

# Rowdy Cents

Making Sense of Money Matters.

## **Welcome New Roadrunners!**

You will have many priceless experiences in college and many will come with a price tag. Making the most out of your Roadrunner Journey will depend a lot upon making the most of your money. Start early by following these tips and create a spending plan like the example on the reverse side.



### **By the Semester – expenses due at the beginning of school:**

- Tuition and fees
- Books for semester's courses
- Meal plan, if required or desired
- Parking permit &/or VIA bus pass, if needed



### **By the Month – expenses due at the first of each month (some you may not have yet):**

- Rent
- Utilities & internet service (if not included in rent)
- Telephone: Cell and/or land line
- Insurance: Health, auto, and/or renter's

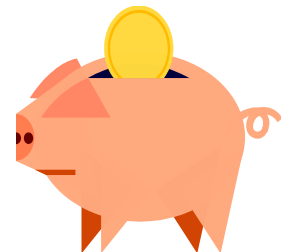


### **By the Week – expenses that may happen daily or weekly:**

- ✓ Groceries and eating out
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Snacks from vending machines or coffee shop
- ✓ Laundry and dry cleaning
- ✓ Personal care items

### **Neither by semester, month, nor week, “life” happens, so save for...**

- Holiday trips, traveling home, and/or next semester's spring break vacation
- Unexpected emergencies – there will always be some
- Concerts and other fun events (you gotta have some fun)



**Find out how to “keep it real.” See next page.**



**“Plan what you spend. Spend what you plan!”**

You want to be a successful college student and that means managing your time and money, as well as studying and going to class. The **key** to managing your money is to develop a spending plan. Here are some examples (and steps) for you to follow.

**Step 1:** Figure where your money comes from, less tuition and fees. Divide by 9 months (typically August 15 to May 15) for a monthly amount.

Source of Funds	Yearly Amt.
Family support	\$2,500
Scholarship (after tuition, fees, & books)	\$1,000
Grant (after tuition and fees)	\$2,000
Financial Aid (living expenses)	\$8,000
<b>Academic Year TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
Less parking permit payment	\$ 175
Less meal plan payment	\$ 2,000
	<b>\$11,325</b>
Divided by 9 months = (# months in fall & spring semesters)	\$ 1,258 per month

**Step 2:** Figure your expenses for the month.

Monthly Expenses	Amount
Savings (10%): trips home; spring break; emergencies	\$ 130
Rent: (on-campus housing)	\$ 650
Utilities: included in rent	0
Internet/Cable: included in rent	0
Phone: Cell phone service	\$100
Food: Groceries, dining out, snacks	\$75
Transportation: Gas	\$ 50
Insurance: Car contribution	\$ 55
RX/medical	\$ 10
Laundry/dry cleaning	\$ 20
Clothing/shoes	\$ 50
Personal care	\$ 30
Entertainment: music downloads, videos, movies, shows	\$ 30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>

**Step 3:** Subtract money going out for the month from money coming in for the month.

Rowdy Cents' Spending Outcome	
Money coming in for the month	\$1,258
Money going out for the month	\$1,200
Difference	<b>\$ 58</b>

It's always good to not budget right to the penny. Leave yourself some "wiggle room."

**The key is in your hand now...**



[http://www.utsa.edu/moneymatters/follow\\_the\\_money.html](http://www.utsa.edu/moneymatters/follow_the_money.html) and use the interactive online budget calculator or download the Rowdy Cents worksheet for your own spending plan.

You just might unlock some peace of mind, too :)