

# MAKING IT ON A COLLEGE BUDGET

## Money Management Options: 75 Ways to Save Money

1. Open a savings account and put in a certain amount every month (automatic deposit from your paycheck is best). Even if it's only a little bit, it adds up. Make it an account where you are penalized for removing the money.
2. Set goals for your spending and saving.
3. Balance your checkbook weekly! Penalties for bounced checks are very expensive.
4. Limit the number of ATM withdrawals you allow yourself each week.
5. Limit ATM withdrawals to machines owned by your bank. Service charges for using another bank's ATM can add up quickly.
6. Don't use a credit card—people using credit cards spend 34% more money on average than those who don't.
7. Remember your spare change is money. Throw it in a piggy bank and deposit it in your savings account on a regular basis.
8. Apply for scholarships and financial aid—leave no stone unturned for finding funds for your schooling.
9. Look for deals and coupons when eating out (2 for 1 deals, early bird specials, etc.)
10. When eating out, order water. Beverages can dramatically increase the cost of meals.
11. Buy in bulk through grocery discount stores. It's much cheaper to buy a six-pack of sodas than to purchase individual cans from the vending machine.
12. Make home-cooked meals. A home-cooked steak dinner with all the trimmings is often cheaper than the average fast food binge.
13. Eat at home with your family. It's a free meal and makes them happy!
14. Pack your lunch.
15. Portions at restaurants are often big. When eating out, consider sharing an entrée with a friend, skipping appetizers, or sharing a dessert.
16. Before going places, decide exactly how much you plan to spend and stick to your limit.
17. Look for free or cheap activities for your entertainment and dates—art openings, student concerts, outdoor festivals, observatories, picnics, church-sponsored events are usually free and often provide refreshments as well.
18. Declare “No Spending” weekends where you and your friends are each in charge of arranging cheap or free food, entertainment, transportation, etc.
19. Don't throw parties alone—have some friends help out and share the costs.
20. Check for used CDs at your area record store.
21. Check out best sellers from your local library. A book is only worth buying if you think you'll read it more than once.
22. Use phone cards.
23. Wait 24 hours before making major purchases. Use the time to determine if you really need the item you are thinking of buying.
24. Avoid recreational shopping. Shopping for entertainment's sake is not only a costly habit, but an unimaginative way to spend your time.
25. Watch out for the “it's on sale” mentality. A \$60 shirt marked down to \$15 is a deal only if you would have bought it and worn it in the first place.
26. Instead of paying for a fitness club membership fee, buy some hand weights and take up jogging.
27. Don't buy software right away. Download the evaluation and try it first. If you like it, then buy it. Otherwise, just delete it from your computer.
28. Get free internet service.
29. Ask for generic medications at the pharmacy.
30. Get a friend you trust to cut your hair or do your nails—or have it done at a cosmetology school.
31. Avoid buying faddish clothes—they're expensive and out of style within a year or two.
32. Buy clothes at the end of the season when they're 50% to 75% off.
33. Share dresses and tuxes with friends for special occasions. Swap clothes with friends the same size as you. You could come up with a whole new wardrobe.

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34. If you don't wear certain clothes anymore, take them to a consignment shop. You'll get part of the profit, and free up room in your closet.
35. Buy clothes at second-hand stores. You can find designer labels in good condition at amazing prices.
36. Scout out garage sales for housewares, furniture, and stuff to decorate your college dorm.
37. Make things for gifts—it's cheaper and the time you invest shows you care.
38. Walk or ride to school—it's good for you and saves gas.
39. Obey traffic laws. Speeding and parking tickets are expensive.
40. Look around for the cheapest gas price before filling up.
41. Drive an older car—the insurance payments and property taxes will be less.
42. Keep your tires inflated—you'll get better gas mileage.
43. Wash your car by hand.
44. Use public transportation—it saves gas, parking fees, and promotes healthier air.
45. Get good grades—it can lower your car insurance.
46. Get a job at a place where you spend a lot of money, so you can get employee discounts.
47. Use items like shampoo, toothpaste, and paper towels sparingly—enough to do the job without waste.
48. Take care of what you own. Your clothes, shoes, etc., will last longer if you do.
49. Use plastic grocery bags for trash can liners.
50. Be a smart consumer. Before making a major purchase, do some research on product quality through *Consumer Reports* magazine. Sometimes the cheaper product works just as well as the expensive one.
51. Don't smoke. Cigarettes are expensive and the money adds up quickly.
52. Stay healthy so you won't have to pay doctor's bills.
53. Volunteer! If you're busy you can't spend money, and it looks good on your resume.
54. Buy car parts at a junk yard.
55. Wait until after half-time at sports events and get in free.
56. If you buy more than one of something, like 2 or 3 shirts, always ask for a discount.
57. Take advantage of sales by buying Christmas and birthday gifts throughout the year.
58. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
59. Get a job close to where you live.
60. Have friends give you a makeover instead of going to a salon.
61. Instead of wearing makeup, show your real beauty.
62. Search for dependable, high gas mileage cars.
63. Eat Ramen noodles.
64. In college, be in the marching band and pep band. You get to go to school events free and may also get paid.
65. Wear your older sibling's clothes.
66. After you finish using a product, sell it on the Internet.
67. Use mail-in rebates or coupons for groceries or health and beauty items.
68. If you shop at a favorite store, apply for their discount card, if they have one.
69. If you like pictures, buy a digital camera. It will save you money in the long run.
70. Don't buy bottled water. Buy a water filtration pitcher.
71. Use your checkbook only for monthly bills and then leave it in a safe place instead of taking it with you.
72. Take only a certain amount of money with you so you won't spend a lot.
73. Make your own clothes or jewelry instead of buying them.
74. Grow your own fruits and vegetables, then can them and use them throughout the year.
75. Rent movies with a group of friends or go to second-run theaters for \$1 or \$2 a ticket.