YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

tools for building a healthy financial outlook while in college

SIX QUICK TIPS TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ASU STUDENT ACCOUNT

1. STAY INFORMED
Regularly monitor My ASU and your ASU email for important due dates, tasks and announcements relating to your ASU account.

2. CHOOSE FROM MANY PAYMENT OPTIONS
You can pay any outstanding charges online through My ASU (under My Finances) using credit, debit or e-check.

3. DON'T MISS YOUR PAYMENT DEADLINE
Late payments for tuition, parking citations and housing bills are examples of charges that create a hold on your ASU student account. Make sure you put your payment deadlines on your calendar and avoid any additional late fees or interruptions to your access to university services.

4. MAINTAIN YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID
In order to ensure students receiving financial aid are successfully completing their degree program in a timely fashion, the federal government requires ASU to monitor each student's academic progress. To remain eligible for federal and state aid programs, you must meet all three of ASU's standards (GPA, pace and maximum credit hours) regardless of whether you have received financial aid in the past. This policy is not applicable to scholarships or employee tuition benefits. Visit students.asu.edu/policies/sap for more information.

5. KNOW YOUR SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY
The Scholarship Office, part of Student Financial Assistance, can answer questions about applying for scholarships or maintaining eligibility for a scholarship you have already been awarded. Call 855-278-5080 or visit a campus location (see students.asu.edu/contact/financialaid).

6. IF YOU WANT YOUR PARENTS TO HELP, THEY CAN
Students may grant access to their educational records to their parents by filling out an authorization form at students.asu.edu/forms/FERPA/consent. Once completed and signed, forms can be faxed to 480-965-7722 or dropped off at your campus registrar's office Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit students.asu.edu/contact/office-university-registrar for locations.

If you will be paying with check or cash, visit the Cashiering Services office at your home campus.

Get answers about tuition, billing, direct deposit or student refund checks at students.asu.edu/tuitionandbilling/contact.

TOOLSA
My ASU online services
Access all your ASU information on My ASU.
myasu.edu

Tuition and Cost of Attendance Estimator
students.asu.edu/costs

Student Budget Worksheet
students.asu.edu/financialaid/budget

Money Management
students.asu.edu/moneymatters

CONTACTS
Student Financial Assistance
Get answers about financial aid, scholarships or student employment.
All campuses: toll free 855-278-5080
Financial Aid
students.asu.edu/financialaid
Scholarship Office
scholarships.asu.edu
Student Employment
students.asu.edu/employment

Tuition and Billing
Get answers about tuition, billing, direct deposit or student refund checks.
All campuses: 480-965-6341
Tuition
students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees
Billing
students.asu.edu/tuitionandbilling

CALENDARS
Academic Calendar
students.asu.edu/academic-calendar
Financial Aid Calendar
students.asu.edu/financialaid/calendar
Tuition Deadlines
students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines

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FINANCIAL HEALTH CHECKLIST

Everyone knows that eating right, exercise and getting enough sleep are critical ingredients to building a healthy body and mind. But what about building your financial health? Use this list to check on the status of your financial health and identify any areas that may need a boost.

Need more help? Visit students.asu.edu/moneymatters for more tools or to enroll in a financial literacy course.

GET ORGANIZED

Create a filing system for all your important documents.
Organizing your financial, college and other important records will help you keep your finger on the pulse of your financial health. Your filing system may include bill payments; checking and/or savings account information; financial aid documents or scholarship applications; insurance, loan and credit records; receipts; warranties and taxes.

The good news is that all your college records are stored electronically by My ASU (my.asu.edu), your one stop for courses, grades, credits and other academic information as well as financial aid award letters and tuition and fees.

Banking Basics: Getting Started
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/banking

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Create a budget and stick to it.
Create an annual budget using your student worksheet that itemizes direct costs (like books, housing, food) and other costs (like a parking permit or bus pass).

ASU Student Budget Worksheet
students.asu.edu/financialaid/budget

Personal Budgeting: Spending Smart
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/budgeting

SAVING

Don’t forget to pay yourself.
Having a budget is a great help in seeing your overall costs, but be sure you are setting aside some money in your financial plans. Define your financial goals, determining how much you will need to save each month and how long it will take to achieve them. Your financial goals may be anything from buying books to saving for a seminar studying abroad or post-graduation plans.

FINANCIAL AID

Submit a new FAFSA every year and maintain eligibility.
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available Jan. 1 each year. Complete your FAFSA by ASU’s priority date of March 1 to maximize the amount of aid you may receive.

Many families assume that they are not eligible for the benefits of the FAFSA. Not filling will guarantee that you will not receive any federal aid, student loans or work-study to apply for and receive aid at students.asu.edu/financialaid/apply and remember to talk to the Financial Aid Office if you have changes in your financial situation, like a parent losing a job or major medical bills. And remember, you are required to continue eligibility by maintaining SAT/ACT Progress. See details at students.asu.edu/policies/sap.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Know scholarship deadlines and your scholarship renewal requirements to maintain eligibility.
Most scholarships have a deadline of Feb. 1 each year, but other scholarships may become available throughout the year. Keep searching for scholarships on a regular basis at scholarships.asu.edu. Avoid scholarship scams by carefully reviewing offering information. Charge fees and the application information is available to everyone.

