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***What is the appropriate age range for MoneyU?***

MoneyU is designed for and relevant to young adults age 17 to 25, the age when they start making important financial decisions concerning careers, a college financing, credit cards, and spending. In schools, MoneyU is appropriate in grades 11 through 16. The "teachable sweet-spot" is before the student takes out student loans or creates a college budget.

While there are certainly exceptions, teens 16 and younger may not find immediate relevance in tasks such as account reconciliation, reading a Cardholder Agreement, reviewing a credit report, or comparing deductibles and co-pays. Many hundreds of adults in their 30s to 50s have taken MoneyU and earned a significant improvement on their Post-test score, although they may find the presentation a bit youthful. We bet even teachers will learn a thing or two!

***How do we know MoneyU works?***

Each learner takes a Pre-test to measure preexisting knowledge, and takes a Post-test after all the lessons are completed, to measure what that specific learner acquired from the course. Over 80% of learners FLUNK the Pre-test (including college students majoring in Business, Accounting, Finance, and Economics!), but after they complete the course, 98% of learners pass the Post-test. MoneyU aggregates learners' performance on the normative quizzes in each lesson, too. Read Dr. Naglieri's [Report on Initial Findings of MoneyU's Efficacy](#).

Research shows that rehearsal and application are key to retention. Online games have taught us so much about how people learn, and how to motivate players to persist through challenging tasks to succeed. Game-based learning in MoneyU allows players to experiment for different outcomes, to imagine future consequences of present actions, and to practice simulations of typical financial tasks, like sorting budget expenses, reconciling a checking account, finding the Gotchas in a cardholder agreement, and completing a 1040EZ.

Tens of thousands of learners have graduated MoneyU, so the sample size is sound. We're conducting longitudinal studies, which examine questions such as:

*Does completing MoneyU have a positive effect on college completion?*

*How many years after taking the course do MoneyU graduates remember what they learned?*

*Which financial behaviors are most influenced by MoneyU?*

*What measurable improvements in financial behaviors can be expected two or three years after completing MoneyU?*

***How do we know MoneyU is objective?***

Unlike many financial literacy programs, MoneyU and its developers are not tied in any way to lenders, banks, credit card companies, investment firms or any financial institution. Programs created by the financial industry have an inherent conflict of interest. You can trust MoneyU's content not to gloss over the realities of financial institutions' profit motives.

***Do you offer technical support?***

Yes! Learners and Teachers can email us questions, request support, or give feedback to via "**Contact Us**" in the Menu.

### ***How long does it take to complete the course?***

Way faster than a traditional semester class! Anywhere between 4 and 10 hours, depending on how much learners already know about Personal Finance. Highschoolers typically complete in 9 to 10 hours; collegians typically complete in 7 to 8 hours, but there's a large variance.

Most lessons take less than 10 minutes to complete, and many take only 5 minutes to complete; but the calculators, widgets, and reference features are designed to invite deeper, engaging, exploration and experimentation. Like French or piano, 30 minutes a day is more effective than a cram-jam weekend.

Other factors that can affect learners' time to completion are:

- How often you're interrupted while you're logged-in the course;

- How much time you spend in the supporting references, like the Help/Reference or the resource links;

- How much time you experiment with the calculators and other tools (they're fun, and very eye-opening).

If you're *really* in a hurry, the videos are skippable, without any loss of content or comprehension. Learners can also customize the length of their Review, an option offered to them before taking the Post-test

MoneyU is designed to be learner-paced and learner-centric, meaning that typical learners can successfully complete the course without assistance. However, the participation and guidance of a Teacher, Parent, Counselor or Mentor improves pacing, increases completions, ensures passing Post-test scores, and enhances the entire learning experience.

### ***Can more than one person use the same login?***

Not effectively. MoneyU is designed to offer a unique experience for each learner and is intended for one user per login. Each learner's activity in the course is tracked; every time you enter the course, it returns you to where you last left off; and MoneyU "remembers" which lessons you've begun and whether you've completed all the parts of each lesson. The pretest and Post-test should not be shared, because they are intended to measure what that specific learner acquired from the course. If the system detects more than one user with the same login and password, it kicks those users out.

