



The Center for  
College  
Affordability &  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 AM, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

## ***25 Ways to Reduce the Cost of College:***

Series of Studies on Lowering College Costs to be Released

Washington, DC –The Center for College Affordability and Productivity, with generous support from Lumina Foundation, is pleased to announce the release of *25 Ways to Reduce the Cost of College*. This book-length study offers a detailed analysis of 25 approaches university administrators and public policy leaders can take to reduce the burden of exploding college costs.

The study groups the 25 different ideas for lowering the costs of college into five different topical sections, with each section featuring several chapters analyzing related topics. Each week, beginning November 10, 2010, one of the sections will be made publicly available accompanied by a press release. The release schedule is as follows:

1. [\*Use Lower Cost Alternatives\*](#) – release date: November 10, 2010.
2. *Use Fewer Resources* – release date: November 17, 2010
3. *Efficiently Use Resources* – release date: November 24, 2010
4. *Exploit Technology to Reduce Costs* – release date: December 1, 2010
5. *Improve Competition* – release date: December 8, 2010

The first section: [\*Use Lower Cost Alternatives\*](#), will be released November 10, 2010. It features the following five chapters:

**#1: [\*Encourage More Students to Attend Community College\*](#):** The average cost of educating a person at a community college is markedly lower than it is at four-year institutions. Given this cost differential and high attrition rates among students, encouraging more students to begin their postsecondary education at a community college is a sensible policy goal.

**#2: [\*Promote Dual Enrollment Programs\*](#):** Bright and highly motivated high school students should be encouraged to participate in programs that allow them to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Incentives for colleges to accept these credits are also needed.

**#3: [\*Reform Academic Employment Policies\*](#):** Tenure is a costly way to protect academic freedom. It is most often prized by the least productive faculty and makes reallocating resources difficult. Several alternatives to tenure are explored, including replacing it with a system of renewable long-term contracts that would lower costs, grant more flexibility, and preserve academic freedom.

**#4: [\*Offer Three Year Bachelor's Degrees\*](#):** There is little basis for the conventional wisdom that four years is the optimal period of collegiate study. European universities have widely adopted a three-year degree, and American ones could benefit by eliminating the fourth year of study, at least for disciplines that have diminishing returns in the fourth year.

**#5: *Outsource More Services*:** Universities are ostensibly in the business of producing and distributing knowledge. Many of the non-core functions they provide—e.g. housing and food services, building maintenance, recreation centers, etc.—could be provided more efficiently by contracting with outside specialists.

An embargoed (until 12:01 AM, November 10, 2010) copy of each chapter can be accessed by clicking on the links above. Alternatively, you may download the entire first section [here](#).

The release schedule for sections two through five, with the chapters contained in each, is as follows:

*Section Two: Use Fewer Resources*.....Wednesday, November 17, 2010

- #6: Reduce Administrative Staff
- #7: Cut Unnecessary Programs
- #8: End the “Athletics Arms Race
- #9: Overhaul the FAFSA
- #10: Eliminate Excessive Academic Research
- #11: Streamline Redundant Programs at the State Level
- #12: Promote Collaborative Purchasing

*Section Three: Efficiently Use Resources*..... Wednesday, November 24, 2010

- #13: Improve Facility Utilization
- #14: Increase Teaching Loads
- #15: Encourage Timely Degree Completion

*Section Four: Exploit Technology to Reduce Costs*.....Wednesday, December 1, 2010

- #16: Move More Classes Online
- #17: Reduce the Cost of Textbooks
- #18: Digitize Academic Libraries
- #19: Outsource Email Services
- #20: Utilize Course Management Tools

*Section Five: Improve Competition*.....Wednesday, December 8, 2010

- #21: Ease the Transfer Process Among Public Institutions
- #22: Reform Financial Aid
- #23: Reform Accreditation to Reduce Barriers to Entry
- #24: Subsidize Students, not Schools
- #25: Promote Competition Based on Value, Not Reputation

The entire book-length study will be available for download, beginning December 1, 2010 at:  
<[http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/uploads/25Ways\\_to\\_Reduce\\_the\\_Cost\\_of\\_College.pdf](http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/uploads/25Ways_to_Reduce_the_Cost_of_College.pdf)>.

*The Center for College Affordability and Productivity is an independent, non-profit higher education research center based in Washington, D.C.*

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