



University College



100 Money Tip\$

Helpful Hints to Save Money & Reduce Expenses at College

General Tips

- 1) Get a free checking and savings account, rather than paying for an account and checks. Get the maximum amount you can for free. Remember that checks for the most part are no longer used much.
- 2) Keep track of your accounts, because banks charge overdraft fees.
- 3) Don't get a credit card! But if you absolutely must have one, be sure to get a card with the lowest interest rate possible. Don't carry it with you. Use it only in cases of emergency and get a low maximum spending limit.
- 4) Remember to always pay credit card bills on time, because companies charge late fees.
- 5) Try saving all of your receipts for one month to track exactly where all your money is being spent (i.e. hygiene, food, utilities, and etcetera). Then arrange a monthly budget in accordance to your necessary spending.
- 6) Save spare change in your pocket, car, backpack, purse, and so on, putting this extra money in a big jar and then every month or few months roll the coins and take them to your bank to be deposited in your savings account. Also, roll the coins yourself. Stay away from coin-counting machines, as they often are inaccurate or even charge a fee.
- 7) Avoid using ATMs that charge a transaction fee. Most on campus do charge a fee, but Seven Eleven's machines do not. Plan ahead for the cash you'll need, or use checks or a debit card.

Books, Computers, & School

- 8) First, look into borrowing required textbooks from a friend or family member.
- 9) If you can't borrow the book, then buy used textbooks. Sites such as amazon.com or half.com are great places to find books at a cheaper price. Hardcover books are often the cheapest.
- 10) Also approach friends or family about purchasing their used books instead of buying them at the bookstore.
- 11) If you must buy new, then look into purchasing an "international" edition. These are usually exactly the same and are incredibly cheaper.
- 12) Sell your used books online or back to the bookstore.
- 13) Buying a new computer? Save by shopping the student discount specials and back-to-school specials. Both Dell and Apple Computer offer student discounts for OU students.
- 14) Explore purchasing a refurbished used laptop. This will cost significantly less and still meet your student needs.

- 15) Be care and conscientious with your electronic equipment. Remember to lock your doors and windows, and use a surge protector.
- 16) Try buying the bulk of your school supplies at a discount retailer during the summer “back-to-school” sales. Stick with the basics and you’ll save.
- 17) Buy software using student discounts. OU IT offers student education deals on software such as Microsoft Word.
- 18) Decline extended warranties. Your computer and electronic equipment should be under warranty for at least up to one year already.
- 19) Shop for print cartridges online and compare prices.

Entertainment

- 20) Subscribe to DVD rental service such as NetFlix. Also, try the \$1 rentals in those machines outside McDonalds and Seven Eleven or catch a movie at Norman’s Dollar Theatre.
- 21) Rent DVDs as a group.
- 22) Save money on going out to the movies by attending our free campus showings in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.
- 23) Use your computer and a good set of speakers instead of a stereo system. This will save money on buying the system and most college students either have an iTunes or other music library on their computers. Also, try websites that play music, such as local radio websites or the site www.Pandora.com which will let you create custom music channels.
- 24) Use your computer as a television, either watch cable through it or look into websites that offer online television or episodes. Usually, computers also come equipped as DVD players.
- 25) Buy used CDs and turn in your old CDs for money or store credit.
- 26) Read for entertainment. Join a book club such as Opera’s or a local existing club, or maybe even start your own!
- 27) Create a study group! This will help you get to know other students, and simultaneously help you with studying for your courses. Just be sure to have a good mixture of studying and fellowship with fellow group members.
- 28) If you’re exceedingly good in a particular subject, then offer your services as a tutor. This is a great way to help others and make a little dough, too.
- 29) Volunteer! Engage in service activities or philanthropic events. This will not only help build your resume and spend your free time wisely, but it also is good for the community and truly helps others.
- 30) Check the Oklahoma Daily for on and off campus freebies such as craft fairs, Oklahoma Memorial Union events, concerts, theater, festivals, special art galleries, or visit one of our University’s world renowned museums.
- 31) Enjoy a bath and a good book instead of going out one evening each month.
- 32) Play free games on the web!

Shopping

- 33) Do not shop unless you actually need to purchase something, and generally taking a list is best.
- 34) If you must shop, be sure to hit up places that offer student discounts.
- 35) Shop early or late for holidays. There is no better day to purchase gifts than the day after Christmas.
- 36) Shop for things you really need during the tax-free weekends. Both Oklahoma City and Norman have these weekends. Check with the Chamber of Commerce for dates and more information.

- 37) Create and make your own gifts. Great ideas are candles, soap, snacks, and even beaded jewelry. If you have any crafty friends, then ask them to help and this will provide a cheap form of entertainment.
- 38) For your birthday, Christmas, and any holiday that you might receive gifts, request practical items. Ask for things that will help you from spending money.
- 39) Get a few friends together and purchase an annual membership to Sam's Club or Costco.
- 40) Buy in bulk.
- 41) Save time and transportation money shopping online.
- 42) Decorate your room by shopping at discount stores or maybe even a yard sale.
- 43) Don't shop hungry! Regardless if you're shopping for food or something else, you're likely to spend more money while shopping hungry.
- 44) Carry a snack in your purse or backpack.
- 45) Learn how to shop for clothes at the consignment shop.
- 46) Try to purchase clothing and garments that are washable versus "dry clean only." Also, look into clothing that you won't need to iron.

