**Resources**

**The first step to planning for college and creating a budget is knowing what resources you have.**

* You are your greatest resource. Even if you receive federal aid or scholarships, it’s YOU that must take action to make that possible.
* Job/employment
  + Student employment (link to student employment page) on campus
* Selling what you have/no longer use
* Parents/family
  + Every situation is different, and not everyone can utilize their parents as a resource, but for some it is a possibility to receive help from family and friends.
* Scholarships
  + BYU-Idaho Scholarship Application (Available December 1 – April 1)
  + Outside agencies (link to outside scholarship page)
  + For more information on scholarships visit our scholarship page (link to scholarship page)
  + If you have specific questions please contact us at [scholarships@byui.edu](mailto:scholarships@byui.edu)
* Federal Aid
  + [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  + All degree-seeking students are eligible to apply for FAFSA
  + Visit our federal aid page for more information specific to BYU-Idaho students
* Loans
  + Loans are borrowed money and must be paid back
  + You can apply for three different loans through the FAFSA form
    - Subsidized (link to subsidized info page)
    - Unsubsidized (link to unsubsidized page)
    - Parent Plus (link to parent plus page)
    - Outside lenders (local banks, credit unions, ect.)

**Expenses**

* School tuition (link to cost of attendance page)
* Books
* School Supplies
* Housing (link to housing office page)
* Insurance (link to health center)
* Food (link to meal plan page)

Other Expenses to consider:

* Transportation
* Clothing
* Cell Phone
* Entertainment
* Savings
* Other

For further information regarding ways to cut back in expenses check out the article What Your Child Will Need on Campus (include link) and Making a Budget for College (include link)

**Budgeting**

“Live like a college student now so you don’t have to live like one later!” If you have not already filled out your own budget plan, you can follow the steps below:

1. List your resources and their amounts
2. List your expenses and their amounts
3. Subtract your expenses from your resources and evaluate where necessary

**If you have a negative number you need to either find more resources or cut back on your expenses.**

**Here is a list of budgeting tools that you are more than welcome to utilize.**

* Use the below existing links, but don’t put all in one box
  + cashcourse.org link
  + Dave Ramsey link
  + Budgettracker
  + Finaid calculators
  + OSFAP direct loan
  + Add budget spreadsheet we use to have (John can you find this?)

**Loans**

There is nothing wrong with pulling out student loans, however there are a few things you should consider and plan for before you do so.

Students that complete a FAFSA form will receive either a subsidized or unsubsidized loan offer. Only dependent students can be eligible for Parent Plus loans. Also any student who drops below 6 credits are not considered to be in school by the lender and any time spent below 6 credits will begin to count towards a student’s grace period.

For information about how to get a student loan, completing MPN, completing Entrance Counseling, paying back loans, and other useful information visit the following websites.

* Student Aid (include link)
* Student Loans (include link)
* BYU-Idaho FAFSA processing and steps to receiving a loan (include link)
* Federal Student Aid (include link)

Did you know…? The national average student debt is $27,000 by the time a student graduates.

Not everyone wants to take out a loan, but sometimes it is necessary. Planning ahead will help you know how much you might need to take out and ultimately minimize your overall student debt.

What loans can I receive?

* Subsidized loan (link to loans page)
* Unsubsidized loan (link to loans page)
* Parent Plus loan (link to loans page)

Common Mistakes and Misconceptions

1. Student loans are bad
   1. **Fact:** Student loans may be the only option for a student to pay for a college education
2. Students are required to take out the whole loan amount offered
   1. **Fact:** When you accept your student loan, you may choose how much of the award you accept
3. It is better to take out the loan that has the lowest award amount
   1. **Fact:** Unsubsidized loans can be a smaller loan amount; however the interest rate is MUCH higher. If you do not need a lot of loan funds, accept a portion of the subsidized loan to avoid a higher interest rate
4. Only full-time students (12 credits) can receive loans
   1. **Fact:** Students can receive loan funds if enrolled in less than 12 credits. They must be enrolled in at least 6 credits to receive any student loans. Student enrolled in 6-11 credits will have their award amount prorated to the amount of credits they are taking. Students need to let their financial aid counselor know their credit level will be different.
5. You have to pay off your student loan before you go on your mission
   1. **Fact:** A student does not have to have all of their student loans paid off before going on a mission. However, because you will be out of school for more than 6 months, your lender will start to bill you. You are responsible for contacting your lender (include link) to see what your options are while you are on your mission.
6. I don’t have to pay back my loans until after I graduate so I don’t’ need to worry about what I have pulled out until then
   1. **Fact:** Students are not required to pay back their student loans until they have dropped below 6 credits for more than 6 months. However, unsubsidized loans will accrue interest while a student is in school. Students are also responsible to be aware and keep track of the interest that will accrue. Click here (include link) for more information
7. Loan money can only be used on tuition
   1. **Fact:** Scholarships, Pell grants, student loans and other forms of financial aid used at BYU-Idaho will automatically go towards tuition and any other debts to the school first. Anything left over is yours to use responsibly for any other school expenses that you may have

What is the cost of taking out a student loan?

All student loans have an origination fee. This is explained in your MPN and Entrance counseling. This fee is simply taken out of the loan funds that you accept, so the money that you receive will be less than the funds that you accept. Interest calculator (include link)

The most essential thing that you can do before taking out a loan is planning a budget first. If you plan ahead and know what your resources and expenses are you will know ahead of time how much you need to pull out in student loans rather than not knowing and taking out more than you need.

Have you already pulled out a student loan? Check your account (include link) and with your lender to see where you currently stand with you loans.