### ***What computer system requirements are necessary to run MoneyU?***

Individuals accessing the login site from home or a library computer will need

- High-speed internet access, such as Cable or DSL, or faster (Dial-up doesn't cut it, unfortunately)

- Latest version of Adobe Flash (at least Flash 8.0) [Download latest Flash Player here](#)

For High Schools and other groups wanting a synchronous, classroom experience on a shared T-1:

- Every computer needs to meet the above requirements, and

- The T-1 needs to not be spread too thin among all the users, and

- Your organization's firewalls need to allow pop-ups and excursions to the web.

- Contact us and we can help you determine if your site can support the program.

MoneyU is not designed for mobile devices, because many of its widgets and calculators are too complex for a small screen

### ***I have a suggestion for the course***

Great! Send it to [Info@MoneyU.com](mailto:Info@MoneyU.com). We love hearing from you! Our design objective is to deliver relevant skills practice, as fast as effectively possible. While it's pretty awesome to get a semester's worth of curriculum and skills practice into a few hours' seat time, we're always looking for ways to deliver knowledge and skills even faster and more vividly. If you are suggesting a change to a specific lesson/step, be sure to note its number in your suggestion. Please be as specific and detailed as you can.

## Learner FAQs

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### ***I forgot my password! My password isn't working!***

If you provided a valid email address when you registered, you can request your password from the login screen upon logout, and it will be emailed to you. If you didn't provide an email, you can still contact us from the menu and request a reset, just remember to provide us an email to reply to!



### ***I'm ready to take the Post-test, but it won't let me!***

The Post-test is unavailable until you complete every part of every lesson.

To determine what's incomplete, go into Topic Mode from the Menu, and find the lessons that are flagged or missing checkmarks.

### ***Can I take the lessons more than once?***

As long as your login is valid, you can repeat any lessons you want, as many times as you want.

Before your Post-test, you can also opt for a review.

### ***Do I have to take the lessons in the prescribed Path-order?***

You can take MoneyU lessons in any order you prefer, by accessing them in Topic Mode, available in the Menu.

### ***Which States' curricular standards in Personal Finance does MoneyU map to?***

Many States haven't yet developed any curriculum standards for Personal Finance, and some States have adopted other standards, like Jump\$tart. Currently, MoneyU maps to the following (and we're adding more all the time):

<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Maryland</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Jump\$tart</b>
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>McRel*</b>

\* a consortium of States that includes Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

### ***Can MoneyU be adapted to my Lesson Plan?***

Absolutely. You can assign MoneyU lessons in any order you prefer, by having students access them in Topic Mode, available in the Menu. Each lesson is numbered, and falls under one of the eight Topics: Good Banking, Wise Credit Use, Smart Savings, Good Planning, Smart Spending, High Credit Score, and Smart Earning.

### ***How can I view my students' progress and performance?***

Teacher-type logins and Administrator-type logins have access to students' activity logs, scores on the Pre-test and Post-test, by student, by item, or aggregated.

At the MoneyU portal after logging-in, click on any of the reports listed in the menu "MoneyU Reports". You'll need your Cluster Code; ie, the Registration code(s) you received at purchase that designated your classes. You can download your report in a variety of formats, including .xls, .xlsx, .doc, .csv, .pdf, and others.

### ***How is MoneyU typically implemented in schools?***

In most school settings, MoneyU is a comprehensive standalone course.

In highschool settings, MoneyU is often a synchronous experience for students; that is, students complete a prescribed set of lessons together in the computer lab.

In Virtual Schools, MoneyU is offered as a standalone Distance Course, and one administrator can monitor, track, and report the progress of several hundred students each semester.

In colleges, MoneyU is often an asynchronous experience for students, that is, each student completes the course on their own time, within a deadline determined by the teacher or school.

In any school setting lucky enough to afford a Personal Finance instructor, MoneyU as a supplement enables the teacher to cover a lot more curriculum a lot faster.

### *When is MoneyU developmentally appropriate?*

Your young adult is ready and receptive to personal finance instruction when he or she begins to make independent financial choices and decisions. Our research has found that young adults show a measurable spike of interest in financial matters within 6 months of leaving home for college or work, and an even bigger spike of interest within 6 months of graduation from college or graduate school.

Many parents have told us that the Summer between highschool and college is perfect for MoneyU: students are beginning to set up their accounts and budgets for college, and the summer days before college are less busy than the school-year prior or upcoming.

### *How can I make sure my young adult completes the course?*

When the course is successfully completed, learners can print out a Certificate of Achievement, which includes their score on the Post-test and the date of completion.