Off-Campus Apartment Living

- 47) Get a studio apartment or split rent with roommates.
- 48) Rent a place that will have all appliances provided.
- 49) Be sure to look into utilities and what will be included in the rent.
- 50) Pay utility bills before they're due. Avoid late fees.
- 51) Save money on bills by keeping the A/C or heat turned down or off, and make certain that your windows are well insulated.
- 52) Turn off lights; use the oven sparingly and take short showers.
- 53) Living on an upper floor will typically keep you warmer in the winter.

Food & Drink

- 54) Try to eat on a certain amount, such as a few dollars each meal. But be sure to still plan a nutritious meal.
- 55) If you are lucky enough to have one, then use your meal plan!
- 56) Instead of hitting up local coffee businesses, try to make your own coffee. A daily latte or cappuccino will cost around \$2.50 and adds up quickly.
- 57) Be a wise tipper! Don't simply tip because of a sign that reads "poor students work here." Most of us are poor college students, and keep in mind that everyone wants a tip.
- 58) Oatmeal is a fast, filling, and affordable meal.
- 59) Try eating foods such as yogurt, cottage cheese, bagels, string cheese, peanut butter and fruit for affordable, healthy, and convenient snacks.
- 60) Avoid fast food and late night trips to these establishments. This is better for your wallet and health.
- 61) Collect coupons and follow the weekly sales ads at the local grocery store.
- 62) Instead of buying bottled water, try re-using bottles with tap water. Use a filter if you desire better tasting water.
- 63) Avoid sit down restaurants with large groups, because they typically will automatically add in a gratuity fee.
- 64) Try splitting a large meal at a restaurant, but be sure that you won't be charged extra for this.
- 65) If you're hungry and the cafeteria on campus restaurants are closed, then try a low-cost eatery with self-service, where you don't feel obligated to tip.

- 66) Save your tip if the pizza guy is late or gets lost. He is lacking in customer service and doesn't deserve it.
- 67) Look into free food! Many campus organizations offer free meals or snacks at their meetings. This is a great way to make new friends, get free food, and build your resume.
- 68) Search for free pizza on www.Google.com.

Transportation & Travel

- 69) Try to get an apartment close to campus so you can walk.
- 70) Don't take your car to campus. This saves on purchasing a parking permit and gas. Having no car will keep you closer to campus as well.
- 71) Walk, bike, roller blade, or skateboard around town.
- 72) Public transportation is cheap and your student fees include the bus from Lloyd Noble to campus.
- 73) Save money by doing the least amount of traveling necessary.
- 74) Shop around for flights and accommodations, if you must travel, by using sites such as www.Priceline.com. Keep in mind that current events such as political unrest and gas prices may cause prices to fluctuate.
- 75) Check prices on Amtrak or Greyhound versus air travel. Both of these companies also offer student discounts.
- 76) A student travel discount card will offer discounts on accommodations, food, and transportation if you are traveling nationally or internationally. Check out STA Travel or International Student Identity Card, ISIC.
- 77) Carpool home for the holidays.
- 78) Skip spring break! This will save money and provide a lot of free time to work on something you would prefer. Some students consider the alternative spring break program, which allows you to travel and do community service. Check with OU's Center for Student Life for more information.

Communication

- 79) Join your parents' family cell phone plan.
- 80) Avoid text messaging if possible. Call during your free minutes or send an email instead. If you must text message, then try and do so sparingly by limiting yourself to a certain number per week or month. Keep in mind that usually you are charged for both receiving and sending messages.
- 81) Consider using a pay-as-you-go cell phone plan.
- 82) Use email, instant messengers, blogs, and Facebook for alternative forms of communication.
- 83) Use inexpensive or free internet phone calling services. These are especially good for traveling long distances, such as out of the country. Also, check with friends who live where you are traveling for various international calling cards.

Personal

- 84) Instead of visiting the salon, have a "girls beauty night." The group can do each others nails, facials, waxing, etcetera.
- 85) Shop around for the best price on haircuts. Check into a local cosmetology school. They will usually cut hair at cost.
- 86) Share the cost for personal toiletries or buy supplies in bulk.
- 87) Shop for your personal items at discount retailers.
- 88) When doing laundry: bring your own detergent versus buying the single use from the machines, buy discount detergent on sale only, bring your

own drink and/or snack versus buying from the vending machine, or fill the machines to capacity.

Exercise

- 89) Join a club or intramural sports. It will gain you instant friends and offer no-cost exercise and socialization.
- 90) Buy an exercise video game, such as Dance Dance Revolution.
- 91) Use your gym membership to the Huston Huffman Center; the cost is included in your fees.
- 92) Ask someone to sponsor you for a marathon or other run.
- 93) Enroll in an on-campus exercise class such as yoga, tai chi, kick-boxing, or aerobics.
- 94) Feel the need to splurge? Go for a run, or walk instead!

Making A Little Extra Dough

- 95) Volunteer for a medical study. Most do not require much time and offer great pay.
- 96) Sell your expertise in an area you excel, such as computer skills or music lessons.
- 97) Get a job on or off campus. Check <http://jobs.ou.edu> for information.
- 98) If you're a true expert in a subject or have a website, you might consider allowing advertising on your site. Visit www.Adsense.com and find out how to make a few extra hundred dollars.
- 99) Solicit graduate students for help with their dissertation research.
- 100) Offer a resume writing service.

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Adapted from:

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/student-living/save-money.htm>

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<http://uc.ou.edu>