

Presented by:
I-LEAD
in collaboration with
Harcum College

At community sites in:

- Philadelphia County
- Delaware County
- Chester County
- Berks County
- Lehigh Valley

Offering Degrees in:

- Leadership Studies
- Human Services

College: Cost or Investment?



\$\$ Thousands \$\$ in FREE Financial Aid is Available

What will it cost me not to go to college?

Every year of additional education results in increased earnings, improved health, better educational outcomes for children, and overall improved quality of life.

When you go to college, you unlock your potential for the rest of your life, achieving your dreams and allowing you to reach your full income potential.

College costs in the short term, but it is an investment that yields lifelong financial and personal returns. As a college graduate, you can improve your standard of living, repay student loans, and save for the future.

Annual Income by Education Level (national average)

Source: *Education Pays 2007*, www.collegeboard.com

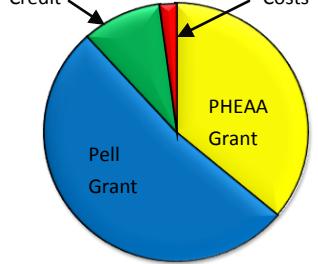


What will it cost me to go to college?

The ACE program is very affordable with a cost comparable to local institutions. When a financial aid package is applied to tuition, a student's bottom line out of pocket costs parallel community college.

Financial aid includes state grants from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), federal grants called Pell grants, low interest loans, and education tax credits.

The chart below demonstrates how financial aid reduces out of pocket tuition cost. The circle represents the whole cost of attendance, the slices



are portions of the financial aid package. In this example, a student receives a full PHEAA grant of \$3,700, a full Pell Grant of \$5,350, and an education tax credit of \$1,000 (received at tax time). Working through the financial aid process with staff will ensure students receive the best financial aid package available to them. To apply for financial aid, the first step is to complete the FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Investing in your college education is the best investment you can make in your future, and in your family's future.

For more information about ACE, please call:
1.877.428.8092

I-LEAD

1.877.428.8092
i-leadusa.org

Harcum College

"He got a car, I got a degree."

- Devin McDonald

Harcum Class of 2008, Eastern University Class of 2010

Loans make me nervous.

Ok, but they don't have to when you have all the information.

- You can determine what your monthly payments will be before you apply for or receive a student loan.
- You'll be in good company - more than 75% of persons who attend college today take out student loans. Otherwise, only the very rich could go to college!
- Student loans have low interest (4-8%) compared to 10-15% for a bank loan and 25% on credit cards.
- You will earn *far* more with a college degree than the cost of taking out and repaying a loan.



Do I have to repay student loans?

Yes, but not until six to nine months *after* you graduate, and there are several repayment options.

- Standard 10 year—total loan plus interest divided into 120 monthly payments
- Extended—You can take up to 25 years to repay your loan. You will have lower monthly payments, but will pay more in interest because of the longer timeframe.
- Graduated—Loan payments start low and increase every two years in anticipation of increased income.
- Income Based Repayment—You and your lender work together to determine a monthly payment that is affordable based on your income and family size. For example, a single parent of two children earning \$30,000 after taxes with an \$8,000 student loan debt at 6.8% interest has an IBR of \$30 per month. Estimate your payment online with the IBR repayment calculator at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/IBRPlan.jsp>
- If you are still paying after 25 years, the remainder of your loan can be forgiven.
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness—if you work in public service as of 2007 and make student loan payments for 10 years (120 payments), the balance of your loan can be forgiven.
- Deferment and Forbearance—in the worst case scenario, student loan payments can be temporarily postponed due to financial hardship, reenrollment in school at least half-time, or military service. You have to apply for deferment and make payments again



Helpful websites:

Student Aid on the Web

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Find detailed information on Federal Student Aid programs; research school and career choices; and learn about the entire federal student aid process.

FAFSA on the Web

www.fafsa.gov

Apply for federal student aid online using FAFSA on the Web (the online version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.)

Military

www.studentaid.ed.gov/military

If you are in the armed forces, visit this site to find out more about grants, repayment, and forgiveness options.

National Student Loan Data SystemSM (NSLDS)

www.nslds.ed.gov

Use your personal identification number to access federal student loan records and obtain contact information on your loan servicer.