

# Net/Max Plan (2025 College Edition)

\*College Students. Additional plans available at [TheNeighborhoodFinanceGuy.Com](http://TheNeighborhoodFinanceGuy.Com)

1. **Know your Net Worth**. This is unavoidable on your path to success.  
Free Financial Apps like Empower (aka [PERSONAL CAPITAL](#)) + Pay attention to your Std. Loan Balance.
2. Understanding your **NEEDS** versus your **Wants**.  
Knowing the difference goes a long way in charting your life and your future wealth.
3. **Reading and Self Education**. This is a paradigm shift that happens within. The moment you can start to teach yourself vs being thought is the moment you become intentional about your life.
  - a. **Amazing books to consider** [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#) by Stephen Covey, [Cash Flow Quadrants](#) by Robert Kiyosaki, [The Give and Take](#) by Adam Grant, [Principles](#) by Ray Dalio, and **Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah.
4. Develop a **Personal Budget**. It's a good practice in understanding where your money is going. Avoid throwing your money away on food and entertainment. Value-Determination and [Planning](#).
  - a. Set Family Boundaries. You are growing and you don't have the income to support anyone much less yourself. [Learn to say NO](#).
5. Save \$5k in a **Starter Emergency Savings Fund** (Bank Savings at 0.01% are not Bueno ☹️) **Adjust annually** – [OpenBank](#) has 4.75% as of 1.17.25. Relocation post-graduation is \$2.5k on avg.
6. **Find and Cultivate Healthy Hobbies** that improves 1. Mental, 2. Spiritual, 3. Physical, and/or 4. Social Health. \*2-3 in combination can develop into effective side hustles.
7. Avoid the accumulation of **Consumer Debts**. Store cards i.e. *Kohl's, Express, Macy's, Sephora, etc.* avg. charge of +20% interest rate. Anything north of 10% is really bad. You might not have credit for anything lower than 17%, so be cautious on what you spend your money on.
  - a. For example, a \$500 television and \$500 on clothes on Black Friday, purchased at 18% translates to almost 10 years of [minimum payments](#) (and \$923.18 in interest).
  - b. **Understand the interest fee drain**. Pay down credit cards in full every month. Avoid hard inquiries generated from new cards. Call to request lower variable rates (annually).
  - c. Desperately try to **avoid personal loans like the plague**. And try not to do anyone any favors, you don't have money. If you structure your savings and investments correctly, it will be harder to get to all that cash.
8. Add up to \$4.30k into a **Health Savings Account (HSA)** in 2025. If you need your own health insurance, this is a good place to research. HSA contributions Lower your FICA taxes, provide a Premium Kick Back, and are great for Medical/Dental expenses in the short/long run. Some HSAs offer internal brokerage investing opportunities. ["Triple Tax Advantage"](#)
9. Add up to \$7k in [Traditional/ROTH IRA](#). If you are making even \$10k, this is a way to start off investing while young. You will never regret it. \*IRS Income and Phaseouts Apply.
10. Never rent for more than you really need. Housing cost is the *Make or Break* point of budgeting.
11. Invest in **Stocks, Index ETFs**. \*Diversify your Portfolio. Buy in bulk. Avoid excess fees.
12. **Pay down Student loans Interest (if any)** (Avoid [interest capitalization](#)).
13. [Find a Mentor](#) and **Ask Questions** – Reach out to successful examples that you can learn from.
14. **Enjoy the process**. You will be able travel, relax, go to concerts, and brunches later. Work is now!