

BUILD YOUR MONTHLY BUDGET

It's hard to make sure you're not spending more money than you have, especially in college. That's why we've created this guide to help college students figure out **how much money they have to spend** compared with **how much they want to spend**. Seeing the difference between the two will help lead to smarter money decisions.

Fill out the template below to create your own monthly* budget.

HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO SPEND EACH MONTH

Add up money from:

Loans
Work-study or job
Family
Other
Other

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

1 TOTAL \$ _____

WHAT ARE MY MUST-PAY EXPENSES

List the payments you have to make each month—these are not optional.

THE BASICS

Tuition and books
Housing (rent or on campus)
Food/meal plan (if you signed up for one)
Getting around/transportation

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

BILLS

Cell phone bill
Other bills (Internet or electric if you live off-campus)

\$ _____
\$ _____

OTHER

Club dues (academic clubs, fraternity/sorority)
Other
Other

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

2 TOTAL \$ _____

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONAL EXPENSES

List non-essential expenses. These expenses change from month to month.

EATING

Groceries
Snacks

\$ _____
\$ _____

HAVING FUN

Going out (dinner, movies, concerts)
Subscriptions (Netflix, Spotify)
Fitness (memberships, sports, yoga)
Travel

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

EVERYTHING ELSE

Taking care of yourself (haircuts, skin care)
Clothes (laundry, new clothes)
Other
Other

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

3 TOTAL \$ _____

NOW DO THE MATH

TOTAL 1 \$ _____ - **TOTAL 2** + **TOTAL 3** \$ _____ = \$ _____

Your total from step **1** should be bigger than the sum of steps **2** and **3**.

If it is, you're in great shape! If it's not, take another look at your spending in step **3** to see where you can cut back.

Want to talk it through? Stop by a Chase location—we're here to help!

*Some income and expenses may not be monthly. If you have income or expenses that are not monthly, do the math to figure out how much you pay per month. For example, if you pay \$20,000 of tuition per semester, you'd divide \$20,000 by 4 months to get \$5,000 per month.

CHASE

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