

College Funding Checklist

If you're overwhelmed by the prospect of paying for college (and who isn't?), our College Funding Checklist can help. Print it, put it on your fridge door, and then bask in the joy as you check off each financial task.

1. Save, save, save.

- Start planning for college expenses. You'll find an Early Planning Guide at [Astrive.com](https://astrive.com).
- Invest in a college savings plan. Research 529 plans at savingforcollege.com.

2. Get a plan.

- Estimate your college expenses. Talk to the Financial Aid Office at your college and ask for an estimate of both school and living expenses.
- Talk with your family about paying for college. The Family Discussion Guide at [Astrive.com](https://astrive.com) can help.
- Calculate your total family contribution.
- Figure out how much federal aid you may get. Estimate your eligibility at fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

3. Find free and low-cost money.

- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll find it at fafsa.ed.gov.
- Apply for grants and scholarships.
- Contact your college's financial aid office to see what other options are available.

4. Fill the gaps with a private student loan.

- Estimate how much you need to borrow.
- Apply for an Astrive Student Loan. You can find details and apply right online at [Astrive.com](https://astrive.com).

5. Manage your money.

- Deposit college funds in your bank account at least one week before registration.
- Find ways to cut college costs. We can get you started with ideas and great deals from the Astrive Advantage program. Learn more at [Astrive.com](https://astrive.com).