

College Money Method

College Finance & Financial Aid Workshop for Seniors

How to compare your financial aid awards & consider successful appeals

Congratulations on your college acceptances! You're now receiving financial aid offers with varying award amounts, different terms and unique costs.

- How do you fairly compare different offers and understand the true cost for each school?
- If an offer doesn't meet your financial need, when and how should you consider an appeal for more aid?

This workshop for Seniors and their families provides ways to standardize your financial aid packages, compare grants, scholarships, loans and work-study, and calculate your true cost of attendance. You'll also learn under what circumstances to appeal your financial aid offer and how to build the best case to successfully increase your award.

Topics Covered

Breaking down your financial aid package

- Cost of Attendance - owning your college budget
- Free money vs. financing: A framework to interpret financial aid
- Calculating true cost and your net price

Understanding the future costs of borrowing

Building a 4-year estimate for your college investment

- Modeling your net price for four years
- Comparing colleges based on your current versus future costs

When to consider appeals

- Appeal vs negotiation: Understanding the difference
- Three primary cases for an appeal

Building a successful case for increasing financial aid

- Communicating with the financial aid office
- Documenting changes in your financial situation
- Using college financial aid data to support your case

Resources

- ⇒ **Awards comparison workbook:** interactive worksheets to standardize financial aid awards and fairly compare offers
- ⇒ **4-year college cost projector:** interactive worksheets providing projections for 4-year investment by college
- ⇒ **Loan payback calculator:** interactive worksheets to calculate the cost of borrowing based on loans in financial aid awards

About the Facilitator

Paul Martin is founder of College Money Method, a financial education service focused on helping students and families with college affordability and the financial aid process. A graduate of Harvard and MIT, his passion for this work stems from his own experience going through the process alone as a first-generation college student.

Paul works with 40 independent schools in 10 states to offer his curriculum and advising to students of diverse economic backgrounds. In partnership with Miami-Dade and Broward School Districts, he offers district-wide trainings for counselors and workshops for students on financial aid and paying for college.

As a volunteer and service leader, Paul is actively involved with his alma maters to support current first-gen students as they trailblaze through college, serving as President of First-Generation Alumni of MIT.

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About the Presenter:

Paul Martin is founder of College Money Method, a financial advisory focused on helping families with college affordability and the financial aid process. A graduate of Harvard and MIT, his passion for this work stems from his own experience going through the process alone as a first-generation college student. Paul partners with high schools to provide education and resources on financial aid and paying for college to students and families of all economic backgrounds.

Paul is member of the National College Advocacy Group, a non-profit comprised of financial planners focusing on college access and affordability. He is also the President of First-Generation Harvard Alumni and the Founder of First-Generation Alumni of MIT, two organizations that offer mentorship to first-generation students as they trailblaze through college.