

10 Smart Financial Tips Every College Student Should Know

College is an exciting time! However, it's important to remember a key part of the experience: *managing your money*.

Whether you're a freshman or returning student, these **10 financial tips** can help make college more affordable, keep your budget on track, and set you up for success in the future.

- ☐ **Apply for financial aid early:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) as early as possible. Visit studentaid.gov for more information.
- ☐ **Know what student loans you owe:** It's important to know what type of loan you have, your loan amount, interest rate, and repayment schedule.
- ☐ **Create a budget that works for you:** Your budget should list your income and expenses to ensure you have enough money each month to cover your costs.
- ☐ **Remember to spend wisely:** Look for opportunities to save. For example, buy used rather than new college textbooks and take advantage of student discounts.
- ☐ **Keep an eye on your accounts:** Regularly monitor your checking and savings accounts to help stay on top of your budget, avoid overdraft fees, and quickly catch unusual activity.
- ☐ **Get into the habit of saving:** Even small contributions can add up over time and provide a safety net for unexpected expenses.
- ☐ **Start building your credit in college:** One of the best ways to do this is to use a credit card to make occasional purchases. But you must pay your full balance every month.
- ☐ **Set up direct deposit:** Working part-time while in college? With direct deposit, your paycheck goes directly into your checking or savings account, giving you quicker access to your money.
- ☐ **Protect yourself from scammers:** Use strong passwords, regularly review your account statements, be wary of suspicious emails, phone calls, and text messages, and avoid sharing personal information online.
- ☐ **Have fun:** College is a time for learning, new adventures, and making memories. With these smart financial tips, you can worry less about your finances and enjoy the experience.



Scan the QR code to review these tips in more detail!

Questions about student loans, opening an account, or managing your budget? Ask a branch team member or call us at 800.845.5025.



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