



How To Budget In Order To Maximize Your Student Financial Aid and Income

By this month you are most likely receiving the second payment of your Pell grant, loans, or scholarships. Of course, you are putting it to good use for books, supplies, and transportation. Based on all your expenses, it can be difficult to make that money stretch. We can all use some help on making it last. Creating a budget can help make that money last throughout the semester. Here are some basic steps on how to create a budget:

Pick a time frame for your budget

- * Decide whether your budget will be by month, year, or academic year.

List all your income

- * Figure your available income (include: income from work, grants, loans, scholarships, savings, or any contribution from parents).

List all your expenses

- * Tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board / housing, groceries and snacks, personal care items, transportation or car expenses, health insurance, cell phone, clothes, and entertainment and activities.

Track your spending

- * Make sure you know exactly where your money is going so you can have an accurate budget. All your monies should be spoken for in your budget. When money is unaccounted for it will be spent frivolously.

Plan for emergencies

- * Make sure you create an emergency fund because unexpected expenses happen and you do not want it to affect your living expenses.

Balance your budget

- * Total your income, total your expenses and make sure your budget balances. If your expenses outweigh your income you must figure a way to reduce your expenses or increase your income.

Live within your means

- * It is not always about what you want but what you need. Make sure your needs are always a priority in your spending. Spending less money will not decrease your quality of life; you will still be living the way you like just a little differently. Do not look at what you do not have but what you do have. Being aware of what you do have will make you less likely to spend impulsively for things you feel that you are lacking.

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- *Cost –Saving Measures*
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IMPORTANT DATES

October 20th
Register to vote

October 27th
Club Rush

November 3rd
Loan Application Dead-
line

November 3rd
Fall Appeal Deadline

November 10th
Veterans Day

November 20th
Last day to vote

Cost-Saving Measures

- Clip coupons to save money on groceries
- Carpool or use public transportation
- Buy clothes on the sale rack or thrift shops
- Buy generic products instead of name brand
- Cut out frequent dining out and cook at home/ pack a lunch
- Try to negotiate discounts on necessary purchases
- Save before you spend



FAQ's

1. How do I apply?

Go to www.fafsa.gov and log in. Press 'start a new FAFSA' and enter your information.

2. How often do I reapply?

You must re-apply once every school year. FAFSA becomes available by January 1st every year for the following school year (e.g., application for the 15-16 school year will be available January 1st, 2015).

3. Do I have to apply for a fee waiver separately?

Once you complete the FAFSA you will automatically be considered for the fee waiver as well. If you choose to only apply for a fee waiver, you can do so online or via paper application.

4. Do I have to pay the Pell Grant back?

No. The Pell Grant is not a loan. You can use it at your discretion and you will not have to reimburse it, so long as you complete the class for which you received the grant. Not completing classes may result in an overpayment, which you will be charged for.

5. How long does it take for my documents to be processed?

It can take between 6 to 8 weeks to process any documents that have been submitted to the Office of Financial Assistance. Check your school-assigned email and InSite Portal for status updates.

6. Can you help me apply for financial aid?

Yes. We have lab hours reserved every month in which a Financial Aid Advisor can help you fill out your application. Hours are posted at our front counter and online.

7. How do I know if I am awarded?

You will receive an email letting you know your award status. You can also check your status at your InSite Portal under "Award Letter".

8. How do I know what I am missing?

Once you have submitted your FAFSA, you will receive an email informing you of any additional documentation you may have to submit. You can also log into to your InSite Portal and look under your Missing Information Letter.

9. Where can I find the verification forms I was asked to submit?

Visit our campus website www.contracosta.edu and sign in to your InSite Portal. Click on WebAdvisor, then click 'Financial Aid', then click 'Financial Aid Documents'.

****Due to the census deadline, students will not be eligible for any cash aid on units added, re-enrolled in, or that start after October 15th****

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

Office of Financial Assistance

Contra Costa College
2600 Mission Bell Dr.
San Pablo, CA 94806

(510) 215-6026

Visit us on the web at
www.contracosta.edu

FINANCIAL AID



Y U NO COME TO ME?!?!?!?



KEEP
CALM
AND
FILE
FAFSA