The College Financial Roadmap

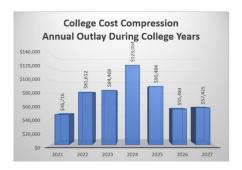
Many families need help dealing with the financial consequences of College. Strategies for College focuses on three components of the financial challenges families deal with:

Raw Cost – is the gross cost of college for a family. It takes the net, out-of-pocket cost estimate from the CAP process, and inflates it based on the ages and years a family's student(s) will be in college. The result is a College Cost Timeline. When most people think of college – it is the raw cost that is the most striking factor.

<u>Compression</u> – Compression refers to the timeframe over which the raw cost must be paid. For one student, it may 4 years. For families with multiple students, it will be longer, depending on age and overlap years. For example: a family with 2 students may pay a raw cost of \$200,000 over a 6-year period. The challenge of compression is that the family is being asked – in essence – to buy a \$200,000 house on a 6-year mortgage.

<u>Transference</u> – Combines the Raw Cost – and the Compression timeline, and projects the future value of the anticipated payment stream. We call this a wealth transfer since it is money that will be used for college rather than remaining available for retirement. Since College is the most significant toll booth on the way to retirement – we want to understand the cost of college in terms of its

V	Net Out-of-Pocket Cost Estimate			T-t-1 0tl
Year	Louie	Kendall	Cooper	Total Outlay
2019	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2020	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2021	\$46,716	\$0	\$0	\$46,716
2022	\$40,806	\$40,806	\$0	\$81,612
2023	\$42,234	\$42,234	\$0	\$84,468
2024	\$41,018	\$41,018	\$41,018	\$123,054
2025	\$0	\$45,242	\$45,242	\$90,484
2026	\$0	\$0	\$55,483	\$55,483
2027	\$0	\$0	\$57,425	\$57,425
	\$170,774	\$169,300	\$199,167	\$539,241



	Anticipated Outlay	Wealth Transfer Value - Age 70
2021	\$46,716	\$253,123
2022	\$81,612	\$417,175
2023	\$84,468	\$407,334
2024	\$123,054	\$559,820
2025	\$90,484	\$388,346
2026	\$55,483	\$224,645
2027	\$57,425	\$219,347
Total	\$539,241	\$2,469,789

retirement impact. The measure of the success of the College Financial Roadmap process is dollar value by which we can reduce the Wealth Transfer cost of college – and enhancing your retirement outcome as a result.

Our College Financial Roadmap service is a very personalized process that is specific to each family – and address all three of the major financial challenges associated with college:

Plan Cost: \$795 payable with submission of fact-finder

<u>Plan Guarantee</u>: The CFR Fee is 100% refundable to the family if it fails to yield at least \$10,000 in reduced 'transfers' as defined below.

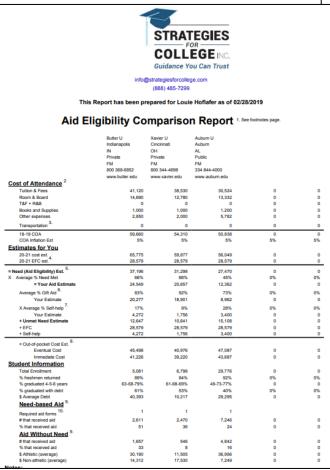
How it works

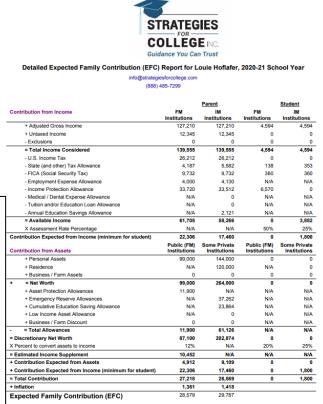
What we do to reduce Raw Cost

The family will complete a comprehensive fact-finder. This will allow us to simulate your

family's Expected Family Contribution prior to filing the next FAFSA application.

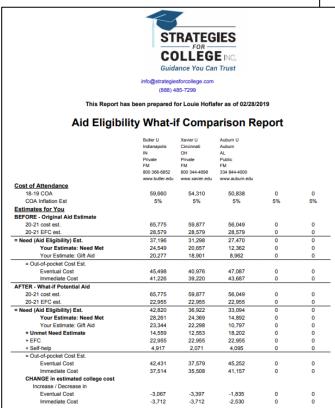
This report helps families understand what makes up their EFC and begins to identify planning opportunities that might result in a lower EFC by making planning adjustments. Clients receive a **Detailed EFC Report**.

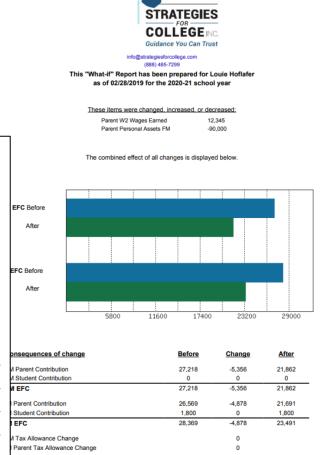




Next, we will build an Aid Eligibility
Report for up to 5 colleges on your
family's short list. This report shows the
family's Aid Eligibility based on their
Expected Family Contribution, the
Colleges chosen, and the average financial
aid award of those colleges. It also breaks
financial aid into its component pieces:
Grants, Work-Study, and Student Loans.

Next, we look for financial planning opportunities that can result in a lower EFC and apply those to create a hypothetical EFC. This is called EFC optimization, and results in an **EFC Optimization Report.**





Next, the **What-If Aid Eligibility Report** identifies how much EFC Optimization reduces the cost of (up to 5) colleges on the family's short-list.

