

# MANAGE YOUR MONEY

Your money is a huge part of your life. It can determine what you can do and where you can go. Learning how to manage your money the right way is an essential step in achieving your goals.



## USEFUL TIPS AND HINTS

### BUDGET MANAGEMENT

- Use Budget Planning Tools like CashCourse.
- Keep a detailed record of what you spend (use Mint as an online tracking tool).

### HOUSING

- UNH Student Housing on campus is the cheapest option for single students.
- If you plan to live off campus, carefully compare the postings on craigslist or other websites.
- Make sure that you understand all of the terms in your written rental agreement.
- Find a roommate to reduce monthly expenses.

### CLOTHING / PERSONAL EXPENSES

- Avoid "dry-clean-only" clothes.
- Visit factory discount outlets.
- Many bookstores offer less expensive used books.
- Avoid late fees / fines by returning books on time.

### HEALTH CARE

- Health care is available through the UNH Health Center.
- Stay on your parents' health insurance plan if possible.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, use the Student Counseling services available.

### CREDIT AND BANKING

- Say "NO" to credit cards.
- Don't purchase more than you can afford.
- Pay credit card balances monthly.
- Save for emergencies (open a savings account and make regular deposits).
- Compare monthly service charges and additional costs for checks, overdrafts, transaction fees etc.
- Withdraw small amounts.
- Use online banking services offered through your bank for paying bills and managing your money.

### RECREATION

- Visit UNH events.
- Use the UNH Rec Center and visit their courses.

### FOOD

- Develop a weekly meal plan, and shop based on your plan.
- Pack your lunch and avoid fast food places.
- Eat something before you go shopping; never shop on an empty stomach.
- Compare prices at different stores and use coupons.
- Buy house brands and generic products.
- Buy bulk amounts of dry goods such as rice and cereal.
- Buy fresh fruits and vegetables that are in season.
- Invest in a cookbook and prepare meals at home.
- Cook with friends and share the costs.

### UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE

- Check money-saving rate plans or student discounts.
- Beware of extra data plan, or early contract cancellation charges.
- Use free Wi-Fi spots at UNH or coffee shops.
- Save energy and turn off lamps, television, etc.
- Set the thermostat at 78 in the summer and 68 in the winter.
- Take shorter showers; don't run the water when you brush your teeth or wash dishes.

### TRANSPORTATION

- Use a bicycle or walk.
- UNH shuttle busses offer free transportation to and from campus.
- For trips outside of New Haven County, Megabus, Greyhound Bus or Peter Pan Bus are available to nearby cities and airports.
- Amtrak / Metro-North also offer service to New York or Boston.
- Avoid driving your own car; travel with passengers who can share gas costs.
- Earn money instead of paying money and rent your car to others on Relay Rides.
- Check for student or group discounts, and travel with your friends.

### PETS

- Research food and healthcare expenses before you get a pet.
- Make sure you have sufficient time; paying others to care for pets can be expensive.