



Saving Tips FOR College Students

#1 Get a Credit Union Relationship Before You Go to College

1. Open an M1 free checking account with no minimum balance.
2. Open an M1 account at age 16 with a parent, or age 18 without.
3. Take advantage of free services like i.Teller and M1.Mobile.
4. Sign up for UChoose Debit Card Rewards to earn points for extra special purchases.
5. Consider an M1 Visa Credit Card with a fixed rate, no annual fee, and online access to your account through M1.Access.
6. Utilize the nearly 30,000 free ATMs nationwide as part of the CO-OP ATM network.

#4 Take Charge of Your Money

1. Define your financial goals.
2. Make plans to reach your goals.
3. Take action making your goals a reality.

#2 Know the Ground Rules

1. Discuss financial obligations with your parents.
2. Decide if you will work while in college.
3. Determine who is responsible for each type of expense.

#3 Protect Personal Info

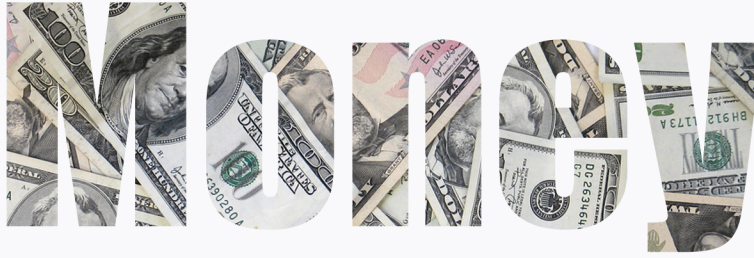
1. Don't give out your personal numbers: SSN, credit card or bank account numbers.
2. Shred items with your name, address, and personal numbers before throwing away.
3. Review statements online or on your mobile phone regularly.

#5 Only Spend What You Have

1. Avoid bad credit by not bouncing checks.
2. Keep a check register.
3. Remember your online balance may not be the most up-to-date.

Michigan **O**ne
Community Credit Union

Ionia Main | Ionia South | Carson City | Greenville West
M1ccu.org | Facebook.com/m1ccu | tellerdept@M1ccu.org



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#6 Think about Dorm Life

1. Choose the right meal plan.
2. Save on snacks by buying in bulk.
3. Use campus computers.
4. Talk to your roommates about money.

#7 Cut Expenses

1. Resist peer pressure to spend money.
2. Separate wants from needs.
3. Take advantage of student discounts.
4. Keep track of your spending.
5. Create a budget and stick to it.

#8 Build Good Credit

1. Utilize small loans with great rates from M1 for college tuition and vehicles.
2. Pay bills and repay loans on time.
3. Pay bills and loans before other purchases.
4. Pay utilities, rent and other basic expenses on time.

#9 Control Your Credit Card

1. Avoid credit card pushers.
2. Request a smaller limit.
3. Keep only one credit card.
4. Look for a card with no annual fee such as an M1 Visa Credit Card.
5. Think of your card purchases as a loan.

#10 Watch for Credit Card Warning Signs

1. You can only make the minimum payment.
2. You miss one payment or more.
3. You use your credit card to pay normal bills.
4. You do not know how much money you owe.

#11 Get Help if You're in Trouble

1. Talk to your parents.
2. Work with an M1 Member Service or Loan Representative.
3. Contact a nonprofit debt counseling service.
4. Speak to your dorm's resident advisor.



M1. Mobile

*Courtesy of National Endowment for Financial Education.
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