



	MONTHLY	YEARLY TOTAL
INCOME FROM WORK		
INCOME FROM FINANCIAL AID		
OTHER INCOME		
TOTAL INCOME		
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TUITION EXPENSES		
COURSE FEES EXPENSES		
COLLEGE BOOKS		
COLLEGE SUPPLIES		
LODGING EXPENSES		
TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES (INC. PARKING)		
CELL PHONE, INTERNET CHARGES		
ENTERTAINMENT		
FOOD		
MEDICAL INSURANCE		
PRESCRIPTIONS		
PET EXPENSES		
OTHER EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES		

TOTAL INCOME – TOTAL EXPENSES = WHAT'S LEFT

10 Budgeting Tips (from College in Colorado.org)

Setting and sticking to a monthly budget can give you peace of mind. With a budget in place, you can more effectively manage your money, save for large expenses, and prepare for emergencies.

1. Be Realistic About Your Budget

If you've never made a budget before, you need to start by forecasting how much money you'll have coming in every month and how much you think you'll be spending. The more realistic you are about each of these numbers, the more likely you'll be to stick to your budget.

2. Differentiate Between "Needs" And "Wants" In Your Budget

Particularly if money's tight, differentiating between "needs" and "wants" can help you stay within budget. Needs come first, and if there's money left over, you can spend on wants.

3a. Guess Low For Income

In your budget, be conservative, and guess low for income. If your income exceeds the amount you factored into your budget, all the better! But you don't want to be caught short because you were overly optimistic.

3b. Guess High For Expenses

In addition to guessing low for income, guess high for expenses. This, too, will give you some wiggle room when something unexpected crops up or costs rise.

4. Include A Miscellaneous Category In Your Budget

Take all of your expenses and total them. Then, take 10% of that total and put it into a "miscellaneous" category. This adds even more flexibility to your budget, helping to ensure that if you've omitted something from your calculations, you won't go over budget.

5. Include Savings As An "Expense" In Your Budget

Decide on an amount you'd like to save each month, and include it as an "expense" in your budget. Set up a separate savings account and transfer or deposit money into it every month. Your savings can be used for short-term goals (such as a vacation or large-ticket item) or long-term goals (such as college tuition or a house). This money can also be used in case of an emergency, such as a car repair or medical expense.

6. Align Your Budget With Your Goals And Values

Once you've completed your budget, study it and see if you're spending your money in alignment with your values and goals (short-term and long-term). Do this exercise again after you've attempted to live within your budget for a few months. If you are having difficulty adhering to your budget, you may be overspending on things that aren't really aligned with your goals.

7. Keep All Of Your Bills and Receipts Organized

Organize all of your bills and receipts by category (e.g. housing, utilities, car expenses, loans) and file them each month in a folder or an accordion file. This will make it easy to retrieve information if you need to dispute a bill or track your spending history. Organizing your bills and receipts as you go along also makes it simple to file your taxes at the end of the year.

8. Review And Recalculate Your Budget

A review of your budget every month can help you stay on track with your finances. In essence, a budget is a forecast of what will happen; take the time to go back and recount what actually did happen. Where did you overspend? Where did you save? What can you do differently next month? While it's important to review your budget every month, you'll also probably need to re-calculate your budget every 3-6 months, or whenever something changes dramatically in your financial life.

9. Pay Cash For Small Expenses

Give yourself a daily, weekly, or monthly allotment of cash, and use it whenever you can. Every time you pay cash, you'll be more conscious of what you're spending than if you paid by credit card, check, or online withdrawal.

10. Forgive Yourself For Small Transgressions

It's almost impossible to follow a budget 100% of the time. No matter how disciplined you are, you may overspend now and again. Forgive yourself for small errors and get right back on track, as soon as possible.