

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Money Management Tips: 55 Ways to Save Money

Recreation and Entertainment:

1. Instead of paying for a fitness club membership fee, buy some weights or go to the ARC.
2. Don't smoke. Cigarettes are expensive and the money adds up quickly. Also you'll be fined if you smoke near school facilities.
3. Wait until after half-time at sport events and get in for free!
4. When eating out, look for coupons or special deals- many restaurants offer them! Also, order water. Drinks are highly overpriced.
5. At the beginning of the semester, many local businesses give out coupon books. Grab one!
6. There are hundreds of free activities on campus. Join clubs, attend student concerts, or go to church-sponsored events for cheap fun. There is usually food involved, too!
7. Illinites, student activities, happen at the Illini Union every Friday night for free.
8. Experience some more cultures while in college and attend a show at Krannert. Student tickets are \$10 or less. It's FREE sometimes!
9. If you're throwing a party, have your guests pay a little money or bring things to offset your cost.
10. Don't purchase a book unless you think you really want to keep it. You can check out books for free at libraries.
11. Rent movies with a group of friends or go to second-run theaters for \$1 or \$2 a ticket.
12. Bring your student ID when you go out for a movie. Most theaters will give discount for students.

Food and Basic Needs:

13. Be a savvy consumer. Before making a major purchase, do some researches on the product quality through *Consumer Reports* magazine.
14. Sometimes the cheaper product works just as well as the expensive one.
15. Ask for generic medications at the pharmacy.
16. Ladies, ditch the salon and get your hair done at a cosmetology school.
17. Buying in bulk is usually a good option, but try to shop for items by the per unit price. Often times, the biggest options is not the best way to get the most of your money.
18. Scout out garage/yard sales for housewares, furniture, and stuff to decorate your college dorm or apartment. At the beginning of each semester, the YMCA has a dump and run where they sell items collected from various dorms and apartment on campus.
19. Make things for gifts- it's cheaper and the time you invest shows you care.
20. Take advantage of sales by buying holiday and birthday gifts throughout the year.
21. Get a job at a place where you already spend a lot of money, so you can get employee discounts.
22. Use mail-in rebates or coupons for groceries or health and beauty items.
23. Don't buy bottled water. Buy a water filtration pitcher.
24. Don't buy something just because it is one sale. Consider it's a need for you before buying.
25. If you shop at a favorite store, apply for their discount card if they have one.

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26. Make home cooked meals. A home cooked steady dinner is often cheaper than a fast food binge. Eating at home will save you a lot of money!
27. Pack a lunch instead of eating out.

Clothing:

28. Buy clothes at the end of the season when they're on sales.
29. If you don't wear certain clothes anymore, take them to a consignment shop or sell them online. You can get part of the profit and free up room in your closet.
30. Share dresses and tuxes with friends for special occasions.
31. If you buy more than one of something, like 2 or 3 shirts, always ask for a discount.
32. Invest in durable clothes, shoes, etc. rather than buying many cheap pairs.

Budgeting/ Spending Plan:

33. Set goals for your spending and saving.
34. Keep track of your spending to avoid overspent. There are apps for that!
35. Don't use a credit card if it will lead you to make more purchases! On average, people have credit cards spend 34% more.
36. Before going out to spend, set a limit for yourself and stick to it!
37. Wait at least two hours before making a big purchase to be sure it's something you really need.

Transportation:

38. Obey traffic laws. Speeding tickets will cost more than just the ticket. It will raise your insurance premiums.
39. Keep your tires inflated properly- you'll get better gas mileage.

40. Get good grades. Insurance companies offer low rates to student with 3.0+ GPA.
41. Carpool with friend!
42. Search for dependable cards that offer good gas mileage.
43. Drive an older car- the insurance payments and taxes will be less.
44. Walk, bike, or ride to school- it's good for you to saves on gas.
45. Look around for cheapest gas price before filling up. There are apps for that!

Savings:

46. Only use ATM's of your bank. Other bank's ATM fees add up!
47. Always put part of our paycheck into a savings account.
48. Spare change adds up! Get a piggy bank or change jar and don't underestimate the value of your spare changes.
49. Volunteer! If you're busy, you can't spend month and it's a resume booster, too! It's always make you feel good to help and give back to the community.
50. Use plastic grocery bags for trash can liners.

Conserving Resources:

51. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
52. Unplug electronics when you aren't using them. Even while turned off, they still use up costly energy.
53. Use items like shampoo, toothpaste, and paper towels sparingly- enough to do the job without waste.
54. Pay your bills online. Save paper and money on stamps.
55. Ask your landlord to seal gaps between door and windows to prevent heat leaks over the winter.