

Money Management



MANAGING YOUR MONEY EFFECTIVELY is critical to your success at UCSB—and in life! The budgeting process is easy, once you get started. Using the guidelines below and the worksheet on the next page, you can set up a budget for yourself and project your income and expenditures for the coming years.

Spending Plan

1. Set your spending goals.

Determine what you need now, and what you will need over the next few years to be able to complete your education.

2. List your income month by month.

If you have a job, include only your take-home pay. If you're not sure of an element in your income, guess low. List income from all sources.

3. List your expenses for each month. Figure out how much you spend and what you spend it on.

Look over your old bills, receipts, canceled checks, etc. to figure out how much you actually spend. List your fixed expenses (rent, loan payments, car payments), flexible expenses (heat, telephone, electricity), and occasional expenses (gifts, licenses).

4. Compare your income to your expenses.

Make sure you have enough money to cover your monthly expenses. Ideally, you'll be able to set aside some income for savings.

5. Keep track of every cent that you spend for one month.

Ask for a receipt every time you spend any money at all. If you can't get a receipt, make a note of the expense. Categorize expenses in groups such as food, clothing, transportation. Compare the amount you actually spent to what you intended to spend. Think about changes to make in your basic spending plan.

Note: Most spending plans don't work the first time you try them. Don't be discouraged if your plan needs adjustment. KEEP TRYING!

RENTER'S INSURANCE

Renter's insurance is an important consideration for students who bring expensive possessions to school. There are many companies that sell renter's insurance. When comparing policies, pay attention to coverage as well as to cost. Be sure to ask what documentation you'll need to produce in order to get reimbursed in the event that you need to make a claim.

CREDIT COUNSELING

If you're having problems getting credit or paying your monthly bills, you may be tempted to turn for help to businesses that advertise quick and easy solutions to credit problems. Don't be misled! There are **no** instant solutions.

If you need help with your debts, you can contact **Consumer Credit Counseling Service**, a nonprofit organization with more than 700 offices. **CCCS** counselors can help you set up a repayment plan that is acceptable to you and to your creditors. They will also help you set up a realistic budget and plan for future expenses, at no cost.

Call the **Santa Barbara CCCS** office at **964-2227** for an appointment.

Budget Worksheet					
ANNUAL INCOME		MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES		QUARTERLY ACADEMIC EXPENSES	
Financial Aid	\$ _____	Rent	\$ _____	Tuition	\$ _____
Work-Study	\$ _____	Gas & Electricity	\$ _____	Books	\$ _____
Job	\$ _____	Phone	\$ _____	Supplies	\$ _____
Parents	\$ _____	Cable TV	\$ _____	Other	\$ _____
Savings	\$ _____	Food	\$ _____	Total Quarterly Academic Expenses	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	Transportation	\$ _____		
Total Annual Income	\$ _____	Medical/Dental	\$ _____		
Divide Total Annual Income by 4 to Calculate Total Quarterly Income		Recreation	\$ _____		
Total Quarterly Income	\$ _____	Other	\$ _____		
		Total Monthly Living Expenses	\$ _____		
Multiply Total Monthly Expenses by 3 to Calculate Quarterly Expenses		Total Quarterly Living Expenses	\$ _____	Total Quarterly Expenses	\$ _____
BUDGET SUMMARY					
Total Quarterly Income		\$ _____		Total Quarterly Expenses \$ _____	