COLLEGE for RURAL WISCONSIN

January 2026

Tips for Saving Money in College & Navigating Financial Aid From Someone Who Was In Your Shoes

Navigating Financial Aid

- Don't forget to fill out your FAFSA when applying for colleges! This is how your college will determine the amount of financial aid you will receive for the school year. You can find the form here: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- Worried about the cost of college? Visit https://myintuition.org/ to plan for actual costs and your expected financial aid.
- You can use a net-price calculator to determine the estimated price of attending colleges and universities. All colleges are required to have this tool on their website.
- Your community is a great place to start when looking for scholarships! Ask your school counselor about local scholarship opportunities. Also check with any organizations or groups you belong to, and don't forget about businesses your family works with!

Saving Money in College

- Purchase books and other school supplies used for a discounted price when possible.
- Student jobs are a great way to earn some extra cash while taking classes. College jobs tend to be more flexible with scheduling and understanding of other outside commitments compared to other jobs on and near campus.
- Interested in living on campus? Consider applying to be an R.A. (Resident Assistant). Often, resident assistants get hefty discounts on housing and food.
- Take advantage of activities and meetings on campus which offer food. These are often free and are opportunities to network, learn, or just find out what's going on on campus.

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