**SPEAK - EASY**

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Funding

An Education

in

Health Care

A workbook of ideas and exercises to help you

fund your career in health care

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ARE YOU PLANNING A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE?

The first step of planning a career in health care is to determine the cost of the education needed. So, you need to begin your financial plan by determining exactly what “career title” you desire. Once you have determined the career position you desire you are able to research that position to determine the type and length of education needed.

My Future Career:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Degree Needed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years **I need** to complete degree:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now you can begin researching the cost of various institutions that offer the degree or credential you need for your chosen career.

**Remember, cost of the program should be your second consideration after reputation of the degree program.**

List three institutions that offer the degree/program you want and the “cost of attendance”.

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Many students limit their ability to finance an education by limiting the geographical location of where they want to study. Your opportunities expand exponetiaonally with a regional or national search of programs.**

When evaluating your choice of schools/programs determine if it will take more than one institution to achieve your final goal to include costs related to relocation for each institution. Each institution prints cost of attendance estimates in their catalog.

After you have chosen your schools/programs you can begin to finalize your cost estimates. *Use the estimated cost of expense sheet included.*

ESTIMATE COST OF EDUCATION EXPENSES WORKSHEET

Your school will provide cost of attendance figures that will include the major costs, this worksheet is designed to help you discover and plan for hidden cost.

School cost of attendance is based on 9 months

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tuition/Fees |  |
| Books |  |
| Room and Board (on-site) or rent, food and utilities for off-site |  |
| Personal expenses |  |

Additional and Hidden Costs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summer course Costs |  |
| Summer Books |  |
| Summer Room and board |  |
| Summer Personal expenses |  |
| Health insurance |  |
| Prescriptions/Eyewear |  |
| Health care/ emergency |  |
| Transportation Costs (include car payment, gas, insurance, maintenance and emergency) |  |
| Cell phone/up-charges |  |
| Additional study supports |  |
| Uniforms/clothing |  |
| Laundry/dry cleaning |  |
| Relocation expenses prior/post |  |
| Test prep |  |
| Interview costs (travel, hotel, clothes) |  |
| Cost of preparing and printing portfolio |  |
| Installment bills (credit cards, loans etc) |  |
| Interest payment on unsub loans |  |
| If away from family travel to visit costs |  |
| Transfer/disconnect fees |  |
| Day care/sick day care/babysitting |  |
| Gifts/celebrations |  |
| Entertainment costs |  |
| Other |  |
| Other |  |
| Other |  |
| Other |  |

**Cost Cutters**

**Save On Your Educational Costs**

**How I can save on education costs since**

**tuition is a non-negotiable cost?**

You can reduce the cost of your education by knowing all requirements; preparing to take these requirements in a cost efficient manner; knowing and meeting all deadlines avoiding late fee or add on costs; and being aware of alternative methods of meeting a requirement.

* Knowing requirements – by knowing the exact requirements of a program you avoid taking unneeded courses that cost you money.
* Being cost effective - Planning your course load and remediating when needed so you can be successful and not have to repeat a course.
* Not withdrawing from courses – twice the money twice the time
* Knowing and meeting deadlines – Missing deadlines and due dates almost always incur some type of late fee.
* Alternative methods – can you test out of a course, receive life experience credits, take the course somewhere else that is cheaper.
* Selecting your electives to support your major

Remediation courses (required and not-required) I need to achieve my goal:

1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sample remediation:

1. college prep courses (required)
2. BSC 1005c (not-required choose to take for preparation for BSC1010c)

Pre-requisite courses for entrance to my degree/program:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Second-Level Pre-Requisite – a course that is the pre-requisite for one of your program pre-requisites. Course may not show on program sheet.

Hidden Pre-Requisite – course that is needed to to be successful in the next level course (i.e. BSC1010c course more than 5 years old my need to retake (audit) in order to be successful in BSC 2093c).

**COST CUTTERS CONTINUED**

Research options for obtaining your books and supplies. Bookstores like all other businesses must make a profit so competition can save you money.

* Is your book available as an e-book?
* Can you rent your books?
* Are there used copies?
* Check out competitors prices.
* Do books and supplies go on sale?
* Book sharing\*.
* Check the library general circulation and reserved materials

**Book sharing can cause many unforeseeable problems.**

**Are you sure your partner is trustworthy?**

**What if you both need the book to study?**

**GENERAL COST CUTTING TIPS**

Recycle old binders and file folders

Use both sides of paper and scrap paper for scratch and draft paper

Coupons, sales and student discounts!

**Be careful not to fall into “salesopoly” the process of buying because it is on sale**

**not because you need it. Paying 25.00 for 25 lbs. of hamburger is not a savings if you**

**throw out 22 lbs. due to spoilage.**

Walk, bike, ride share, bus and/or skateboard

Cooking from scratch is always cheaper – you pay for preparation and convenience. Bonus alert scratch cooking is healthier!!

Reusable water bottle – water fountains are free

Never buy from a vending machine!!

Share and Swap – swap 2 hours of babysitting to use someone’s washer and dryer

Never use payday loans, or check cashing stores

BUILDING A SAVINGS PLAN

**Most students will state they are already starving and that they could not possibly save another penny!**

Living the true starving student life:

* No new clothes during education. Emergency needs purchased through thrift or gift.
* No phone! You should be going from class to study to home, no need to talk with anyone. If a must (you have children) you should have minimum service with the free or old phone.
* Burger King? What’s that? You will be cooking (Ramon noodles), eating leftovers no waste and mooching as many meals as possible.
* I don’t need no bus pass I have 2 feet!
* Entertainment is long walks with friends looking at nature, if you have time!
* One bedroom apartment 2 sets bunk beds.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

Well, yes and no, you truly will need to cut costs and give up luxuries and some “wants” and stick to “needs” this is only for a short time (delayed gratification). But, remember the pay-off!

Need – something you must have for safety or survival

Want – something that may make life easier or you to feel good but you can survive without it.

Luxury – something that is for pure comfort and pleasure

Remember you are on a college campus:

* Free and low cost movies, plays and entertainment
* Often free food at activities, volunteer events and meetings.
* Buying in bulk can often save if you are dividing cost.
* Student discounts!

**Brown-Bag it and carry a water bottle**

**You pay for the convenience of cafeteria and microwave ready meals.**

**Energy drinks and vending machines are embezzlers of your money**

MOM, SEND MONEY!

Many students feel that they are adults and not their parent’s responsibility anymore so they do not expect financial help from family. But, you will always be their child. You are not asking for handout you are asking for support and investment in your future.

An, investment does not always mean a cash tuition payment:

* Living at home while in school
* Meals provided while in school
* Cover health/car insurance while in school
* Cash or food instead of gifts
* Cash investment in your future
* Personal loans at low or no interest

You must cultivate this understanding of what your needs are verses your wants. You must show potential and respect and give family and friends a reason to help you obtain your education.

**You cannot expect a relative to help you pay for school while you are going out to eat or to the club paying a cover charge as well as drinks!**

**Be respectful of others money including the federal and state financial aid which comes from tax dollars!**



**WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?**

Many students confuse the term financial aid with government grant money but, the government grants are only a small portion of financial aid. The true meaning of financial aid is any source of funding used to pay educational costs.

Below is a partial list of standard and not so standard forms of financial aid:

**Grants:** are awards of money from federal, state and institutions to assist with educational costs that do not have to be paid back. This does not mean you are entitled to any grants, they must be earned through certain qualifications and maintaining academic progress.

The private sector also offers grants which do not have to be paid back but they are usually on a competitive basis.

**Scholarships:** are a form of limited private funding almost always based on a competitive basis. Scholarships can be provided for many different reasons such as academic merit, financial need, special group or lineage, etc.

**Loans:** are also offered through government supported programs and private entity loans. Undergraduate government loans tend have a lower interest and are may be unsecured, meaning your credit rate is not a factor in determining your eligibility. Many of the graduate and parent loans do relay on credit evaluation.

Private entity loans almost always are based on credit worthiness and are tied to industry interest rates.

**Family Contribution:** Most will also need assistance from family/spouse either in direct tuition payment or providing living expenses. Even profession schools such as medical and pharmacy schools expect some type of support/investment in the student’s education.

**Personal contribution** would be funds from employment and personal savings. Most institutions expect most of your living expenses to come from personal and family contribution.

