

Money Saving Tips for College Students

There are numerous web sites and books on how to save money on everyday living expenses, even for college students. Listed here are just a few of the millions of money saving tips available. As you go through the list, determine if the tip fits your situation. Also create your own strategies by asking yourself:

- Can I substitute a less costly item? Do I already own it?
- Can I do without?
- Can I substitute something else that costs less?

Food

- Cook at home. Plan meals and snacks for a week ahead. Brown bag it to class.
- If you live with roommates, take turns making meals.
- Limit eating out. When you do, look for special student discounts and other deals.
- Use low-cost protein foods such as dry beans, eggs, peanut butter, turkey, and chicken.
- Turn leftovers into “planned overs.” You can sometimes get two meals for the price of one.
- Make your own coffee at home instead of stopping at the coffee shop.
- Use coupons or price match for things you regularly buy.
- Go shopping as few times as possible.
- Shop alone, if possible.
- Do not go shopping when you are hungry.

Home

- Select energy efficient light bulbs. Turn off unused lights.
- Close doors to unused rooms and shut off heat/air conditioning to those areas.
- Reduce cell plan costs by choosing only what you need.
- Take shorter showers.
- Adjust the thermostat setting by five degrees and compensate for comfort with clothing.
- Buy household items on “Craigslist”, on-line auctions or other sites.