

# CheapScholar's Guide To Paying Tuition In 3 Easy Steps

Don't you wish everything in life could be solved in three steps or less? It sure would make things a heck of a lot easier. While paying for college probably deserves more attention than three steps can provide, I am going to attempt to give you the quickest solution known to mankind for covering your tuition expenses.. and yes.. it will not surpass three steps.

## The Made Up Situation

You just got your tuition bill in the mail for the first semester of classes and it says that you owe the University \$10,000. Most people would gasp at this dollar amount but you chose to go to Princeton and \$10,000 a semester is a pretty good deal after you factor in all your financial aid. Since this is your first semester and you plan on going to classes next semester, you can probably count on another \$10,000 bill before the end of the year. So your total college expense billed through the University for the year will be \$20,000. Now that we know what figure we are working with, let's go ahead and see what your options are when it comes to paying this bill (besides check or cash).



## The Three Step Approach To Paying Your Tuition Bill

- 1. The Pay In Full Each Semester Bill Approach:** This type of billing has been adopted by universities far and near and basically it allows the family to pay for each semester (in full) as the billing is generated. The majority of families pay for education in this manner and they usually utilize two sources to make these payments - savings or discretionary income. Based upon your "Made Up Situation" above, you can send in the check for \$10,000 and feel resolved that you have done your part (financially) for the semester and eagerly await the mailing of your next billing statement. If step one doesn't solve your tuition woes, then you should certainly move onto option two and see if it helps to provide light at the end of the tunnel (and no the light is not a train!)
- 2. Monthly Payment Plan Approach:** Most colleges and universities have some sort of monthly payment plan that they can provide for their families. Some are managed in-house and others utilize a third party to process the payments. Regardless of how they provide this option, it is definitely something for you to consider. My experience with monthly payment plans show that they don't charge interest but they do usually have a nominal enrollment fee. Most payment plans can span over the entire academic year, which typically is about ten months. Based upon the arbitrary payment amount above (\$10,000 a semester), you would want to budget \$20,000 on your monthly payment plan, or \$2000 a month for a ten month plan. Still not providing a cure to your tuition bill blues? Let's move onto step three!
- 3. Education Loans Make Ends Meet Approach:** Not my favorite option by a long shot. However, if you are unable to take care of your tuition bill using options 1 and/or 2, then it is time to look at additional education loans. My advice would be that you exhaust federal loan programs 1st and then as a last resort start looking at private loan options.



*Helping to Make College Affordable!*

**Cheap\$cholar.org**

**Still Have Questions?**  
Scan the QR code with your Smart  
Phone to visit CheapScholar's  
College Resource Center