**Student who expect 100% of tuition and personal expenses to be covered by “no loan” financial aid are not being realistic.**

**Students who borrow 100% of education and living expenses are going to face difficult debt management after graduation.**

**Borrow only what you “need”.**

The following list of funding sources is being referred to as non- traditional because they are very limited and not accessible to all students:

**Loan forgiveness:** is the concept of forgiving part or all of the student’s loans in exchange for some type of services or achievements. For example there are federal programs that will forgive student debt in exchange for a number of years of work in a high need area such as economically depressed urban areas or very remote areas in need of health care services. Some private hospitals/corporations will forgive part of student loans for a commitment of work for a number of years. <https://studentloans.gov>

**Research Assistantships:** are paid opportunities to work with a college faculty member on his/her research endeavors. These positions are usually tied to the student’s goals and desired career. These positions tend to be very competitive and often not even advertised so keep your ear to the ground for leads.

**Teaching Assistantships:** are paid opportunities to teach or assist teaching a lower level course that the student has demonstrated expertise. These positions are often connected to the undergraduate institution tied to the professional school (medical , dental, etc).

**Graduate Assistantships:** are paid position similar to the research and teaching assistantship where the student is assisting a faculty member or department with a particular project.

**Resident Assistants/Directors:** are positions in the resident halls or apartments that usually provide housing and board plus a very small stipend. Such positions are coveted in high rent communities as a way of reducing living expenses.

**Adjunct faculty:** If the student has achieved a certain level of education that allows them to be credentialed as a faculty member them may be hired on a course by course basis.

**Private tutoring** – Many students are able to build a private tutoring service or are hired by the many private tutoring services. This type of work provides flexibility in scheduling.

**Research participant** – Many students are paid to be human subjects in a vast variety of research studies at most major educational institutions. Be cautious of time commitment and side-effects that could affect your academic performance.

This is only a partial listing of non-traditional funding sources available to students.

**A note of caution:**

**An opportunity that is too good to be true probably is, so be sure of legality and ethics of all opportunities.**

**How do I find a scholarship?**

**Step one** in finding scholarship you qualify for is to know thy self. What is your career goal; education goal; what have you done; memberships; education successes; your heritage; parents membership; employment; etc.

**Step two** is to utilize a good FREE on-line scholarship search engine such as fastweb.org

Searching for scholarships does take time. I recommend 60-90 minutes per week year round. Remember, if a deadline has passed that is for this year file this scholarship so you can apply on-time for future years.

**Scholarship winners are “thick skinned” and can accept many rejections. A no or no response does not mean no one wants to give you money, it just means you have not found the right match. Keep trying!**

**Step three** is contacting your educational institution and their foundation if they have one (Valencia.org). You want to find out what scholarships are available from the institution.

**Step four** is follow-up and meeting deadlines

The **final step** is to build your educational portfolio so you are a good candidate for scholarships. See next section.



**How To Increase Your Chances Of Earning A Scholarship**

Familiarize yourself with the various qualifications for scholarships in your career area such as: GPA, number of volunteer hours, coursework, membership, etc. Once you have an idea of qualifications you can rank them as to which ones you can improve on.

List the top 5 qualifications:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rank the qualifications based on which ones you can improve the most on:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List any special talents, skill or experiences you have that did not show up on the top 5 list:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sample list of qualifications, talents, skills and experiences:**

**GPA > 3.0 Volunteer hours International Experiences**

**Employment Memberships Awards Union Membership**

**Certifications Letters Reference Coursework**

**Leadership Major Career Goal**

As you can see by this list some qualification are easier to obtain than others. 

For each of your top five qualifications please list 3steps you can take to obtain or improve on these qualifications.

Sample Qualification: Leadership

1. Pursue a leadership role in the campus S.G.A. or community group you are involved with
2. Attend a leadership symposium or conference
3. Enroll in a leadership course

Qualification One:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualification Two:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualification Three:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualification Four:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualification Five:

1).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WHY GOOD CREDIT IS SO IMPORTANT?**

**THE BIG THREE**

1. Having good credit demonstrates that you are at a low risk of defaulting on your loans. Banks and other institutions want to know they will get back money they loan you.
2. Having good credit can earn you lower costs on car insurance, get you approved for an apartment and reduce cost associated with investment and banking.
3. Having good credit demonstrates to a future school or employer that you are trustworthy and responsible in your life.

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**HOW DO I CHECK MY CREDIT RATING?**

You can request a free credit report from annualcreditreport.com every 12 months.

**Never pay or buy a protection service to get a credit report!**

Visit the My Financial Planner Located in Atlas under the LifeMap tab

Meet with one of the Valencia’s Financial Literacy Ambassadors for assistance understanding credit and money management.