



**CLEAR VIEW WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
Plan Well. Invest Smart. Live Better.



Steven J. Stanganelli, CFP®, CRPC®, CCFS®  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional  
NAPFA-Registered Financial Advisor  
Certified College Funding Specialist

## **EASING THE COLLEGE COST BURDEN**

You may hear reports in the media of a student winning thousands of dollars in scholarships for obscure reasons. Savvy marketers, using seminars and mail campaigns, may give you the impression there is a 'one size fits all' solution to obtaining scholarship and grant money. For most families, however, there isn't one single method for making college expenses more reasonable. Campus Bound has identified seven fundamentals or 'pillars' to minimize college expenses. The importance of any individual pillar for you will depend on many factors. We encourage you to consider each and fully explore the opportunities based on your particular situation. Oftentimes, the result is a positive impact on your retirement, debt, cash flow and savings.

### **THE SEVEN PILLARS**

#### **1. Maximize your savings, regardless of wealth**

While your assets will count in the financial aid formula the impact is typically minimal and better than the alternative of taking on debt.

#### **2. Improve your eligibility for need-based aid**

Income and assets are evaluated in a complex formula with possible variations based on the college. By understanding what they are and are not considering can make a difference.

#### **3. Research colleges thoroughly to have a 'cost-efficient' college experience**

By doing your homework up front, you can avoid expenses associated with transferring and extra years to complete the degree.

#### **4. Maximize merit scholarships and need-based grants through the college search process and creating stand-out applications**

Colleges will discount tuition for students that stand at the top of their applicant pool. Create the college list with academic, non-academic AND financial considerations in mind.

#### **5. Apply for need-based aid, regardless of expectations**

If you don't ask, they are less likely to give.

*Clear View Wealth Advisors, LLC*  
Principal Office: 12 Amidon Avenue, Amesbury, MA 01913  
Branch Offices: 25 Lowell Street, Suite 105, Wilmington, MA 01887  
978-388-0020 617-398-7494 978-416-4107 [www.ClearViewWealthAdvisors.com](http://www.ClearViewWealthAdvisors.com)  
A Registered Investment Adviser

## **6. Compare and appeal financial aid awards**

A college's initial offer may not necessarily be their final offer, especially in instances where special circumstances exist.

## **7. Leverage the best options for paying and financing college**

Avoid higher than necessary interest payments by choosing the loan options that are best for your needs. You should also consider the impact on future financial aid applications.

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