

Student _____

College Cost versus Benefit

INCOME	
Career Interest	
Annual Salary	
x Years Working at This Salary	
Total Earnings	
COLLEGE COSTS	
College Planning on Attending	
Tuition Cost for 1-Year	
Estimated Fees for 1-Year	
Estimated Room & Board for 1-Year	
Estimated Transportation & Personal Expenses for 1-Year	
Total Cost for Education for 1-Year	
x Number of Years to Earn Degree	
Total Cost of Education	
Estimated Amount of Student Loans	
Interest Rate on Student Loans	4.66% Undergraduate 6.21% Graduate or Professional
Number of Years to Pay Back Loans	
Use http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml to calculator total interest on loan	
Add Total Cost of Education (5 lines above) to Interest costs (1-line above) This is TOTAL COST of EDUCATION	

Total Earnings		Total Cost		College Beneficial	Yes or NO
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My Life, My Decision: Researching College Options

LESSON 4: STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEET

There's a lot to consider when deciding what you want to do after high school. What are your interests? Where do you want to work someday? How much money do you have to spend on your education, and how much debt are you willing to take on? Doing a little research can help you make wiser decisions. Get a head start by answering the questions below.

- 1.** What are your interests? Is there anything you know you want to study in college?

Do you have any career fields in mind?

- 2.** Which colleges offer programs in your fields of interest? Review websites such as Collegeboard.org and College.gov or pick up a copy of College Board's Book of Majors to help you find the strongest college programs in your area of interest.

- 3.** How much is tuition at the schools you researched? What other costs would be involved in going to school there (e.g., room and board, commuting to and from home, books and supplies)?

- 4.** What are the starting salaries in your career or field of interest?

Websites such as salary.com can help you get a better idea.

- 5.** By what age do you want to have paid off your college loans? What else do you want for your life that could affect loan repayment (e.g., staying home for a time with small children)?
