid</td>
<td>Can unlock financial aid for college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always a free form</td>
<td>Check first to see if it is required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stop 4
In this stop, students will learn the purpose and parts of a financial aid award letter.

**Educator Tip:** Before beginning this section, remind students that each college does things differently and award letters will all be different. However, most have the following information:

- An opening statement of a financial aid award or no award.
- The college’s Cost of Attendance (COA) before any financial aid is figured in.
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the estimated amount determined from the FAFSA, colleges utilize to calculate a student’s financial aid award.
- The calculated financial need, which is how much the college figures the student needs to attend college for one year. Colleges typically use this formula: 
  
  \[
  \text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{Calculated Financial Need}.
  \]
- The type and amount of financial aid that the student will receive. It is in this section that students can figure out if they will or will not receive enough aid to cover their total college costs.
- Instructions about next steps to accept or not accept the financial aid.

Encourage students to review additional sample financial aid award letters at these websites:

- [http://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml)
READ THE FINE PRINT!

Because every college has its own way of reporting financial aid packages, it’s important for students to make sure they read and understand every part of the letter. This section provides a list of tips and reminders for students and parents to keep in mind.
Students examine two different financial aid award packages to decide which one would be the best for Alex to accept.

**CHALLENGE 1**

In this pre-test challenge question, students are asked to find the true statements about comparing financial aid packages. (The correct answer is in bold.)

You’ve just received your financial aid award package. Select all of the true statements about how to compare financial aid packages.

- a. Compare the work-study options.
- b. Compare the packages for your costs during college and after college, such as loan repayment. Compare the loan amounts offered in each package.
- c. Calculate and compare the amount you’ll need to pay, or the gap, for each package.
- d. Figure out which package offers more grants.
- e. All of the above

**EXAMINE THE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE ACTIVITY**

In this activity, students are presented with two financial aid awards that Alex received. They go through five steps to decide whether the College A or College B offer is better for Alex. Students learn—after their analysis—that even though College A is more expensive, it ends up being a better deal for Alex.

After reviewing the details of both award letters, students answer four questions to determine the best choice. Questions are as follows:

1. Which college offers more in gift aid—College A or College B?
2. Which college offers more in total financial aid awards—College A or College B?
3. Which package would require Alex to pay more—College A or College B?
4. Which college do you think Alex should attend—College A or College B?

**Educator Tip:** Remind students that the most expensive college (based on Cost of Attendance [COA]) can never be ruled out until they have completed a final award package comparison. In some cases, more expensive colleges offer more financial aid.
TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT PACKAGE

Students are given a list of tips to help them choose the right financial aid package. These include:

- Check what costs are NOT listed and account for them.
- Ask which of your financial aid awards are renewable.
- Compare how much of your need is met.
- Compare the types of financial aid.
- Compare direct and indirect costs, such as transportation, books and supplies, etc.
- Compare loan terms.
- Compare the final cost to you.

**Educator Tip:** Encourage students to add two to three more tips to the list above. Provide these prompts for the discussion:

- Will the financial aid be the same every year?
- How should you consider Federal Direct PLUS Loans (parent loans) that might be listed in your award letters?
CHALLENGE 2

In this post-test challenge item, students are asked to put five steps in the correct order to compare financial aid packages. (The correct order is shown in the chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Step Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compare the COA from each college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Add up and compare all gift aid (total grants and scholarships).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Compare work-study options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Add up and compare eligible loans, which have to be repaid, usually after college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Subtract total financial aid from COA and compare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students learn strategies to help them close the gap between the true cost of college and what they receive in their financial aid package.

CHALLENGE 1

In this pre-test challenge question, students are asked what they should do if they realize their financial aid package will not cover all of their college costs. (The correct answer is in bold.)

You’re checking out your financial aid package award letter from your top college, and you realize it will not cover all of your college costs. What should you do? Select all that apply.

a. Move on to your next choice of colleges because you cannot afford that one.
b. Research and apply for every relevant scholarship you can find.
c. Submit the FAFSA a second time to get more aid.
d. Contact the college’s financial aid office to see if more aid is available.
e. Look for ways you can save money by budgeting, getting a job, and taking college-level courses, like Advanced Placement (AP) courses, in high school or at a community college while in high school.

REDUcing THE GAP

What can students do if they realize their financial aid will not cover all of the cost to attend college? This part of their quest provides some concrete tips for reducing their financial aid gap. Students are provided a list of useful tips for choosing the right financial aid package. These include:

1. Contact the financial aid office and file an appeal.
2. Apply for additional scholarships to fill the gap.
3. Get a part-time job.
4. Look for ways to budget and cut expenses.
5. Live at home.
6. Attend community college for your first two years.
CHALLENGE 2

In this post-test challenge question, students are presented with a scenario and asked what they can do to reduce their financial aid gap. (The correct answer is in bold.)