All the work until this point is based on the student of immediate concern. Now it's time to look at the cost of college for the family as a whole. In many situations, the impact of financial aid and EFC Optimization is visible only in the context of the entire family (all students). So we'll build a Family College Cost Timeline Report showing the total cost of college and how it cash flows before applying any optimization:

V	Net Out-of-Pocket Cost Estimate			Tatal Outland
Year	Louie	Kendall	Cooper	Total Outlay
2019	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2020	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2021	\$46,716	\$0	\$0	\$46,716
2022	\$40,806	\$40,806	\$0	\$81,612
2023	\$42,234	\$42,234	\$0	\$84,468
2024	\$41,018	\$41,018	\$41,018	\$123,054
2025	\$0	\$45,242	\$45,242	\$90,484
2026	\$0	\$0	\$55,483	\$55,483
2027	\$0	\$0	\$57,425	\$57,425
	\$170,774	\$169,300	\$199,167	\$539,241

The last step in the effort to minimize the Raw Cost is to look at the Aid-Optimized Family Cost Timeline Report. This report applies the optimized EFC and all corresponding needbased financial aid – for the family in total. This report measures our effectiveness at reducing the Raw Cost of college for the family from EFC Optimization.

Year	Net Out-of-Pocket Cost Including Estimated Gift Aid			Total Outlay
	Louie	Kendall	Cooper	
2021	\$43,847	\$0	\$0	\$43,847
2022	\$39,322	\$39,322	\$0	\$78,643
2023	\$40,698	\$40,698	\$0	\$81,395
2024	\$39,958	\$39,958	\$39,958	\$119,874
2025	\$0	\$43,596	\$43,596	\$87,192
2026	\$0	\$0	\$52,076	\$52,076
2027	\$0	\$0	\$53,899	\$53,899
	\$163,824	\$163,573	\$189,529	\$516,926
	Savings from EFC Optimization			\$22,315

What we do to reduce Cost Compression?

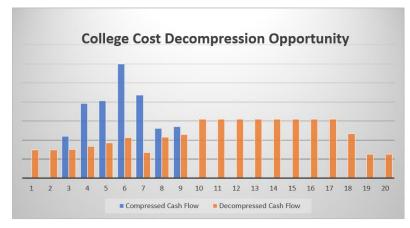
De-compressing the cost of college is a matter of spreading the Raw Cost over a longer period of time. There are two ways to deal with cost compression:

• Front End: Save in advance – using vehicles like 529 plans and others, and

Back End: Borrowing – through Stafford and Perkins Loans, Parent Plus loans, and other

commercial lending sources.

Depending on family dynamics and resource availability, we'll help the family identify the best options for both saving in advance – and leveraging borrowing characteristics that are unique to college. The optimized combination is compiles in the College Cost Decompression Opportunity Report.



Some families will be eligible for the CROP strategy (College Refund Opportunity Plan). This is a Strategies for College exclusive program that uses a specially designed front-end savings strategy – combined with college borrowing opportunities – to create a lifetime refund of the entire cost of college. While not for everyone – this can be one of the advantages of looking closely at the cost compression issue.

What do we do to Reduce Transference?

Without a detailed, customized college financial plan, most families will pay more than necessary for college – and they'll pay it over a more compressed timeframe than necessary.

Transference looks at that cash flow (how much – and when) as wealth that will leave (transfer from) the family and go to a college(s), lender(s), and others. We ascribe a future value to that string of cash flows before planning – and after planning. The difference is the amount of Wealth Transfer we can avoid and therefore preserve for retirement.

The future value is a simple mathematical calculation. We apply a growth factor to the cash flow based on your input; and grow it until your age 70 – which provides us an estimate of the retirement cost of college before – and after planning.

Just as we were taught that we'll have more money if we start saving \$100/month at age 25 that we will if we save \$500/month but delay the start until age 45 – the same is true with transference. The more cost we can push into the future – the lower the transference cost will be. In fact, sometimes we can reduce transference at a higher raw cost by moving obligations into the future.

Reducing Transference as much as possible is the ultimate goal of the College Financial Roadmap process. As such – it is also the figure upon which Strategies for College offers its money-back guarantee for the College Financial Roadmap engagement fee.

The transference report will look different based on the optimized plan customized for each family. Using the data from image inserts in this document, it would look like this.

	Transference - Pre-Plan		
	Anticipated Wealth Transf		
	Outlay	Age 70	
2021	\$46,716	\$253,123	
2022	\$81,612	\$417,175	
2023	\$84,468	\$407,334	
2024	\$123,054	\$559,820	
2025	\$90,484	\$388,346	
2026	\$55,483	\$224,645	
2027	\$57,425	\$219,347	
Total	\$539,241	\$2,469,789	

	Transference - Optimized Plan	
	Anticipated Wealth Transfer	
	Outlay	Age 70
2021	\$43,847	\$237,577
2022	\$78,643	\$401,998
2023	\$81,395	\$392,515
2024	\$119,874	\$545,353
2025	\$87,192	\$374,217
2026	\$52,076	\$210,852
2027	\$53,899	\$205,881
Total	\$516,926	\$2,368,393
Transf	erred Savings	\$101,396

Summary

The College Financial Roadmap is an immensely valuable tool for the family. It is also a lot of work – for both the Strategies for College team – and the family. It should be clear however – in the description of our approach and the deliverable set – that the value is unsurpassed.