



Student Spending Plan

A GUIDE TO MONEY MANAGEMENT



>> Creating a Student Spending Plan

Budgeting for your post-secondary education can be challenging; expenses like moving, vehicle repairs or prescriptions can arise unexpectedly and costs can be difficult to predict. Many first-year students are caught off-guard by unexpected expenses, which can really impact your studies. It's not easy to focus on school work if you're worried about money. Setting up a spending plan before you start school can help you manage your money and save you a lot of stress.

All that's required is a little organization and about an hour of your time each month to record, review and revise. Use the spending plan on the next page to identify your resources and expenses and create a student spending plan that begins with your first month of school and ends one month after your studies are done for the year.

If you're applying for government student loans, there are a few things you need to know about eligibility and allowable costs that will be covered before you start creating a spending plan. Check out the information on [Student Aid Alberta](#) and come back to this spending plan and tip sheet when you're ready!

>> Spending Tips for Students

Tip: Stay on track with your educational goals by creating a summer spending plan to guide you during the summer months.

Tip: Always have one or two months of expense funds saved for unexpected costs and unplanned income delays. It can take up to a month after you start a summer job before you get your first cheque. Tuition deposits are often due before loan certificates are cashed and RESP redemption forms can take 4-6 months to process.

Tip: GST cheques are sent out in October, January, April and July. Use these to cover unexpected expenses.

Tip: April tax refunds are a great way to pay off any debts incurred during the school year. Save extra refund money to supplement your fall income.

>> Available Resources to Help you Budget

Student Aid Alberta studentaid.alberta.ca
[Understanding Your Student Loan](#)
[Repaying Your Student Loan](#)

Government of Canada canada.ca
Funding information for students pursuing post-secondary education.

Money Mentors moneymentors.ca
Can assist you with money management challenges, provide options to repay and reduce your debts, and show you how to establish or re-establish your credit.

Money 101 *

Money 101 offers straight talk about why you should invest in further education, how to set personal goals and how to figure out what your education will cost.

Stretch Your Dollars *

Stretch Your Dollars includes helpful tips and suggestions on how to cut your expenses, boost your income and access information, services and programs.

* Find these and other budgeting resources at:

alis.alberta.ca/publications
alis.alberta.ca/moneyguides

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>> MONEY YOU HAVE UPFRONT

Source	Amount
scholarships, grants, bursaries	
family / spousal support *	
student loan / line of credit	
savings / summer job	
other **: _____	
>> Total Money You Have Upfront	

*If you receive this monthly, add to Monthly Income

** RESP, GST rebates, tax refund, etc.

>> EXPENSES YOU PAY UPFRONT

Source	Amount
Education	
tuition and fees	
books and supplies	
Housing	
damage deposit	
utilities hook-up	
moving expenses	
other : _____	
>> Total Expenses You Pay Upfront	

>> IRREGULAR EXPENSES

Source	Amount
Housing	
maintenance / repairs	
furniture / appliances	
Medical	
prescriptions	
dental / optical	
Transportation	
registration	
maintenance / repairs	
Other expenses	
gifts / seasonal	
sports / program registration	
other : _____	
>> Total Annual Irregular Expenses	
Divided by # of months in school	
>> Total Monthly Irregular Expenses	

NOTE:

Not all expenses on this worksheet will be covered by government loans and grants. Visit studentaid.alberta.ca to learn more about loan eligibility and allowable costs.

>> REGULAR MONTHLY EXPENSES

Source	Amount
Housing	
rent and insurance	
utilities (heat / power / water)	
bills (phone / cable / internet)	
Personal	
food / household items	
toiletries (toothpaste / shampoo)	
recreation / entertainment	
personal allowance	
Transportation	
bus pass / gas / parking	
vehicle insurance	
Debt Payments	
credit card payments	
loans (car / line of credit)	
Savings	
Child Care	
Other expenses	
>> Total Monthly Expenses	

>> MONTHLY INCOME

Estimated monthly income from part-time work / other \$ _____

>> MONTHLY BALANCE

Total money you have upfront	\$ _____	①
Less: total upfront expenses	- \$ _____	②
Upfront resources total	= \$ _____	
Divide: by # of months in school	/ \$ _____	
Add: estimated monthly income	+ \$ _____	⑤
Available monthly resources total	= \$ _____	
Less: total monthly irregular expenses	- \$ _____	③
Less: total monthly expenses	- \$ _____	④
>> Total Monthly Balance	= \$ _____	⑥

If your balance is positive you have enough money to live on during the school year. If your balance is negative, you need to make adjustments to your spending plan or income.