Your financial aid award letter offers some funds for college. However, you’re still coming up short on funds—by several thousand dollars. What can you do to reduce the gap? Select all of the correct responses.

a. Apply for additional scholarships.

b. Take out extra money in grants and pay them back later.

c. Do nothing because the financial aid award letter is the college’s final offer.

d. Look for ways to budget and cut expenses.
STOP 8 | THE POWER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

In a series of videos featuring real students, users learn how scholarships can help them close their financial aid gap.

**Educator Tip:** Before watching the video, have students discuss any personal scholarship experiences that family members or friends might have had in the past. Do they know anyone who has received a college scholarship? How did that scholarship make a difference in their college expenses? What steps did the person take to get the scholarship?

**TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

This click-and-reveal tip list provides the top ten recommendations for applying for scholarships. The list includes the following items:

1. **Read the details.** Make sure you’re eligible before taking the time to apply.
2. **Apply for as many as you can.** The more, the better—increase your odds this way.
3. **Be neat and complete.** Neatness counts, as does being thorough.
4. **Know the deadlines.** Most schools and scholarship organizations will not accept applications after the deadline.
5. **Ask for help.** Your high school guidance counselor, college scholarship office, college writing center, or the organization paying for the scholarship are all sources for help.
6. **Make a “success timeline” of your accomplishments and their dates.** Use this as you complete the scholarship application to identify your strengths and successes.
7. **Keep the scholarship goals in mind.** You have a better chance of getting a scholarship if you know why the sponsor is providing it.

8. **Write a clear, complete essay.** Give solid examples that demonstrate how and why you deserve the scholarship. Your writing should be real, honest, and personal.

9. **Submit the correct documents.** You should make sure that you have provided the correct documentation the scholarship organization is requesting (i.e., unofficial transcript vs. official transcript).

10. **Make copies and track your applications.** Make copies—both in paper and on your computer—before mailing and submitting. Package the materials neatly and send by certified mail, FedEx, or UPS so you can track when they are delivered.
STOP 9 | YOUR FINANCIAL AID PLAN

In this stop, students will be presented with an action plan to help guide their own financial aid quest.

NEXT STEPS: YOUR FINANCIAL AID PLAN

Students use a checklist to guide them on their own real financial aid quest. This section provides students with a list of steps they can take to help them through the financial aid process. These include:

- Make a list of colleges and related “true costs.”
- Research rules for applying, acceptance, and aid.
- Create a schedule with deadlines.
- Complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required).
- Identify and apply for grants and scholarships.
- Research low-interest loans if there is a gap.
- Review, evaluate, and compare financial aid offers.
- Make your decision!

CONFIDENCE RATING

Students are asked to rank how much they agree or disagree with the following statements.

- I know the different types of financial aid that may be available to me.
- I feel confident I will attend college.
- I know the steps to take to apply for financial aid.
- I feel confident in my ability to find and apply for scholarships.
THE CAMPUS!

By completing their quest, students have arrived on campus! They are congratulated for unlocking the financial aid information they will need to reach college and are directed to download a certificate of completion for the module.

**Educator Tip:** Invite students to share the information that they’ve learned throughout their quest. What information was most helpful? What ideas do they have now that they will use to access financial aid? What is the next step they’ll take to conquer their own college costs?
KEY VOCABULARY

**Calculated Financial Need**
The amount of financial need a student has based on the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. This dollar amount is found using the following equation:

\[ \text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{Calculated Financial Need} \]

**Cost of Attendance (COA)**
The cost of attendance, which includes the total costs to attend a college. It is included in a financial aid award letter.

**CSS Profile**
Online application that collects information used by almost 400 colleges, universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs to award financial aid from sources outside of the federal government.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**
This is an estimated number that’s used to determine student’s eligibility for aid. Colleges utilize it to calculate a student’s financial aid award.

**FAFSA**
Stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Must be completed to receive financial aid. Can lead to financial aid from the federal government, such as loans, grants, and work-study.

**Financial Aid**
Money you can get from the government, from the college itself, or even from a bank to help you pay for college. It can come in many forms like grants, loans, work-study programs, and scholarships.

**Financial Aid Award Letter**
A letter received from a college to which you have applied for financial aid. This letter provides details about the costs to attend the college and what financial aid is being offered.

**Financial Aid Package**
The combination of all the different types of financial aid offered to students from various sources (loans, grants, scholarships, and/or work-study programs).

**Gap**
The amount of money that a student must come up with to attend college. It is found by subtracting the total financial aid award package from the true cost of college.