The Scholarship Office, part of Student Financial Assistance, can answer questions about applying for scholarships or maintaining eligibility for a scholarship you have already been awarded. Call 855-278-0806 or find a campus location at students.asu.edu/contact/financialaid.

HOUSING OPTIONS

Weigh options and costs in choosing to live on campus or off.
Unless you live rent-free with family, the cost of living off campus can add up quickly when you include rent (plus deposit), utilities, phone, Internet, cable, food, laundry, transportation, renter’s insurance, household furnishings, gas and parking fees. Compare these costs to living on campus and consider the reasons you may have for choosing one over the other.

Renting an Apartment
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/renting

WORKING

Schedule your study time like you schedule work.
Many students choose to work part-time while going to college. As you consider taking a job on, understand that you will need to manage your time carefully. School is your most important job right now. Be sure to make the most of your classes and schedule study sessions into your week between class and work time.

If you are not going to take classes during the summer, those months can be spent working so you have enough earnings to pay for college expenses come fall.

Working on campus can help save you valuable time, plus these jobs often have flexible hours. View on- and off-campus job opportunities at students.asu.edu/employment. This site includes hourly and Federal Work-Study positions.

CREDIT AND DEBT

Avoiding debt and building good credit now will help you down the road.
Paying your bills on time and repaying your loans as promised will help you build good credit. Later in life, a good credit record will help you to take out a loan to buy a car, a house or even start a business. Many employers also check credit reports, so good credit may even help you land the job of your dreams.

Building blocks to good credit:
• Pay basic expenses, such as rent and utilities, on time and don’t bounce checks.
• If you decide you must have a credit card, manage it wisely and carry only one. Avoid credit card pushers.
• Make loan and credit card payments on time.
• Pay loans before you spend money on other purchases.
• Apply only for the credit you need. Lenders may think you are in financial trouble if you apply too often.

Credit-reporting agencies keep track of your debt and how you pay your bills. This information goes to businesses when you apply for a loan, apply for a job or look for an apartment.

Understanding Credit
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/credit

LOANS

Keep the amount of loans you take to a minimum.
Before accepting a student loan, remember that loans must be repaid, this is why they are referred to as self-help financial aid. Loans are the last type of aid for which you are considered eligible for other aid (e.g., scholarships and grants) and Federal Work-Study.

If you do borrow, use the money to pay for school expenses only. Carefully review the terms of your loan to understand what you will have to repay and when. Use a loan payment calculator to see how much your monthly payment may be at students.asu.edu/loans.

Borrowing Student Loans
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/loans

PROTECT YOURSELF

Secure, Shred, Scan.
Secure and do not share important information like your Social Security number, credit card and bank account numbers, or computer login and password. Delete emails requesting personal information. Don’t open email or click on a link unless you trust the source of the email.

Shred papers that include important account or personal information.
Scan bank, credit card statements and telephone bills for unauthorized use. Immediately report any suspected fraud.

Get Protected
getprotectedasu.edu

Identity Theft
students.asu.edu/moneymatters/topic/identity

CAREER PLANNING

It’s never too early to start thinking about what you will do after graduation.
You might work throughout college to help prepare you once you graduate. If you don’t work, you can still prepare for your first job by:
• Attending on-campus interviews and career fairs to hone interview skills and network with potential employers. View events at asuevents.asu.edu.
• Taking advantage of ASU’s Career Services offices: students.asu.edu/career. The staff can help you prepare for applications, interviews and the general job-hunt process.
• Getting your resume ready. Creating an effective resume and cover letter are crucial to your job search.
• Using online job resources to research companies that have jobs you are interested in. Look for internships, as they may lead to a permanent position within a company.
• Researching the salary range of jobs you are interested in. Many of ASU’s degree programs list career opportunities using ONET Online. Find your degree at acedev.edu/programs and see what top positions are in your field. Consider job costs you need to work into your budget like work clothing and transportation costs, and compare costs of living if you plan to relocate.

CHOICES YOU MAKE

To save money, it helps to understand the difference between needs and wants.

NEEDS vs. WANTS

You probably understand that food is a need and a cafe mocha is a want. But some mornings, after cramming for a test or working late, a cafe mocha is sure to feel like a need. Coffee may be a need, but gourmet coffee drinks more than $2 each are a want. Having a cell phone for personal safety may be a need but, custom ring tones are definitely a want.

STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Take advantage of student discounts offered on everything from bus passes to pizzas, bank accounts to car insurance. Always ask if there is a student discount – you’d be surprised how many businesses say yes!

SHARE THE FARe

Set some ground rules with your roommate(s) about shared expenses. You can benefit from splitting costs, but be sure there is a balance between each person making the effort to shop or provide supplies and picking up in equal funds.

FROM A to B

Do you really need a car at college? Many students walk, bike, skateboard and ride the bus or the light rail. ASU has many commuter options (parking assita 2, and if you ever need a car, you can use a Zipcar available for hourly or daily rates on all campuses.

VEND = SPEND

Avoid vending machines. Instead, buy items from grocery stores to have on hand to take with you on the go.

iThrift

Shop at thrift stores, garage sales or flea markets for everything from clothes and furniture to sports equipment. Avoid rent-to-own stores, pawnshops and check- cashing stores that end up costing you a lot in the long run.