

# CREATIVE WAYS TO AFFORD HIGHER ED!

*Beyond traditional grants, loans, and scholarships, these creative ideas can aid students in their efforts to afford their college experience.*

## Work-Study

Work-Study is a part-time job that is usually on-campus. Many positions allow you to have a flexible schedule that works with your class schedule. It helps you build connections with faculty/staff. You need to fill out the FAFSA and check the Work-Study box to be considered.

## Housing

Housing costs can have a big price tag especially if you wait until the last minute. Search housing options 5+ months before starting college to have more options. Consider living with parent/guardian(s) or with roommates to split the cost.

## Become a Presidential Ambassador

Presidential Ambassadors are student leaders on campus. They usually help give tours, assist in recruitment, and help with activities. PAs are usually paid or receive reduced tuition rates.

## Textbooks

Textbooks can be extremely expensive. There are many ways to make those price tags cheaper. One way is to buy used books or rent them from places like Chegg or Amazon. You can also consider sharing a book and cost with a friend or classmate or check out your textbooks from the library reserve.

## Become a Resident Assistant

Resident Assistants are housing/dorm managers. They receive benefits of free or discounted housing and sometimes have other benefits like meal plans on campus.

## Run for Student Body Office Positions

Some student body officers can receive a stipend from the college to help pay their tuition. They are also great for resume experience and network-building.

## Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is asking for money for a cause. The most popular crowdfunding is for medical needs. However, there are many who may want to assist students and don't know where to start. Platforms like "GoFundMe," "Indiegogo," "Razoo," or "YouCaring" are great resources.

## Tuition Reimbursement Jobs

Many employers give some type of tuition reimbursement to employees. Some of those companies include: Starbucks, UPS, Apple, Google, Home Depot, IBM, Chipotle, Wal-Mart, local credit unions, and more.

## Research Paid Internships On/Off Campus

Paid internships can lead to future higher level positions, are usually student schedule friendly, and give you real experience in your degree.

## Research Student Discounts

Ask about student discounts on-campus or at local businesses or invest in a student discount card. Sometimes there are free or discounted foods at activities on campus.

## Find Summer Employment

Working in the summer between high school and college can help students put aside money for upcoming expenses. There are many good summer jobs like camp mentors or youth programs that only last during the summer.

## 1, 2, 4, or More

4 year universities aren't the only route to go for higher education, there are many other affordable programs that prepare you for a career or further your education. Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and others are all great pathways to afford an education and/or jumpstart ones future.

