



Smith Financial Services, P.A.
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Tips and Tricks for Saving on College Costs

- Textbooks (students spend an average of \$900/year on textbooks)
 - Purchase Books Online:**
 - CheapestTextbooks.com
 - BooksPrice.com
 - Amazon.com
 - Half.com
 - Download Textbooks:**
 - CourseSmart.com (half the price of purchasing a hard copy)
 - TextbookMedia.com (some are available for free)
 - Rent Textbooks:**
 - Chegg.com
 - CampusBookRentals.com
- Purchase a coffee maker and save an average of over \$250 for the academic year.
- A Brita, Pur, or Culligan pitcher filters a gallon of tap water at a cost of 20-30 cents.
- Calculate how many meals you will eat in the cafeteria each day, before committing to a meal plan. Purchasing a microwave, refrigerator, or a micro-fridge for your dorm room (search **ebay.com** or **craigslist.com** if one is not available through the school) and save some money on your meal plan by making food in your dorm.
- While attending college, avoid purchasing toiletries and personal essentials at the on-campus store. Wait for a trip to Walmart and then stock up for the semester.
- For cheap furniture, take a look at what's available at Goodwill, the Salvation Army, or the local thrift store. Also, check out **www.freecycle.org** for people who are giving stuff away in order to prevent these items from ending up in landfills.
- You received a college ID...use it! Take advantage of the student discounts available. Many colleges post local businesses who offer specials to college students on their website or often times there is a booklet available.



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Books to Read

The Scholarship & Financial Aid Solution: How to Go to College for Next to Nothing with Short Cuts, Tricks, and Tips from Start to Finish

By Debra Lipphardt

Geared towards high school students who are college bound. Many scholarships are geared towards this age group. Provides tips on filling out college applications and writing essays as well as how to alter essays for multiple uses. Excellent resource for sample interview questions.

Guide to College Majors, 2009 Edition

By Princeton Review

Includes the most current information on approximately 350 different majors. Avoid making a "major" mistake. Claiming the wrong major can lead to an additional semester, which means additional expenses.

How to Survive Your Freshman Year: By Hundreds of College Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors Who Did

By Hundreds of Heads Books

For sophomores in high school and up. Amusing tips combined with useful advice from former college students. Helps your high school student become excited to attend college.

Teen Cook: How to Cook What You Want to Eat

By Meghan Carle, Jill Carle, and Judi Carle

Instructional cookbook that teaches teens to be confident and independent in the kitchen. Great for a college student living in their first apartment. Easy and tasty recipes.

Sites to Explore

College Board
www.collegeboard.com

Federal Student Aid
Federalstudentaid.ed.gov

American Council on Education
www.collegeispossible.org

College Savings Plans Network
www.collegesavings.org

Get Ready for College
www.getreadyforcollege.org

Dorm Delicious
www.dormdelicious.com

US College Search
www.uscollegesearch.org

Evernote
www.evernote.com