**Grant**
*Free money from the government, college, state, or private sources, which you do not have to pay back.*
Examples: Pell grants, military service grants

**Loans**
Borrowed money that you must pay back over time with interest to the federal government and/or private lenders
Examples: Federal loans, private bank loans

**Scholarships**
Free money for a special talent, merit, sports, special needs, financial need, or community service.
Examples: Scholarships for academic achievement, athletic scholarships, community service scholarships

**Room and Board**
The costs to cover where you live and what you eat. Often this is the second highest college cost.

**Tuition and Fees**
Costs needed to cover classes and other fees, like lab and parking fees.

**Work-Study Programs**
Part-time jobs that let you earn money to help pay for college.
Examples:
- Job in the College of Education doing clerical duties
- Tutoring in the college writing center
**EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION**

**Primary Standards**
Primary standards are those by which we can measure student learning/competency within Financial Pur$uit.

**Why were these standards used?**
The AzCAN Standards were created based on the National College Access Network (NCAN) Common Measures, a set of indicators to track student progress toward postsecondary enrollment and completion. The aligned standards focus on providing common language and knowledge for students to become college and career ready.

The Council for Economic Education (CEE) is a leading organization that focuses on the economic and financial education of students from Kindergarten through high school. To find out more, visit [http://councilforeconed.org/about/](http://councilforeconed.org/about/).

**Can the AzCAN standards apply to your teaching even though you are in a different state?**
Yes, AzCAN is a member of the NCAN, and, therefore, adheres to their mission and high-quality benchmark. NCAN’s mission is “to build, strengthen, and empower communities committed to college access and success so that all students, especially those underrepresented in postsecondary education, can achieve their educational dreams.” Learn more about NCAN by visiting [www.collegeaccess.org](http://www.collegeaccess.org).

**Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN): College Access Standards for Student Success**

**Standard 6: Participants will understand the fundamentals of financial literacy and financial planning for postsecondary education**

Competency 6.2 Students gain a deeper understanding of the various financial aid and scholarship options for financing postsecondary education.

Competency 6.3 Students evaluate postsecondary options based on cost and value.

Competency 6.4 Students explore a variety of financial aid options and supports.

**Council for Economic Education (CEE): National Standards for Financial Literacy**

**Topic 1: Earning Income**

Benchmark 8.7: People often use a portion of their savings to help themselves or their family members build human capital through education or job training.

Benchmark 12.3: People vary in their willingness to obtain more education or training because these decisions involve incurring immediate costs to obtain possible future benefits. Discounting the future benefits of education and training may lead some people to pass up potentially high rates of return that more education and training may offer.

Benchmarks 12.4: People can make more informed education, job, or career decisions by evaluating the benefits and costs of different choices.

**Topic 4: Using Credit**

Benchmark 8.8: People can use credit to finance investments in education and housing. The benefits of using credit in this way are spread out over a period of time and may be large. The large costs of acquiring the education or housing are spread out over time as well. The benefits of using credit to make daily purchases of food or clothing are short-lived and do not accumulate over time.

**Topic 3: Saving**

(Secondary standard; content covered but not necessarily measured) Benchmark 8.1: Banks and other financial institutions loan funds received from depositors to borrowers. Part of the interest received from these loans is used to pay interest to depositors for the use of their money.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

These resources can be used to reinforce or expand upon students' understanding of key concepts.

Tiger Woods Foundation
To help kids succeed no matter what.
http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/

Earl Woods Scholar Program
Source: Tiger Woods Foundation
Offers admissions counseling, dedicated mentors, specialized internships, financial assistance, career development and workshops to high school students from the Orange County, California; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York and Washington D.C. area.
http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/programs/earl-woods-scholarship-program/home

Federal Student Aid
Source: U.S. Department of Education
Offers guidance on financial aid and academic and financial planning
https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college

Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
Source: U.S. Department of Education
Overview of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

The Coalition Application
Source: The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success Application
Essay Prompts for the Coalition Application
http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays.html

The Common Application
Source: The Common Application
Essay Prompts for the Common Application
http://www.commonapp.org/

FAFSA
Source: U.S. Department of Education
The main website for FAFSA
https://fafsa.gov

CSS Profile
Source: College Board
Overview on how to apply for financial aid using the CSS Profile

Chegg
Specializes in homework help, tutoring, scholarships, and internship matching
http://www.chegg.com

Fastweb
Online resource in finding scholarships and learning about financial aid
http://www.fastweb.com

College Greenlight
Description: Free site to help explore colleges, evaluate college fit, and research available financial aid
http://www.collegegreenlight.com/

Niche
Free tool for learning about the best colleges for you, the best places to live, and scholarship opportunities
http://www.niche.com