# Personal Finance “My Financial Life” Project

## Part One: “Startin’ Out”

### A. The Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Attending College</th>
<th>Attending College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o What are your plans for after high school?</td>
<td>o What college are you planning on attending?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Where do you plan to live?</td>
<td>o What degree would you like to earn?</td>
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<tr>
<td>o What job do you plan on getting?</td>
<td>o How much will college cost (find actual data from your college)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o How much money can you expect to make during your first year?</td>
<td>o Approximately how much debt will you leave college with?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Will you be starting out with any debt?</td>
<td>o What are your plans for after college?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o What’s your vehicle situation?</td>
<td>o Where do you plan to live?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Will you need to take any courses or get any training for the job you’ll be doing?</td>
<td>o What job do you plan on getting?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Are there any other financial considerations you need to take into account when you’re “starting out”?</td>
<td>o How much money can you expect to make during your first year?</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Continued on the back...*
B. Banking Basics

- Find a bank in the area you will be living.
  - What’s it called?
  - How many branches are in your area?
  - Does the bank offer a full range of services?
  - Is the bank F.D.I.C. insured?

- Assume you will open a savings account and a checking account.
  - What kinds of savings accounts are offered by the bank?
  - What are the interest rates/minimum balances/fees associated with this account?
  - Which account will you choose to open? Why?

  - What kinds of checking accounts are offered by the bank?
  - What are the interest rates/minimum balances/fees associated with this account?
  - Which account will you choose to open? Why?

- Will you apply for a credit card?
  - Discuss whether or not you will pursue a credit card at this stage, and give reasons why or why not.

C. Home Sweet Home

- Where, specifically, will you live while you’re “startin’ out”?
  - Find a specific home or apartment that you will pursue. If you are going to live with friends/family, assume that you will be covering the full cost (rent or payment) for this domicile, just for practice.
  - Include the location and a picture of the house/apartment.
  - Does the home/apartment offer any special amenities? (pool, gym, garage parking, etcetera)

- How much will this living arrangement cost you?
  - If you are buying a home, record the asking price. (We will learn how to figure your mortgage payment later.)
  - If you are renting, find out how much your monthly rent will be, and if utilities are covered, there are security deposits, etcetera.
  - Are there any other financial considerations with this house/apartment?
D. Talking ‘bout Trucks...

- What vehicle are you going to have? You may use your current vehicle, or “shop around” online for a different vehicle.
- Go online and get two quotes for car insurance, even if you currently have car insurance. Get full coverage. Compare the two quotes in your project.
  - How much is the yearly premium?
  - How much liability is included?
  - What other coverage is included?
  - Are there any other considerations with these plans?
- Which plan will you choose?

- Estimate a yearly “operation cost” for your vehicle. Take into account:
  - Gas mileage, gas prices, and the amount you drive. (If you don’t know how much you drive, find an average yearly mileage online.)
  - Repairs, parking fees (if applicable), any other expenses that apply

E. To Your Health

- What is your plan for health insurance? Go into detail. Some considerations:
  - Does your job offer health insurance? If so, can you find some information on it?
  - If your job does not offer health coverage, what’s your plan?

- Just as a backup plan, visit www.healthcare.gov, input your information, and price some health insurance plans. Do this even if your job offers health insurance, or if you’re going to stay on your parents’ health insurance. Choose one that best fits your needs and report on it:
  - What’s the plan called?
  - How much does it cost?
  - What’s the deductible?
  - What does the plan cover?
  - Any other considerations?
Part Three: “Ever Forward”

F. Investing

• When would you like to retire?
• What kind of income would you like to have in retirement?
• What is your plan for saving for retirement? Where will the money come from?
  o How much, reasonably, can you expect to save per pay, or per month, or per year? How did you calculate this figure?
  o According to the activity we did in class, how much do you need to save for retirement?

• When it comes to investments, how much risk do you prefer? Explain.
  o Create a pie chart showing what an ideal investment portfolio would look like for you. Your pie chart can include cash, bonds, bond funds, stocks, stock funds, mutual funds, and any other investments you believe would benefit you.

• Will your employer offer a 401(k)? Does your employer offer to match your contributions to your 401(k)?
• Which will you utilize to save for retirement: a 401(k), and IRA, or both? Why?