Consumer Education

Revised September 2024

Authored By:

Christopher T. Sneed, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Ann Berry, Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Margaret Hethmon, Extension Specialist, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Lynne Middleton, Extension Specialist, 4-H and Youth Development

Jennifer Richards, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

Producing Income

- Identify and research two-three careers you are interested in and create a presentation based on the research
 conducted identifying occupational trends, interests and capabilities, location options, education and training
 required and capabilities of salaries to support various lifestyle expectations
- Assess the pros and cons of relocating for a new job
- Complete a job shadowing experience analyzing the work environment and culture, occupational tasks
 performed, the skills and capabilities needed for the job and the work interactions observed
- Debate the pros and cons of whether a college education is worth the time and expense commitment

Understanding the Consumer Economy

- Explain the role of the consumer in the larger economy
- Explain how cost and lifestyle choices impact supply and demand in the larger economy
- Define scarcity and describe how limited supply impacts cost

Taxes

- Be able to explain how income is taxed under federal income tax guidelines
- Understand and complete basic tax forms (1040-EZ)
- Explain the purpose of a W-4 as well as Social Security and Medicare withholdings

Managing Money

- Distinguish between the way funds in banks and credit unions are insured
- Create a display to showcase three online money management tools
- Define the concept of investing, explaining how investing is different than saving
- Identify two types of investments offered through an employer and two types of investments offered outside of an employer. Compare and contrast the costs and benefits of each

Saving

- Identify strategies for saving across your lifetime
- Define and explain the concept of compound interest
- Identify appropriate financial products for an emergency fund





Credit

- Explain basic interest and APR calculations and the relationships among yearly and monthly interest
- Explain the consequence of excessive debt
- Identify the three major credit reporting agencies
- Explain credit history, why it is important, and how to obtain your free annual credit reports
- Distinguish between a credit report and a credit score
- Demonstrate an understanding of applying for, maintaining or defaulting on a loan
- Distinguish between fixed or variable interest rate loans

Purchasing

- Demonstrate the concept of "purchasing power"
- Explain how goals, family responsibilities, values and financial factors impact purchasing decisions

Protecting

- Demonstrate understanding of the two major types of auto coverage and explain how you would benefit from having more coverage than is required by law
- Explain how insurance needs change in response to changing life circumstances
- Demonstrate understanding of health insurance options, home insurance options and life insurance options
- Identify ways to protect against fraud and identity theft. Explain what to do if you are a victim
- of fraud or identity theft
- Research basic systems of household record keeping including how long to keep different types of records and where different types of records should be stored.
- Research and present information on a major disaster that displaced significant numbers of people and describe how it affected their finances

Sharing

Keep a record of how you share your resources with others (financial or otherwise)

Housing

- Research reasons for and the process of foreclosure
- Identify current housing trends among different age groups

Behavioral Economics

- Create a visual aid showing how attitudes, emotions, values and social pressures influence financial decisions
- Research and write how behavioral and lifestyle choices impact income



UTIA.TENNESSEE.EDU

Real. Life. Solutions.™