

# Planning and Paying: Online Tools for Students

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We all know that students need help with their finances – whether it’s budgeting, planning, or even finding a job. One of

the most efficient and effective ways for financial aid professionals to help students is by directing them to the Internet, where useful resources abound.

Web sites evolve, though, and keeping up with current links and the newest, most useful tools takes time. We recently gathered this list of good money management resources, but it’s just a glimpse of what’s available. Visit these sites to see if you can use them in your student counseling sessions, and do your own quick search online to find other links that best match your students’ needs. Using search terms like “financial aid calculators” and “budgeting for college” yields a bounty of Web sites worth exploring.

## **Online Calculators and Budgeting Tools**

FinAid – [www.fnaid.org/calculators/](http://www.fnaid.org/calculators/)

Peterson’s – [www.petersons.com/college\\_home.asp](http://www.petersons.com/college_home.asp)

Bankrate – [www.bankrate.com/brm/news/special/20010425b.asp](http://www.bankrate.com/brm/news/special/20010425b.asp)

Mapping Your Future – [www.mapping-your-future.org/features/dmbudget.htm](http://www.mapping-your-future.org/features/dmbudget.htm)

Nelnet – [www.nelnet.com/loan\\_calculators.aspx?id=740&path=bsp.fye.ufa.calc](http://www.nelnet.com/loan_calculators.aspx?id=740&path=bsp.fye.ufa.calc)

## **Credit Cards and Debt Management**

Bankrate –

[www.bankrate.com/brm/rate/brm\\_ccsearch\\_advanced.asp](http://www.bankrate.com/brm/rate/brm_ccsearch_advanced.asp)

National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) – [www.smartaboutmoney.org/nefe/pages/home.asp](http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/nefe/pages/home.asp)

Opting out –

[www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

(Students can also call 888.567.8688 to opt out of credit offers.)

## **Income, Jobs and Career Planning**

Employment trends – [www.bls.gov/emp](http://www.bls.gov/emp)

Jobs and salaries – [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

Government listings – [www.studentjobs.gov](http://www.studentjobs.gov)

Internships – [www.monstertrak.monster.com/msnintern/](http://www.monstertrak.monster.com/msnintern/)

Jobs, blogs and more for students – [www.cbcampus.com](http://www.cbcampus.com)

### did you know...

Borrowers surveyed say they feel “low levels of pain” if less than 8 percent of their gross income is required to pay their student loans. They report “moderate pain” when the percentage increases to above 8 percent, and “high pain” or “hardship” at debt ratios above 20 percent.

Source: National Association for College Admission Counseling.