

TEXAS STATE

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Budget Tips

Phone

- Pick the right plan based on your calling habits and stay within the phone plan to avoid overages.
- Take advantage of the phones in your residence halls. Don't use your cell phone minutes to call friends that live in town.

Car

- Carpooling with friends when possible can save you a lot of money on gas.
- If you can live without a car while living on campus, it can save you a lot of money—no car payment, no insurance, no repairs and no gas to purchase.

Shopping

- Give yourself a spending limit for each week.
- Use credit cards sparingly, if at all.
- Make a list when shopping and try hard to stick to it.
- Look for retail and food coupons in the college newspaper and various coupon books distributed throughout campus.
- If you don't have a computer, you don't need to buy one. Computer labs around campus, some of which are open 24 hours, make owning a computer a non-necessity.

Going Out

- If you go over your budget for one week by going out, commit to staying home the next week.
- Use your meal plan effectively if you live on campus—you've paid for it.
- Try to eat at home as much as possible. Groceries cost less than eating out.

Apartments

- Living with a roommate (or two) can cut your individual monthly rent payment down to as low as \$300 per month.
- Don't just take the first apartment you see, shop around. Make sure that you factor in not only your rent, but the average amount you will need for utilities.

Other

- Pay bills on time to avoid service fees.
- Save a little money from every paycheck, financial aid check and monetary gift and put the money into a savings account. If presented with a financial emergency, you won't need to borrow.