

# MANAGING YOUR MONEY

## Reducing Costs

The costs of pursuing higher education include expenses billed by the school and expenses that are discretionary or not billed by the school. Consider the following cost-cutting measures to reduce both billed and unbilled costs while you pursue your higher education goals.



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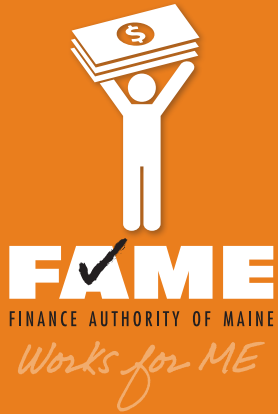
## COST REDUCTION CHECKLIST

### REDUCE THE BILL

- File the FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) every year by your school's priority filing deadline.
- Enroll in a seasonal course (summer, winter). Some schools charge lower fees for seasonal courses to boost enrollment. Financial aid may be available for these courses—check with the Financial Aid Office.
- Use your benefits. If you are a Veteran or Service Member, use your education benefits. If you are Native American or were in foster care, pursue tuition waivers.
- Talk to your employer about any available education funding.
- Complete the steps to waive medical insurance if you are already covered.

### REDUCE PROGRAM LENGTH

- Obtain a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to see if experiences can count toward academic credit.
  - Already enrolled in college? Contact your academic advisor for more information about PLA at your school.
  - Exploring a college? Connect with the admissions office to learn about PLA at that school.
- Transfer credits from a previous school.
  - Contact the registrar's office at the school you plan to attend to ask for a transfer credit evaluation.
- Take at least 15 credits if you are attending a school that charges a flat rate. A flat rate means one price is charged for full-time attendance whether you take 12 credits or more.



## SAVE ON BOOKS

- Use free resources like Google Books and your school library.
- Consider renting from a source like [Chegg.com](https://www.chegg.com) or your school bookstore.
- Share a book with a student taking the same class as you.
- Buy your books used. Look for used books early—school bookstores and online sources like [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) have a limited supply of used books, which tend to go first.
- Purchase digital books. Downloadable textbooks are often cheaper than hard copies and are delivered on demand.
- Earn cash back by selling books you'll never use again to classmates, your school bookstore and online stores like [Chegg.com](https://www.chegg.com) or [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

## REDUCE HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

- Set financial goals.
- Review your expenses to determine where you can spend less on cell phones, cable, transportation, housing, utilities, food, insurance and any extras.
- Create a spending plan.

PO Box 949  
5 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04332

**1-800-228-3734**  
TTY: 207-626-2717

FAMEmaine.com