A PRACTICAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

The Education Cost Checklist

15 Questions to Ask Before Enrolling in a College or Education Program

Planning for school is exciting, but understanding the full cost is an important part of making a confident decision.

Tuition is only one piece of the puzzle. Before you enroll, use these questions to get a clearer picture of what you will pay, when you will pay it, and what expenses you should plan for along the way.

15

Questions for a clearer decision

Compare program costs, uncover extra expenses, and understand your payment options before you commit.

A simple guide for planning the true cost of your education.

QUESTION CHECKLIST

15 Questions to Ask Before Enrolling

Use this checklist to compare programs and understand the full financial commitment before you enroll.

1 Tuition and Program Costs

- [ ] What is the total tuition for the entire program?
- [ ] Is tuition charged per credit, course, semester, or program?
- [ ] Are there any enrollment, application, registration, or technology fees?
- [ ] Can tuition or other program costs increase while I am enrolled?

Notes:

2 Books, Supplies, and Additional Expenses

- [ ] Are textbooks and course materials included in tuition?
- [ ] Will I need to purchase a computer, software, uniforms, equipment, or other supplies?
- [ ] Are there additional costs for exams, testing fees, labs, clinicals, or certifications?
- [ ] Are there any other required expenses that are not included in the advertised program price?

Notes:

3 Payment Options and Financial Aid

- [ ] What payment options are available?
- [ ] Can I pay in installments, or is full payment required upfront?
- [ ] What payment schedules and deadlines should I know about?
- [ ] Does the program qualify for federal financial aid, scholarships, grants, or employer tuition assistance?

Notes:

4 Unexpected Costs and Financial Flexibility

- [ ] What happens if I need to withdraw, pause my studies, or take a break?
- [ ] Are there additional fees if I need to retake a course or exam?
- [ ] What is the refund policy if I decide not to continue?

Notes:

Helpful tip

Ask each school for a written cost estimate so you can compare programs side by side.

DECISION PLANNING

Before You Make a Decision

Use these questions to compare your options and make sure you understand the financial commitment before enrolling.

1 My Education Cost Notes

Keep the key details for each school or program in one place.

School or Program:

Estimated Total Cost:

Payment Options:

Additional Expenses:

2 Questions I Still Need Answered

Write down anything you want to clarify before making your choice.

Compare with confidence

Consider the total price, payment timing, financial aid, and any expenses that may come up during the program.