Many young adults don't realize how little they know about finances until after they get into financial trouble. If your young adult is already in financial trouble, you can make your bailout conditional on course completion. MoneyU is an excellent part of "financial rehab".

In advance of trouble, here are some completion incentives to consider offering:

- a Savings Bond
- establishing a Roth IRA account for their savings
- don't cosign the car loan until successful completion

Even better, tie the incentive to a Post-test score of 85% or 90%.

Here are some other ideas:

- Take the course together; lots of financial discussions will naturally arise, and provide parents important opportunities to express their values. Even parents will learn a thing or two!
- Small groups of friends can enroll at the same time, so their peer discussion group is ready-made.
- Arrange "field work" to extend the lessons of greatest interest, for examples:
  - After comparing **Car Loans** in [Lesson 83](#), take a fieldtrip to the dealership and study the financing costs on all the Extras.
  - After comparing starting **Salaries** of several majors in [Lesson 32](#), explore job openings on Monster.com
  - After learning about **Account Features** in [Lesson 11](#), go to the bank together, to set up the College checking account
  - After discovering the **Debt Elimination** strategies in [Lesson 51](#), have your young adult enter all the student loans into the calculator to create a personalized loan repayment plan!

These are just a few ideas to consider. You'll see lots of other opportunities in MoneyU for extended discussion and exploration.

## Curriculum

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### Good Planning

Planning Lingo  
 Your Net Worth  
 Planning and Budgeting  
 Receipts, Receipts, Receipts  
 Adjust to Save  
 Saving for big ticket items  
 Ways to Save money  
 Creating controls  
 Spending plan for college  
 Types of insurance  
 Looking Forward 10 years  
 Target Net Worth  
 Emergency fund  
 Retirement goals

### High Credit Score

Score terminology  
 Your credit score  
 Credit history  
 The bureaus  
 Tracking your score  
 The Credit report  
 Signs of identity theft  
 Keeping your score high  
 Credit score maintenance  
 Consequences of bad choices  
 Credit counseling services  
 Protecting your identity

### Good Debt

Debt Terminology  
 Good vs Bad Debt  
 Bad Debt's consequences  
 Spending Will Power  
 Repayment Planning  
 Finance vs Cash  
 Types of Loans  
 Borrowing for College  
 Rent vs Buy  
 Bankruptcy?  
 Getting Help  
 Debt and Depression

### Wise Card Use

Credit Card lingo  
 Types of payment  
 How credit cards work  
 Choosing the best card  
 Revolvers and Freeloaders  
 APRs and Gotchas  
 Long form vs Promotional  
 Using cards responsibly  
 Credit's hidden costs  
 Monthly statements  
 Minimum payment trap  
 Paying up  
 Transfers, Checks and Advances  
 Negotiating with Credit Card issuers

### Wise Spending

Spending Speak  
 Wants vs Needs  
 Types of Expenses  
 Tracking Your Money  
 Money Management Tools  
 Variable Expenses  
 Spending Plan  
 Summer Income  
 Choosing Pay Methods  
 Smart Shopping  
 True Cost  
 Paying for College

### Smart Saving

Savings and investment terminology  
 Skip and Save  
 Why save?  
 Time is money  
 Plan to be a millionaire  
 The rule of 72  
 Types of interest bearing accounts  
 Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds  
 Risks and returns  
 Investment portfolio diversification  
 Trading and investing  
 Advice to parents retiring

### Smart Earning

Earnings lingo  
 Work-study balance  
 Check-cashing services  
 Evaluating careers  
 Lifetime Earnings: AA, BA, MA, PhD  
 Pay checks  
 Gross vs Net  
 Types of taxes  
 Paying the government  
 Job benefits  
 Parents' policy  
 Health insurance Plans  
 Tax responsibilities  
 1040EZ  
 Insurance costs

### Good Banking

Banking Terms  
 Talking with Bankers  
 Types of savings accounts  
 Types of checking accounts  
 Managing Cash Flow  
 Using ATMs  
 Excessive Banking Fees  
 Tracking Your Account from Home  
 Account Conveniences  
 Reading the Statement  
 Balancing the Checkbook  
 Safeguarding Your account  
 Tracking your account from home  
 Account Conveniences  
 Reading the Statement  
 Balancing Checkbooks  
 Safeguarding your Account