

ECONOMIC PLAN PROJECT

1. Setting Goals

When you picture your future, what do you envision? Answer the following questions to plan.

- 1) What kind of job would you like? (In general)

- 2) How much money do you hope to make?

- 3) Do you want to own a house one day? Where?

- 4) What kind of car would you like to drive one day?

- 5) What other kinds of things are important to you? (Think about things like family, entertainment, travel, etc.)

- 6) Any other goals to consider?

2. College planning

Lucky you! You have gotten \$20,000 in scholarships for college expenses. Subtract this from your total college costs. Once this is spent, you will need to take out loans to cover the rest of the expenses.

List 3 colleges that are possibilities for you to attend as well as yearly tuition costs.

College name	Location	Tuition cost (per year)	Housing cost (per year) This can be parent's house, dorm or rental apt.	Total cost for 4 years (-\$20,000)

Which of the 3 colleges is your best choice and why? (Don't just consider cost – think about future career plans, too!)

If you are not going to college, write your plans here. Like the college students, you have some money, but no scholarships from schools. You have \$5,000 saved. Write the full cost of your training and housing until you would have it completed. Make 3 choices of different programs and plans and choose the best of these 3.

Program or training	Location	Tuition cost (per year)	Housing cost (total) This can be parent's house or rental apt.	Total cost for entire program or training.

Which of the 3 programs is your best choice and why? (Don't just consider cost – think about future career plans, too!)

3. Career Planning

Research at least 3 careers that are possibilities for you. Fill out the chart to decide on your best choice.

Job title	Location	Yearly salary	Happiness in position (5-awesome, 1-terrible)

Which of these 3 career choices are you going with? Why? What helped you make this decision?

4. Income Taxes

Unfortunately, you have to pay taxes on your income. Follow the chart below to see how much you'll need to pay. Then calculate how much money you'll actually take home each month after BOTH state and Federal taxes.

State tax: 3% if single, 4% if married.

How to calculate: Multiply your annual salary by 0.03 or 0.04 (Ex. \$50,000 x .04)

Federal tax:

Rate	Single Filers	Married Joint Filers	Head of Household Filers
10%	\$0 to \$9,075	\$0 to \$18,150	\$0 to \$12,950
15%	\$9,076 to \$36,900	\$18,151 to \$73,800	\$12,951 to \$49,400
25%	\$36,901 to \$89,350	\$73,801 to \$148,850	\$49,401 to \$127,550
28%	\$89,351 to \$186,350	\$148,851 to \$226,850	\$127,551 to \$206,600
33%	\$186,351 to \$405,100	\$226,851 to \$405,100	\$206,601 to \$405,100
35%	\$405,101 to \$406,750	\$405,101 to \$457,600	\$405,101 to \$432,200
39.6%	\$406,751+	\$457,601+	\$432,201+

Do the same calculation. Take the salary you get after taxes and divide by 12 to get monthly take home amount.

Monthly take home amount: _____

5. Housing and Car

As you did with both colleges and jobs, research 3 possible housing scenarios and 3 cars that you could afford. Fill out the charts and make a choice of the best for each. For housing, zillow.com is a great website to use for finding a place to live.

House	Location	Total cost	Monthly payment (If buying a house, figure a 30 year mortgage)	Pros and cons (what's good and bad about it)

Best housing choice:

Car	Total price	Monthly payment (car loans are usually 3-5 years long if purchasing new)

Best choice for transportation:

OR: Can you use public transportation? Explain. If so, what does it cost for a monthly pass where you will be living?

6. Monthly Budget

Now that everything is complete, you need to create a chart or table that lays out your monthly income and bills. You need to include the following:

Monthly income (AFTER TAXES)

Student loan payments (find total amount you owe, divide by 10 or 20 years)

Insurance (health and car - health insurance is about \$100 per month)

Housing payment (divide total house cost by 30 and then again by 12)

Car or transportation (divide total car cost by 3 and then again by 12)

Gas (\$100 - \$200 per month)

Food/groceries (\$200 per month PER PERSON)

Electricity (at least \$100 per month)

Heat and water (\$60 per month)

Entertainment (going out to eat, movies, etc).

Savings

Miscellaneous (furniture, etc)

PUT CHART HERE:

