



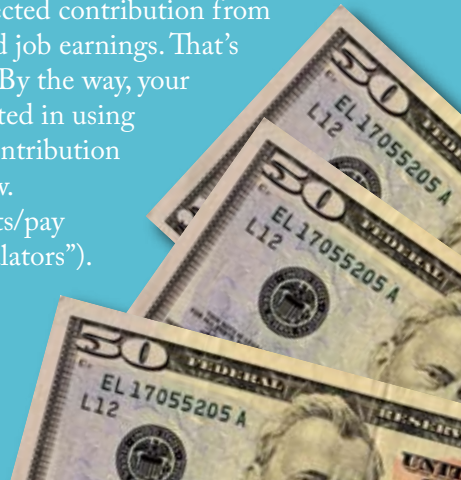
DEAR MOM, SEND MONEY

Groveling for cash isn't as cool as our seven strategies to pay for school. by Linda Piepenbrink

College is just around the corner—and so are the bills that go with it. Tuition, books, housing, food. How do you plan to pay for it? Are you relying on rich and generous relatives, waiting for money to drop from the sky, hoping you'll win the lottery? (What?! Christians shouldn't even think about playing that greedy game!) The point is, college isn't cheap, but you don't have to get buried in loans to get your degree. You just need to *plan ahead*. Here's a little help from your future alma mater (we hope!):

Strategy #1: Follow a college financial planning calendar! (See sidebar on opposite page.)

Strategy #2: Calculate your college costs. Add up how much money you will need for each semester: tuition, fees, room and board, books, plus anticipated costs for transportation (work, church, or ministry extension), personal expenses, and special events or travel plans (e.g., ticket home for Christmas). Record the amount on paper (your financial worksheet), then subtract the amount available to you in scholarships, expected contribution from parents and relatives, and job earnings. That's your cost of attendance. By the way, your parents might be interested in using the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator at www.collegeboard.com/parents/pay (click on "Fin.Aid Calculators").



COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING CALENDAR

Strategy #3: Get a job. Once you're at Maranatha, you can cut costs by working through college. Maranatha employed more than 300 students on campus in 2004-05. Many off-campus jobs are also open to students. To redeem the time and maximize earning potential, lots of students work year-round, including holiday breaks and summer.

Strategy #4: Save your pennies. If you have a job or get some birthday cash, save a portion of it and invest it in an interest-bearing account. (Be sure to put a portion in the offering plate first.) Think twice before spending your entire paycheck on entertainment, clothing, spring break, other fun traveling trips, and junk food. The prudent person looks ahead, sees the danger (bills), and takes action (Proverbs 14:15; 22:3).

Strategy #5: Find financial aid. A whopping 96 percent of the student body at Maranatha applied for some type of financial aid recently. The best forms, of course, are federal Pell grants and institutional/ designated scholarships that do not need to be repaid. Students also receive loans, such as Federal Stafford loans (subsidized or unsubsidized). Your parents can take out PLUS loans (low-interest loans to parents of dependent undergraduate students) and may be eligible for tax credits. Veterans can get federal benefits through the GI bill.

So where do you sign up? To apply for government grants and loans, complete and submit your Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The easiest way to apply (and quickest way to get results) is to visit the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Request college applications and financial aid information from colleges you're considering. Keep information organized.
- Start to research scholarships online.* Get references for letter requirements. Start writing required essays.

FALL

- Check college websites* to help narrow your list of colleges. Fill out applications and financial aid information from each.
- Visit colleges you're seriously considering. Arrange a visit to Maranatha!
- Check FAFSA requirements to see whether states have deadlines for applying for state aid.
- Apply for scholarships. Finish and send required essays.

WINTER

- Have your high school send your transcript to your choice of colleges, including Maranatha.
- Submit FAFSA online. To get the best award package, apply as soon after January 1 as possible but not until your parents have filed their federal tax returns—you'll need that information to fill out FAFSA. Many priority financial aid deadlines are due in February. Keep copies of everything you send. You'll receive a generic award letter from each college suggesting how much financial aid you can get.

SPRING

- If you haven't visited Maranatha yet, arrange a visit now.*
- Apply early to college. (You will not receive an official financial aid award letter until you are accepted by the college.)
- Once you receive a formal award letter telling you how much financial aid you will receive, you'll need to make a final decision and accept or decline the college's financial offer.

SUMMER BEFORE COLLEGE

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to the college.
- Application deadline for fall semester is August 15 at Maranatha.
 - Work to make money for semester fees/downpayment (due on registration day—see payment plan options on our website*).


* www.mbbc.edu



Strategy #6: Scout out scholarships. Searching for national, state, and local scholarships takes work, but the pay-off is free money if you take the time to apply and meet the requirements. Most require an essay, so give some thought to your academic, extracurricular, and career plans. *What are your talents and hobbies? What career would you like to pursue?* March is scholarship essay completion time, so ask for help reviewing your essay if necessary.

To find scholarships, check out the financial page on Maranatha's website (www.mbbc.edu), under prospective students and finances, ask a high school guidance counselor, search the Internet, or check a local library or bookstore for books that list

scholarships, such as the *College Board Scholarship Handbook 2006*. Don't ignore banks, local businesses, and service clubs, which often set up scholarship funds. Keep track of each scholarship by placing its name, due date, and references in a clear plastic binder or folder. Put due dates on a master calendar.

Strategy #7: Pray, pray, pray! Before, during, and after you've done everything you can do to plan financially for college, the most important thing you can do to prepare is to pray that the good Lord will supply your every need. He is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh within us" (Eph. 3:20). 

Choose Your Own Adventure!

Maranatha's 2006 Sports Camps

Girls can choose
 Basketball (June 12-16)
 Volleyball Individual (July 24-28)
 Volleyball Team (July 31-August 4)
 Soccer (July 24-28)

Boys can choose
 Basketball (June 19-23)
 Football (June 15-17)
 Soccer (July 24-28)

Get ready for an exciting summer sports camp for teens (grades 6-12) at Maranatha Baptist Bible College! Each camp is designed to help you develop and sharpen athletic skills, build character, and learn from God's Word. Don't miss the adventure!

Price is \$200 per camp or \$95 for boys' football. Register before May 1, 2006, and get \$20 off weeklong camps and \$10 off football camp!

For more information, visit our new website at www.mbbc.edu/athletics or contact the athletic department at 920-206-2376 or athletics@mbbc.edu

