

# College Planning

## Actionable information to help save ON, not just FOR the cost of college!

**Disclaimer** - This report is intended to help you in making decisions concerning college planning and funding strategies. The contents of this report do not constitute financial planning advice and should be used solely in conjunction with the professional advice and counsel of a qualified financial advisor, tax advisor or legal professional and are not intended to be used as a substitute for professional guidance or oversight. This report is intended for illustrative purposes only. Results are based on data provided by you, your financial advisor or other third parties and CFS makes no representations or guarantees that the data or any of the results shown in this report is accurate, complete or current. Collegiate Funding Solutions (CFS) makes no representations or guarantees that any forecasted results can or will be achieved. You are further specifically advised that the Expected Family Contribution ("EFC") as shown in the report is a projected estimate and is not identical to the EFC that will actually be used by any particular institution in calculating a family's ability to pay educational costs. CFS shall not have and you hereby release CFS from any liability for the use or reliance by you on the results showing in this report.

Saving for college costs is important, but there is more to college planning than just savings strategies. This report provides actionable information that may help a family significantly reduce its out-of-pocket college costs. Every dollar saved on college costs can be reallocated for other important purposes, such as retirement savings. This report contains actionable information that can help a family save ON and FOR the cost of a college education and result in a better retirement savings outlook.

### How to use this report:

1. **Review the School Information** that directly impacts costs - including cost of attendance, graduation rates and room and board costs. The four-year estimated "sticker price" for **University of Cincinnati** is **\$240,276** - but this is NOT necessarily the price you have to pay.
2. **Do you qualify for financial aid?** Need-based financial aid can substantially reduce family out-of-pocket college costs.
3. **See how the school determines your financial aid eligibility** and determines how much you'll have to contribute to the annual costs (there are ways to reduce the amount you'll be required to pay).
4. **What do you need to do to qualify for merit-based scholarships?** School based merit scholarships can significantly reduce college costs.
5. **What is the most efficient way for you to save for college?** Analyze the options for use as college savings/retirement savings vehicles.
6. **How does your state-sponsored 529-plan measure up?** Review important tax benefits of the state-sponsored 529-plan (if available) for clients interested in 529 savings plans.
7. **Which education tax credits should you use?** Determine which education tax credit/savings options may yield the most tax savings.

### What You Need to Know About Paying for College:

School Information		Actionable Application of Information
<b>University of Cincinnati</b>		
4-year/6-year Graduation Rate:	<b>21%/65%</b>	A poor 6-year graduation rate can significantly increase college costs due to extended time in school.
Current one-year Cost of Attendance (COA)	<b>\$28,156</b>	Determined for each college by totaling the costs for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal

		expenses and travel. College admissions strategies can help find comparable schools at significantly reduced costs.
Current Room and Board Cost	<b>\$11,118</b>	A high room and board cost can make purchase/resale of rental property during the college years an attractive alternative.

### Financial Aid Info and Stats for University of Cincinnati\*

Financial aid forms required by University of Cincinnati	<b>FAFSA</b>	Indicates whether the school in question requires the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or the CSS Profile to determine financial aid eligibility at the school.
Average amount of financial need met	<b>44%</b>	The percentage of a family's financial need that the school is most likely to meet. The higher the percentage of need met the better. Any unmet need will have to be covered by the family.
Gift Aid %	<b>43%</b>	The percentage of the financial need that the school will meet in the form of scholarships, grants etc. This is money that will not have to be paid back to the school. The higher this value, the better.
Self Help %	<b>57%</b>	The amount of need that the school will meet in the form of student loans and work-study.

### Family and Financial Aid Estimates

Expected Family Contribution Amount (EFC)	<b>\$9,732</b>	This is what the family will be expected to pay toward the cost of college at the school selected before qualifying for any need-based financial aid at that school. By starting with the EFC and not the COA, the family will have a much better idea which schools are REALLY affordable.
Does the family qualify for financial aid at University of Cincinnati?	<b>n/a**</b>	
Could the family qualify for additional financial aid by implementing college planning strategies?	<b>n/a**</b>	An analysis of the financial information provided indicates that the total amount of liquid assets (cash instruments, securities, mutual funds, etc.) is beyond the asset protection allowance value permitted by the financial aid formula for this client. Therefore, redeployment of these assets into non-assessable assets would remove them from assessment and may increase financial aid eligibility.
Financial Aid Eligibility Amount	<b>n/a**</b>	An estimate of the amount of financial aid the family is eligible for based on the school cost, the financial aid formula used to determine their financial need and the average amount of financial need met by the school.

### Estimated Financial aid award for RLF

Grants/Scholarships	<b>\$0</b>	Determined by applying the gift aid % to the financial aid eligibility total. This is a forecast of the amount that you may receive in the form of Gift Aid (grants and scholarships).
Loans/work-study	<b>\$0</b>	Determined by applying the self-help % to the financial aid eligibility total. This is a forecast of the amount that you may receive in the form of Self-Help (loans and work-study).

