

# Smart goal worksheet

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In the examples below, notice the difference between having a goal and a SMART goal.

**Before SMART Goal:** I'd like my own place soon.

**After SMART Goal:**

**Specific** – I want to rent an apartment.

**Measurable** – The apartment security deposit is \$1,200.

**Attainable** – Yes, this is attainable because I have a job and can budget.

**Relevant**—Yes, because it's a need for me and my family.

**Time Based** – I want to be in an apartment within 6 months.

Creating a SMART Goal determines exactly how to reach your goal:

- I'll need to save \$200 a month. (6 months x \$200 a month = \$1,200)
- Am I paid bi-weekly? I'll plan on saving \$100 a paycheck.
  - Or, am I paid monthly? I'll plan to save \$200 a check.
- How does this fit into my budget? Can I make this work in my financial plan? Do I need to sacrifice anything, or perhaps consider moving into an apartment at a later date?

Now you try! Determine a financial goal—going to college, renting an apartment, buying a bike or car—and then make the goal a SMART goal. This will break the seemingly large or unclear goal down into clear and achievable steps.

Turn the page and fill use the SMART model for one of your financial goals.

Your financial goal: \_\_\_\_\_

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Now make it SMART:

**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**ttainable

**R**elevant

**T**ime Based

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**M** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**T** \_\_\_\_\_

Ask yourself:

- How does this goal fit into my budget?
- Can I make this work in my financial plan?
- Will I need to make any sacrifices?

SMART goals also work for non-financial goals—try it out!

With SMART goals, what seemed like a dream can now be a possibility!