



Affordable Debt Level Worksheet for Student Borrowers

Dear Potential Student Borrower:

CNM is dedicated to supporting student success. Often, some students need to borrow money to help with school related expenses. Typically, a student who needs to borrow money to get through school is making a good investment for the future. However, many students enter into debt without a clear picture of how it will affect them in the future. We hope that the following Worksheet for Student Borrowers will assist students with borrowing responsibly.

Name (print) _____ CNM ID _____

Highest CNM Degree/Program _____ Certificate / Associates ? (circle one)

Career Position Seeking (work I plan to do after graduation) _____

Anticipated Graduation Date in Program _____ (month/year)

Steps for Determining an Affordable Level of Borrowing

1. What is the anticipated earnings your future career may offer?

Search U.S. salaries at the following link: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/a-z-index.htm>

Click on the job you plan on applying for in your field. Click on the Pay tab and enter the lowest 10% amount indicated in the paragraph. Do not enter the median pay. (Keep in mind statistically over half of graduates will work in a field not directly related to their degree.)

Enter the lowest 10% pay listed on the Pay Tab _____

2. Determine your outstanding Student Loan balance on the National Student Loan Data System (If you have not previously borrowed skip to Step 3.)

Using your FAFSA pin number access the The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS):

http://www.nslsds.ed.gov/nslsds_SA/

As of today what is your total student loan debt _____

3. Decide how much you can borrow

Enter the annual salary from Step 1 at the following Mapping Your Future link:

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/debtwizard/>

Enter the amount you can afford to borrow _____

Disclaimer: The calculations do not take into consideration a high amount of credit card or other debt. This is only a tool to help you determine what is best for your situation. Having considerable debt can delay or prohibit life-cycle events such as buying a car, purchasing a home, getting married and having children. Do not rush through your education. Take what you can handle while incurring the least amount of debt. If need be, consider taking a reduced load to complete courses and ultimately incur less student loan debt. It may take a little longer to graduate but it will be much less time you'll be in loan repayment and will be able to afford a better cost of living after graduation. Create an In-School and After-School Budget (<http://mappingyourfuture.org/money/budget.htm>) to get a better picture of what you need and what you will be able to afford after graduation. Student's in developmental courses are highly discouraged from borrowing.

4. Calculate your monthly student loan payment

Repayment Calculator:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans/standard/comparison-calculator>

Enter the monthly student loan payment using the amount in Step 3 _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____