Are You on Course to Send Your Children to College?

When Your Child Is Young ...

__ Determine potential total cost of college

__ Decide on a percentage of the total cost to set as a savings target amount

__ Calculate how much to save monthly

__ Continue to save enough for retirement

__ Review saving options such as 529 plans and education saving accounts

__ Consider investing more aggressively

__ Weigh benefits/drawbacks of saving in child's name

__ Begin a realistic savings program

When Your Child Is in Middle School ...

__ Start or continue college savings

__ Invest less aggressively

__ Don't sacrifice saving for retirement

When Your Child Is in High School ...

__ Evaluate whether college is right for your child

__ Invest more conservatively

__ Understand how financial aid works

__ Pump up savings by cutting expenses, extra job, etc.

__ Have child start saving for college

__ Take advanced placement classes

__ Discuss with child what you realistically can afford

__ Consider the military for education assistance

__ Consider less expensive alternatives such as community college

__ Weigh quality/cost of college choices

__ Apply for schools

__ Review financial aid deadlines

__ Apply for financial aid

__ Apply for private scholarships and grants

__ Weigh alternative borrowing sources such as home equity loans

__ Ask employer for education assistance

__ Ask grandparents for help

__ Weigh financial aid offers

__ Choose a school

When Your Child Enters College ...

__ Make use of education tax breaks

__ Savings should be conservative

__ Consider transferring investments to child's name to save taxes

__ Prepare a realistic school budget

__ Minimize student credit card use

__ Have student work

__ Reevaluate total costs

__ Increase cash flow available for school

__ Keep saving for retirement