

Paying for College: S.M.A.R.T Goals

Start making **SMART** goals for your future—**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-based. Use the guided prompts below to make a smart college savings goal.

Specific: Make a detailed goal. “Put money aside,” isn’t specific, instead say, “put 10% of the money I earn into a college fund.”

Measurable: Think of an easy way to track your progress and feel good about what you’re accomplishing. Add something measurable to your goal above—how do you plan to keep track of the money you save?

Achievable: Assess your situation—is your goal reachable? If not, rewrite it to make it achievable. For example, if you earn \$700 a month, don’t expect to put \$800 away each month.

Realistic: Is your goal relevant to you and your life plans? For example, don’t make a plan to save for medical school costs when you plan to become a veterinarian.

Time-based: When do you want to start saving for college and when do you want to stop? Don’t give yourself too much time—give yourself just enough time to make the goal attainable.
