

How to create your college budget

From textbooks to late-night takeout, college expenses can add up fast. Make your money go further with a budget. Start by watching [How to create a college budget in three steps](#). Then use this template to help improve your financial health and create habits to take with you in your postgrad life.

Income

	Amount
From parents/guardians	
Gifts	
Job/s	
Scholarships and grants	
Student loan disbursements	
Work-study	
Other	
Total	

Savings (Pay yourself first!)

Type	Goal	Monthly amount	Current balance
Emergency fund			
Medical savings			
Savings			
Other			
Total saved			

Expenses

	Amount
Educational and school expenses	
Lab fees	
Technology	
Textbooks and supplies	
Tuition	
Other	
Housing	
Furniture and decor	
Internet	
Rent	
Renters insurance	
Storage	
Other	
Utilities	
Electric	
Gas	
Internet	
Phone	
Water	
Other	

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Expenses

Transportation	
Car insurance	
Car payment	
Gas	
Parking	
Public transportation	
Rideshare services	
Other	
Food	
Groceries	
Restaurants	
Other	
Health and personal care	
Clothes	
Household items	
Laundry	
Medicine (OTC and prescriptions)	
Personal care products	
Toiletries	
Other	
Giving	
Donations	
Other	
Entertainment and recreation	
Club/Greek life dues	
Events	
Sports equipment	
Streaming services	
Travel	
Other	
Debt	
Credit card payments	
Personal loans	
Other	
Other	
Total	

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Now, calculate your income minus
your savings and expenses.

Total

If your results =

Zero: Congratulations, you have a balanced budget! Keep up the good work this month by tracking your progress and adjusting as needed, so you stay in control of your money.

Less than zero: Think about your needs versus wants, and take another look at your expenses to determine where you may be able to cut. Here are [a few tips on managing your money](#) better. And if it works for your situation, you may also consider ways to [increase your income](#) to help you cover costs.

More than zero: Great news; you're covering all your savings and expenses with your current income! With cash left over, consider saving even more toward your goals or paying down debts, if you have them. Here are [a few more ideas](#) to help you manage your money.