

The following form has been developed to help students work out a semester/monthly budget that they can realistically follow. By completing this worksheet as thoroughly as possible, you will be able to plan and track expenses each semester. Mark N/A on those items which do not apply to you.

INCOME

List all income available to you from all sources.

A. One-time income:

- 1. Scholarships \$ _____
- 2. Grants \$ _____
- 3. Monetary gifts received \$ _____
- 4. Personal savings \$ _____
- 5. Loans \$ _____
- 6. Other \$ _____

Subtotal One-time Income: \$ _____

B. Monthly income:

- 1. Salary/Work wages \$ _____
- 2. Allotment/Allowance (from employer/parents) \$ _____
- 3. Stipend \$ _____
- 4. Other \$ _____

Subtotal Monthly Income: \$ _____

TOTAL INCOME: \$ _____

EXPENDITURES

List all expenses you expect to have during a semester.

A. One-time expenses per semester:

- 1. School related:
 - Tuition \$ _____
 - Fees \$ _____
 - Books and supplies \$ _____
 - Meal Plan \$ _____
 - Shuttle Bus Pass \$ _____
 - University Parking Permit \$ _____
 - Sports Pass \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
 - Subtotal:** \$ _____

- 2. **Non-school related:**
 - Electric deposit \$ _____
 - Gas deposit \$ _____
 - Garbage/Sewer \$ _____
 - Cable deposit/installation \$ _____
 - Renter's Insurance \$ _____
 - Health/Medical Insurance \$ _____
 - Vehicle Insurance \$ _____
 - Furniture (purchase/rental) \$ _____
 - Linens \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
 - Subtotal:** \$ _____

List recurring expenses you expect to have each month.

B. Monthly expenses:

- 1. Housing:
 - Rent \$ _____
 - Electric/Gas \$ _____
 - Telephone/Cell Phone \$ _____
 - Cable/Internet \$ _____
 - Furniture Rental \$ _____
 - Newspaper \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
 - Subtotal:** \$ _____

- 2. Transportation:
 - Gasoline \$ _____
 - Vehicle Maintenance \$ _____
 - Vehicle Insurance \$ _____
 - Subtotal:** \$ _____

- 3. Household:
 - Food \$ _____
 - Toiletries \$ _____
 - Laundry \$ _____
 - Dry Cleaning \$ _____
 - Yard Maintenance \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
 - Subtotal:** \$ _____

(continued on back)

**MONTHLY EXPENSES
(continued)**

4. Recreation:

Eating Out \$ _____

Entertainment \$ _____

Trips \$ _____

Other \$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

5. Clothing: \$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

6. Monetary Commitments:

Credit Card Payments:

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Car Payment \$ _____

Loan Payment \$ _____

Membership Dues \$ _____

Gifts (holidays, birthdays) \$ _____

Other \$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

7. Savings Deposits: (at least 1 month)

\$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

TOTAL ONE-TIME EXPENSES: \$ _____

TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES: \$ _____

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ _____

Compare your total expenses with your total income.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ _____

TOTAL INCOME: \$ _____

Your income should be greater than your expenses. If that is not the case, try to reduce your expenses and/or increase your income.

STRATEGIES FOR SAVING MONEY

ATMs - USER BEWARE! Those trips to the ATM can add up quickly. When possible, go to the bank and withdraw only enough for what you need (but, first, learn the difference between "need" and "want"). Make sure you plan this with your monthly expenses. Beware of ATM fees! You may be charged \$1.00 - \$4.00 each time you use an ATM that does not belong to your bank.

Bank Accounts - Shop around for banks and credit unions. There are those that offer free checking accounts or a low service charge for keeping a certain minimum balance.

Books - Textbooks are not cheap, and students seldom adequately budget for them. Buy USED books whenever possible or talk with friends that have taken the same classes. Many people might be willing to loan you their books or sell them to you at a reduced rate.

Coupons - In a college town, discount coupons are abundant. Use them to your advantage. Keep coupons in an obvious place (Ex: your car, purse, or wallet) so you won't forget them when you go to the store or try to make a purchase.

Credit Cards - Credit card opportunities will be coming at you left and right. Look for the lowest interest rates available and, if possible, pay off your monthly balance in full to avoid a finance charge. Beware of rate changes, cash withdrawals, fees, etc. Be responsible!

Financial Emergencies - Contact the Deptment of Student Financial Aid at 979.845.3236. You may be able to take out a short-term loan or work out other arrangements to meet your expenses.

Roommates - Having roommates is one of the most economical ways to save money and cut your living expenses in half. Adult, Graduate, and Off Campus Student Services provides a Roommate Referral Process that allows students to find compatible roommates. Check out the AggieSearch website at <http://aggiesearch.tamu.edu> to find or search for roommates and housing.

Offices of the Dean of Student Life
Adult, Graduate, and Off Campus Student
Services

Cain Hall C-114, TAMU 1257

Phone: 979.845.1741

Fax: 979.845.6138

agoss@tamu.edu

<http://studentlife.tamu.edu/agoss>



**ADULT, GRADUATE &
OFF CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS