

The purpose of this project is to produce a comprehensive 10-year budget simulating your monthly expenses after graduation. You will determine your monthly pay and take into account any possible expenses you can think of. You will then decide what to do with the amount left (if there is anything left) in planning for the future. Use the following checklist as a guide and use as many different sources as possible to make your results as realistic as possible. It is possible that some things in the checklist do not apply to you, and there may be some expenses you think of that do not appear in the checklist. This project is due **Friday April 27** and is worth 45 points (3 quizzes). Your report should consist of three sections, each worth 15 points:

1. a brief (1 page) typed synopsis of your sources for salary and investment information, how/why you budgeted certain expenses at certain times, what happens to any leftover money if there is any, etc.
2. a 10-year budget in spreadsheet form detailing each month's income, expenses, account balances, etc. *Remember to take into account "Special months" such as right before Christmas, tax returns, summer vacations, family/friend's birthdays. This should NOT be 120 pages long.* You should have one spreadsheet for each year. Each year should be different. You will not receive full credit for handing in ten copies of the same year.
3. a brief (1 page) typed summary of what you learned from this project.

Develop your budget *for each month* using the following outline as a guide. Most months will be the same, but you should think carefully about special months, pay raises, saving for a house before buying, children growing up, etc. Make use of as many sources as possible including the internet, parents, friends, or professionals in your field. For example, you should look up what your average yearly salary would be on a classified ad website. Check real estate listings to find a reasonably priced house in the area you want to live (*and find out how much you should add to this for closing costs*). Ask your parents about income and property taxes and any other expenses that you're not sure about.

Expense Checklist

1. Annual salary: _____
2. Gross monthly income (before taxes and other reductions): _____
3. Reductions from paycheck:
 - (a) Taxes: _____
 - (b) Social Security: _____
 - (c) Health/Dental Insurance: _____
 - (d) Retirement: _____
4. Net monthly income (after all reductions): _____
5. Will you rent or buy your house? *Remember to factor in your first and last months' rent (security deposit) or the down payment on your house.*

6. If you buy your house, will you do so immediately, or save money for a few years before buying? _____
7. Moving expenses: _____
8. Monthly rent/mortgage: _____
9. Home owners/renters insurance: _____
10. Property tax: _____
11. Utilities:
 - (a) Phone: _____
 - (b) Cell phone: _____
 - (c) Electricity/Gas: _____
 - (d) Water: _____
 - (e) Cable: _____
 - (f) Other: _____
12. Car:
 - (a) Monthly payment: _____
 - (b) Insurance: _____

- (c) Gas: _____
- (d) 3-month Maintenance: _____
- 13. Other transportation expenses: _____
- 14. Will you be married? If so, will your spouse work? Is their income taken into account above?
- 15. Will you have children?
 - (a) If Yes, how many? _____
 - (b) How much is added to your monthly expenses for each child? _____
- 16. Other regular expenses:
 - (a) Groceries/Toiletries/Household Supplies: _____
 - (b) Clothing: _____
 - (c) Entertainment (*Restaurants, bars, movies, etc.*): _____
 - (d) Habits or hobbies that require regular expenses (*like smoking or golf*):

 - (e) Health Club Fees: _____
 - (f) Child care: _____
 - (g) Credit Card payment: _____
 - (h) Student loan payment: _____
- 17. Special monthly expenses (*gifts, donations, vacations*): _____
- 18. Savings: _____
- 19. Investments (*including retirement fund from work*): _____