



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

December 2016

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Understanding College Costs

Often the greatest fear about pursuing an education after high school is the cost of college. The main expenses include **tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation**. These costs can be controlled to some extent.

The cost of college depends a lot on the choices students make. There's something else you should know: **The published price of attending a college is not usually what students actually pay.** Students often pay less, thanks to financial aid.

Financial aid is money given or lent to students to help pay for college. It may be awarded based on financial need alone, or based partly on factors such as proven academic or athletic ability. **Most full-time college students** receive some form of financial aid.

The actual, final price (or **net price**) students pay for a specific college is the published price (tuition and fees) to attend that college, minus any grants, scholarships and education tax benefits for which they may be eligible.

The **difference** between the published price and the net price can be **considerable**. While the prices published on college websites can be discouraging, many students will find that the net price for them is actually lower.

Colleges are now required to post a tool called a **net price calculator** on their websites. You can also go to the **U.S. Department of Education's Net Price Calculator Center**: www.collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx

Sources: [BigFuture](#) & [Career Guidance WA](#)



Have Naviance Questions?

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Upcoming Lessons in Naviance Family Connection with your counselor:

- **6th Grade - Learning Style Inventory**
- **7th Grade - Exploring Careers & Colleges**
- **8th Grade - Road Trip to Your Career**

(*See page 2 for the full list of middle school lessons)

Did You Know?

No one's potential is fixed at birth. "Maria is a quick learner." "I'm bad at math." We speak of these traits as if they are unchangeable. Scientists who study the brain have discovered that all of us can grow strong and meet challenges if we work hard and stick with it. Natural talent and predispositions are just the beginning.

Source: [What Kids Can Do](#)

Myth Buster

MYTH: College is much harder than high school.

REALITY: Substitute "different" for "harder."

For example, college courses usually rely on just a couple of papers or tests for final grades instead of lots of assignments. Many courses don't have penalties for when students miss a class.

The difficult part for most college students is learning how to handle the newfound freedom and responsibilities brought by larger class sizes, more free time, and about a million distractions.

Sources: [College Bound Network](#) & [Oregon GEAR UP](#)



[Check Student Online Grades Here!](#)

Middle School Naviance Lessons 2016-2017

MS	Lessons	Month
6	Lesson 1 – 6 th Grade S.M.A.R.T Goal	September/October
	Lesson 2 – Learning Style Inventory	December/January
	Lesson 3 – What Is a G.P.A?	February
	E.O.Y – 6 th Grade Goal Reflection	June
7	Lesson 1 – 7 th Grade S.M.A.R.T Goal	September/October
	Lesson 2 – Exploring Careers & Colleges (SuperMatch)	December/January
	Lesson 3 – Know Before You Go Critical Vocabulary	February
	E.O.Y – 7 th Grade Goal Reflection	June
8	Lesson 1 – 8 th Grade S.M.A.R.T Goal	September/October
	Lesson 2 – Road Trip to Your Career	December
	Lesson 3 – College Affordability	January
	Lesson 4 – My High School & Beyond Plan	February (8 th Grade high school planning)
	E.O.Y – 8 th Grade Goal Reflection	June
*E.O.Y. = End Of Year		

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Think** about what you'd like to do when you grow up.
- ☐ **Learn** about career possibilities in Naviance Family Connection by taking the **Cluster Finder** survey located in the **colleges tab**.
- ☐ **Find leadership opportunities.**
- ☐ **Talk with your family** and your advisor about your goals and dreams.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Talk about extracurricular activities.** Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school.
- ☐ **Come up with fun reading ideas.** If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.
- ☐ **Visit a nearby college together.** If you live near a college, look for upcoming events on campus that are open to the community. Or just tour the campus. Just being on a campus may get your child interested in college.

Sources: [Career Guidance WA](#) and [BigFuture](#)



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.