

GET THE GRADES WHILE YOU SAVE!

Come on, do the grades while you save for your dreams.

Now that you are on your own, you might be tempted to spend on all the things your parents wouldn't let you have before. Go slow. If you plan it smart you can avoid the sort of financial troubles that plague young adults. You can save and realize your dreams.

Just follow these 5 easy steps:

Step 1: Have a **dream**. Think about the future and what you want for you. Believe that you can achieve it

Step 2: Write down your short, medium and long-term **goals** and set yourself a time-frame

Step 3: Develop your **savings plan**. Decide how much money you'll need to put aside every week or month to reach your goals and where you'll save it to get the best returns. You may have to use different savings products to help you meet your different goals.

Step 4: Work out a **personal budget!** Know where every cent of your income goes and agree where you can cut back (on consumption) to help you meet the commitments of your savings plan. Revise your budget regularly to keep your eye on the future

Step 5: **Stick to your plan.** Make saving a habit. Tell people close to you about your dream and plans. When you talk about them you commit to them!

Remember that your savings plan, just like your best Grades, is an individual effort of focus, sacrifice and perseverance. It should help you hang onto your dreams and prevent you from spending unnecessarily.

***Save today for a
better life tomorrow!***



Saving Tips & Tricks



Tuition: Take advantage of scholarships. Keep in touch with your financial aid office even if you don't have a student loan. The offices usually stock information about budgeting, economizing and possible tuition bail-out opportunities.



Text Books: You don't really need to buy all the textbooks. Your faculty might have a different selection of textbooks in different places, so check it out. Try not to take classes where the teacher writes his own books each term and spiral binds them, because those are extremely expensive. If you use the library wisely, chances are that you'll only have to buy half the textbooks you need. Look out for cheap used college textbooks. Sell them at the end of the semester unless for reference or building a professional library.



Desktop or Laptop: Look for a computer system that best suits a university student. Consider the purchase cost, maintenance, theft prone, ergonomically correct. For your value for money, desktops are faster, less easy to damage, more difficult to steal, cheaper & easier to repair. A good laptop will really pinch into your pocket.



Accommodation: Try to live in with a friend as commuting costs a lot if you drive. Stay close to campus. If you have to share, look for an academically focused kid, your grades come before anything else.



Transport: Find a way of getting by in varsity without a car and you'll be amazed how much you can save on gas, car insurance, registration. Save on long distance travel by booking your tickets in advance. Skip short breaks by staying on campus, it may cost less than taking the long trip home, and its fun! Learn to use mass transit. Find a friend who has a car.



Food: Subscribe to a meal plan and use it. The average cost of a meal on your meal plan is far less than what you would spend eating out. Beverages could cost more on a fast-food meal plan. Get into a habit of ordering regular tap water with ice and lemon/lime to accompany your meal.



Clothing: You only need a few items including a "nice" outfit for interviews. Go for events and get free T-shirts. Two pairs of shoes, one-athletic, one-formal should suffice. Look out for sale and shop around before you spend. Brands can get you into trouble!



Entertainment: Don't hang out with big spenders. Take advantage of campus activities. Attend free movie festivals. Support the local sports teams. Attend lecture series. Get the most from your student ID!



Avoid non-academic debt: develop money skills to spend cash on non-academic expenses. Worry about credit later. Don't get a credit card unless you absolutely need one! If you must buy a fancy item, save for it!



Avoid unnecessary extra costs: Library late fines, traffic violations, parking tickets cost money.



Try to resist those tempting promotions: Don't just sign up for random student promotions. They are not there to help you but to make money. Do your research!

Good Luck!