Total family contribution to cost of college after account for need-based financial aid	<b>\$28,156</b>	Is equal to the EFC plus any unmet need. This can be thought of as the net amount due "out-of-pocket" after accounting for financial aid from the school. This is the real one-year cost of the college to the family as opposed to the COA.
<b>Merit-based scholarship information at University of Cincinnati</b>		
Qualify for merit-based scholarships at University of Cincinnati based on reported GPA/SAT scores?	<b>NO</b>	A yes indicates that the student is already eligible for merit-based scholarships at the school in question based on GPA and standardized test scores.
Number of merit-based scholarships RLF may qualify for at University of Cincinnati* (details below)	<b>Requires GPA/SAT Entry</b>	School-based merit scholarships are by far the leading source of potential "free money" for a family and one of the best ways a family can reduce the cost of a college education and reduce student loan debt.

Note - The financial aid information and percentages used in the table are reported by the school and are average amounts. A high performing student (GPA/standardized test scores) will often result in a "preferential aid package" for the student, whereby a higher percentage of financial need will be met and the gift aid % (grants and scholarships) will increase relative to the stated averages.

\*\* Financial aid eligibility and estimates are not included in the report until the student is in high school because too many variables are subject to change this far in advance.

## How Should You Save For College?

Use the table below to help determine which savings vehicles may be best for the client in light of their goals and circumstances. For example, parents who may be eligible for need-based financial aid should consider options that have little or no negative impact on financial aid eligibility while early starters may favor very saving strategies that provide tax favored access for college funding and retirement.

Investment	Does the Value of the Asset Impact Financial Aid Eligibility?	Tax Favored Access for College?	Tax Favored Access for Retirement?
Cash	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Tax Efficient Mutual Fund	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Coverdell Education Savings Account	n/a	<b>Yes</b>	n/a
Roth IRA	n/a	<b>Yes (depends on use)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Traditional IRA	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Retirement accounts	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Annuities	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Cash-value Life Insurance	n/a	<b>Yes (via policy loans)</b>	<b>Yes (via policy loans)</b>
Series EE Savings Bonds	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Zero Coupon Bonds	n/a	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

Municipal Bonds	n/a	No	No
Mutual Funds	n/a	No	No
Growth Stocks	n/a	No	No
529 College Savings Plans	n/a	Yes	No
Pre-paid 529 Plans	Yes	Yes	No
Real Estate	Yes	No	No

## What Benefits Does a State 529 Plan Offer?

The table below provides valuable advisor and client information concerning the state-offered 529 plan. A tax deduction on contributions to the state plan may provide a compelling rationale for selecting the state plan versus other alternatives. In addition to the limit on the deductible amount, it indicates if excess contributions beyond the annual deductible amount can be carry forward into subsequent years and how many years carry forward can occur. For example if the annual limit on deductible contributions is \$10,000 and the state allows for a carry forward of 5 years on excess contributions, then a 50,000 contribution during the year will yield tax savings for 4 additional years. Finally, the table shows what the potential tax savings could be to the client by taking advantage of the annual deductible limit on 529 contributions - subject to the annual gift limit amount of \$15,000. Tax savings are calculated based on years until college only. Carry forward provisions based on contributions above the annual limit are not factored into the tax savings calculations.

529 College Savings Information	
State of Residence	OH
Does state offer state deduction on 529 plan contributions?	YES
Annual Limit of Deductible Amount	\$4,000
Allow for carry forward of contribution amount?	YES
How many years?	18
Maximum Potential State Tax Savings on Contributions	\$2,408 = (state tax rate)*(contribution max)*(years)

## What Education Tax Credit is Best For You?

This table provides an overview of education tax benefits from IRS Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education. It also shows the estimated tax savings for the family based on their AGI and tax filing status. Therefore it can help the family determine which option will yield the most benefits.

Comparison of Tax Benefits Based on Tuition and Fees at University of Cincinnati		
	American Opportunity Credit	Lifetime Learning Credit
<b>Max Amount and Calculations</b>	\$2,500 tax credit per student	\$2,000 tax credit per student
<b>Qualified Expenses</b>	Tuition, fees and course materials (textbooks)	Tuition and fees
<b>Do you qualify?</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Estimated Tax Savings</b>	\$2,500	\$2,000

## Are Merit Scholarships Available?

School-based merit scholarships are by far the leading source of potential "free money" for a family and one of the best ways a family can reduce the cost of a college education and reduce student loan debt. Are Merit Scholarships available for **RLF** at **University of Cincinnati**?

The scholarship information below reveals:

1. Exactly what school-based scholarships RLF is eligible for at University of Cincinnati.
2. The requirements associated with each scholarship in order to obtain them.
3. Additional scholarships that may be available to RLF, including some that may only require a modest increase in test scores to meet the requirements.

Many families miss out on thousands of dollars of scholarship money because they don't know what's available to them and what's required to obtain them. The actionable information below can help ensure that RLF does not miss out on any scholarship opportunities at University of Cincinnati.

**RECOMMENDATION:** use the information below to review the requirements to obtain the scholarships below and to determine if a test prep program may be a prudent investment in order to raise test scores to meet qualification criteria for additional scholarships.

To show the list of scholarships the student is eligible for at University of Cincinnati, please specify either the student's GPA or SAT score (or both).

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