

budget development

Developing a realistic wedding budget is essential and should be one of the first things you do. Below are a few questions you may want to discuss before developing your final budget. Once your budget is set, stick to it by using our handy budget worksheets to keep you on task.

overall budget

How much do you want to spend?
Are the necessary funds available?
What is the size of the wedding party?
How many guests will be invited?

ceremony, reception 45%

Where will you hold each?
Indoors or outdoors?
Church or other venue?
Reception formal or casual?
Ballroom or hall?

food, catering, & cake

(included in reception percentages) is the caterer independent of your venue?
Sit-down service or buffet?
Will appetizers be served during cocktail hour?
Will there be alcohol?
Full bar or limited to beer, champagne and wine?
Do you want a custom-designed cake or something smaller with sheet cake service?

attire 8%

Do you want a designer gown or off-the-rack?
Will you purchase or rent formal wear?

photography, videography 18%

What style do you prefer, posed or photojournalistic?
Do you want a leather-bound photo book or something less expensive?
What style of videography do you want?
How many copies of the video will be needed?

transportation 2%

How will you travel from your venues?
Will you provide rented transportation for the entire wedding party?
Does your venue require valet parking or shuttle service?

entertainment 4%

Will you have an orchestra, band or musician at the ceremony?
Band or DJ at the reception?
What other entertainment is needed?

floral & décor 12%

Are desired flowers in season?
Which attendants and guests will have flowers?
Will you use flowers for your cake and décor?
How far in advance do you need your flowers?

Are you preserving your bouquet?
Will you need to rent tables, chairs, linens, etc.?
Are you going to be purchasing tablescape materials and décor?

stationery 3%

Are you looking for a certain color, paper type, font or ink?
How much text would you like to include?
Are you going to include a picture or graphic on your save-the-date card or announcement?
Custom-designed or just customized stationery?
Will you be mailing your invitations?
How many guests will need invites?
Will you be ordering programs, table placeholders, signs and thank-yous?
Invitations: letterpress or printed?
What inserts will be required with the invitations?

honeymoon 8%

Will you be leaving the country and need an updated passport?
Have you received vaccinations?
Are you going to have a professional create your travel itinerary?
Would you prefer an adult-only resort?

money management

wedding rings

Engagement ring	_____
Bride's ring	_____
Groom's ring	_____
subtotal	_____

attire

Bride's dress	_____
Headpiece and veil	_____
Bride's shoes	_____
Lingerie, hosiery, garter	_____
Jewelry and accessories	_____
Hair, makeup, manicure	_____
Dress preservation	_____
Groom's tuxedo or suit	_____
Groom's shoes	_____
Groom's accessories	_____
subtotal	_____

ceremony and reception

Ceremony location fee	_____
Officiant fee	_____
Organist/musicians/soloist	_____
Marriage license	_____
Aisle runner, decorations	_____
Candles, misc.	_____
Reception location fee	_____
Catering fee	_____
Cake	_____
Bar	_____
Decorations	_____
Rentals	_____
Tips	_____
subtotal	_____

photography

Photographer's fee	_____
Engagement portrait	_____
Wedding album	_____
Parents' albums	_____
Additional prints	_____
subtotal	_____

music

Ceremony music	_____
Cocktail-hour music	_____
Reception music (DJ)	_____
subtotal	_____

stationery

Save-the-date cards	_____
Invitations and envelopes	_____
Map inserts	_____
Announcements	_____
Response cards	_____
Thank-you notes	_____
Ceremony programs	_____
Calligraphy/addressing	_____
Postage	_____
Place cards	_____
Printed napkins	_____
subtotal	_____

transportation

Limousine or carriage	_____
Guest transportation	_____
subtotal	_____

gifts, favors, and extras

Maid of honor's gift	-----
Bridesmaids' gifts	-----
Best man's gift	-----
Groomsmen's gifts	-----
Bride's parents' gifts	-----
Groom's parents' gifts	-----
Flower girl	-----
Ring bearer	-----
Favors	-----
Ring pillow	-----
Guest book	-----
Cake knife/server	-----
Toasting glasses	-----
subtotal	-----

rehearsal dinner

Site rental	-----
Caterer	-----
Taxes and gratuities	-----
Other	-----
Bridesmaid's luncheon	-----
subtotal	-----

videography

Videographer fee	-----
Extra copies of video	-----
subtotal	-----

honeymoon

Transportation	-----
Accommodations	-----
Daily budget	-----
subtotal	-----

flowers

Ceremony	-----
Altar/church	-----
Bride's bouquet	-----
Bouquet preservation	-----
Attendants' bouquets	-----
Flower girl accessories	-----
Mothers' corsages	-----
Boutonnieres	-----
subtotal	-----

reception

Cake table	-----
Buffet table	-----
Head table	-----
Centerpieces	-----
Decorating	-----
subtotal	-----

helpers (total):

Wedding coordinator	-----
Cake-cutting/ gift-table attendant(s)	-----
Guest book attendant	-----
Officiant	-----
Soloists/musicians	-----
subtotal	-----

total

notes
