At IUPUI we understand how important finances are to college student success. We demonstrate our commitment to financial success through our awarding of need-based and merit-based financial aid programs, as well as the delivery of comprehensive financial education programming.

Student success at IUPUI is dependent on the personal commitment and investment of time, effort, and energy of our talented students, but also revolves around the development of a comprehensive financial plan.

IUPUI Commitment to Financial Success Planning

Our goal at IUPUI is to help students develop financial planning skills that lead to financial freedom and success. New resources are being offered to help students develop a financial planning skill set:

- **IUPUI Financial Success Planning (FSP) Calendar and Resource Guide**: A 15-month wall calendar will be distributed to all new IUPUI students this summer that includes key financial dates for the year as well as money-saving tips, advice, and resources. Think of this as a resource and reminder tool for IUPUI financial success planning.

- **IUPUI FSP Action Tool**: This is a financial planning worksheet tool for the academic year to help families determine available resources, calculate IUPUI costs, build a budget, and make decisions regarding borrowing levels needed to meet college costs.

- **IUPUI FSP Orientation Presentations**: Interactive presentations and workshops will be offered for new students as well as parents. Content will include a panel of current IUPUI students that describe what it’s like to manage personal finances at IUPUI—and what parents can do to help.

- **Web-based resources regarding personal finance will be promoted including**:
  - Cashcourse ([www.cashcourse.org/iupui](http://www.cashcourse.org/iupui)), a comprehensive financial information site for college students offered by the National Endowment for Financial Education;
  - MoneySmarts ([www.moneysmarts.iu.edu](http://www.moneysmarts.iu.edu)), a new financial literacy resource dedicated to all Indiana University students offered by the IU Office of Financial Literacy;
  - Buttonwood-Personal Finance and Student Loan Management™, a financial literacy learning module for college students that will be offered through the IUPUI OneStart system.

Financial Aid 101: Your First Lesson

Based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), IUPUI will begin sending financial aid notifications to all new students in late March and to continuing students in early June. The IUPUI Financial Aid Notification (FAN) includes information about your financial aid eligibility, expected costs, and other resources.

- **The Cost of Attendance (COA)** is an estimate of academic year educational expenses for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Your COA is estimated to help you and your family plan for the overall cost of an IUPUI education.

- **The COA includes both direct and indirect cost estimates**. **Direct Costs** are fixed costs that are billed to you through IUPUI. Your direct costs will include tuition and can also potentially include on-campus housing, meal plans, etc. **Indirect Costs**, on the other hand, are not billed to you by IUPUI and are not fixed expenses. Your indirect costs include things such as textbooks, transportation, and other personal expenses.

- **The Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** is calculated using a federally established formula and the information you reported on your FAFSA. Your EFC is a measurement of the financial strength of your family—a guide to how much your family may be able to contribute to college expenses over a nine-month period of time via savings, earnings, and borrowing. Your EFC will be the same regardless of which college you attend.
IUPUI Financial Resource Strategies

Successful IUPUI students on the journey to financial freedom recognize enrollment at IUPUI is just the beginning of financial success.

Saving and Spending Strategies

• Successful IUPUI students receive significant savings by completing at least 30 credits per year and completing an IUPUI degree within four years. Indiana University is now rewarding such progress toward a degree with the Finish in Four Completion Award (finishinfour.iu.edu).

• Successful IUPUI students recognize that every dollar saved for college expenses can reduce potential student loan debt. They realize it is never too late to save for college expenses and commit to saving money for college through summer employment, graduation gifts, etc.

• Successful IUPUI students develop a frugal spending plan and stick to it. They recognize the need to live on a college student budget TODAY so they don’t have to live on a college student budget the rest of their lives.

• Parents may want to consider the significant tax benefits of the Indiana CollegeChoice 529 plan (www.collegechoicedirect.com). Parents may still be able to open a 529 account and utilize the funds for higher education expenses later in the year while receiving up to $1,000 in a state income tax credit. Parents living outside of Indiana should check with their home state on 529 options.

Scholarship Strategies

• Successful IUPUI students make college their first job. Students who do well in school will maximize future scholarship opportunities and should continue looking for scholarship opportunities as they progress through IUPUI.

• Successful IUPUI students continue to look for scholarships. Scholarship aid can come from a wide array of sources, such as the IU Foundation or private entities. Most scholarships require a separate application in addition to the FAFSA. The IUPUI Office of Student Scholarships is dedicated to helping students search and apply for scholarships throughout their IUPUI career and offers web resources at the IUPUI Scholarship Central website (iupui.edu/scentral).

Student Employment Strategies

• Successful IUPUI students also develop career skills and financial resources through student employment. Working doesn’t have to interfere with getting good grades, but it does mean students have to manage time carefully. Successful IUPUI students recognize the importance of time management and an appropriate balance of study, work, and play.

• At IUPUI we have an entire office dedicated to helping students identify rewarding student employment opportunities. The IUPUI Office of Student Employment provides resources and empowers students to find meaningful, academically relevant, part-time work experiences that enhance both academic and personal success. Find more information at employment.uc.iupui.edu.

Student Borrowing Strategies

• Successful IUPUI students limit student loan borrowing as much as possible. All student loans are awarded in “offer only” status, allowing students to accept only what they need. This means that students will need to actively accept, reduce, or decline their student loan offers through onestart.iu.edu.

• Families are encouraged to utilize the IUPUI Financial Success Planning Action Tool to identify the amount of loan funds that may be needed to meet IUPUI expenses. Find more information at iupui.edu/finaid.
IUPUI students understand the unique value of IUPUI. Just a few considerations:

- IUPUI offers lower tuition and fee costs than many other four-year colleges in Indiana.
- IUPUI offers over 225 undergraduate and graduate degree programs from two world-class institutions in one centrally-located, dynamic campus.
- The economic strength of Indianapolis provides countless local career development opportunities to IUPUI students through internships, externships, cooperative education programs, full-time summer employment, as well as part-time employment opportunities during the academic year.

Local employment and career development opportunities provide IUPUI students valuable experience—as well as some income for college expenses.

- Indianapolis offers a great location for future careers. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Indianapolis (Marion County) is one of the largest employers in the Midwest and the largest employer in the state—by a wide margin. About 1 of every 5 jobs in the state of Indiana is in Marion County.
- IUPUI and the Office of Student Financial Services is committed to helping IUPUI students along the journey to financial freedom.