



# Money Management • Senior Badge Blueprint



## Financing My Future Badge

**Purpose:** This badge teaches Seniors to plan for their educational future, including ways to pay for it.

### Step 1: Declare your dreams.

Before you get started on financing your future, you need to know what you want. Brainstorm some of your goals and dreams, and write down 20 things you want to be or do in the future. Pick a role model who has a career you find interesting. If you're a foodie and your role model is a food critic, research their education and what steps they had to do to get there.

### Step 2: Decide what you need and want.

Use the internet to find schools that may have educational programs that fit your goals. Remember to check schools near and far from your area if you are considering going away for college. Make a quick list of 10 features that are important to you. Highlight the top three features that are the most important. For example:

- *I want to go to a school that has a good reputation*
- *I want to go to a school with small class sizes*
- *I want to go to a school that offers the most financial aid*

### Step 2: Go comparison shopping

The best part of researching is comparing your findings. Reach out to at least three different school's admissions office. Ask each one of them to send you materials about their school's programs, campus, financial aid and different features that may be available. After you receive this information, compare the features that are important to you.

### Step 3: Explore your financial aid options.

An important factor for many is the overall cost of school. When digging deeper into financial aid, call the financial advisor for your top three picks. Talk to them about scholarships, grants, loans and application deadlines. If some of the differences confuse you, ask your high school counselor or another adult to help you distinguish between each of these financial avenues.

### Step 4: Build a blueprint for your future.

Buy or print a blank calendar. Fill in school and/or personal goals, application deadlines and campus tours. When you reach a certain goal, make sure you reward yourself too! For example:

- *Personal goal: raise grade point average (GPA)*
- *Reward: ice cream party with friends to celebrate!*

**Congratulations! You have now earned the Financing My Future Badge!**

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Remember, girls gain confidence and leadership skills through girl-led activities. Whenever possible, let the girls take charge when completing activities. Adult help is necessary for guidance, support and safety.