

**About:** Here you will find a navigation guide for the **Student Budget Calculator**. Each point will explain what you should be entering in each expense/income; as well as which cells will be auto-filled by preset equations.

<b><u>Initial Income/Expenses For the Semester</u></b>	
<b>Initial Income</b>	This includes any income you have before the semester starts such as: financial aid, allowance from family, or savings.
<b>Tuition</b>	This is the cost of your tuition for <b>1</b> semester, and will vary depending on factors such as: if you're local or from out-of-state, a foreign exchange student, or part-time vs. full-time.
<b>Cost of Books</b>	Here you can enter the total cost for any books you plan on purchasing or renting for the semester.
<b>Cost of School Supplies</b>	This is where you can enter in any costs for school supplies. This can be general like notebooks and pencils, or specialized, like lab coats and paintbrushes.
<b>Initial Living Expenses</b>	This section is for any housing expenses that need to be paid off immediately. If you live in the dorms, your dorm fees will need to be paid at the beginning of the semester. If you live off-campus, this section would include your first month's rent, security deposit, and any furnishings you may need. <u>Note:</u> If you are using a school meal plan, this is where you will want to enter the costs for that, because those fees will need to be paid at the beginning of the semester.
<b>Non-Local Travel Expenses</b>	Here is where you will want to enter in any costs for travelling at the beginning and end of the semester, as well as for breaks/vacations. This may simply be gas for a road trip, or tickets for a flight.
<b>Remaining Initial Income</b>	This section subtracts all of the above expenses from your initial income. <u>Note:</u> This is an auto-fill section, and you will not be required to enter in any equations.
<b>Remaining Income Monthly Division</b>	This section divides your remaining monthly income into fifths. One of which will be added to each month in the semester. This is another autofill section and will solve itself automatically.

### **Monthly Expenses**

<b>Rent/Living Expenses</b>	This section is for your monthly rent if you live outside of campus, as well as other fees that may arise depending on your living situation.
<b>Food/Toiletries</b>	Here you wanna estimate a monthly budget for food and toiletries. <u>Note:</u> While it is common for people to shop weekly, you will want to create a monthly budget to keep track of costs.
<b>Local Transportation</b>	Here you will want to tally up any costs related to your day-to-day transportation. If you travel by bus then, as a student, you will get free rides through the JackPass, which is included in your student fees. However if you have a bike or a car, you will want to estimate expenses like fuel or scheduled maintenance.
<b>Utilities</b>	Here you will enter your costs for utilities such as: water, gas, and electricity. <u>Note:</u> rates vary on the season and where you live, so it may take a month or two before you can properly estimate this cost.
<b>Internet</b>	Here you will enter any costs related to your internet provider. <u>Note:</u> costs will vary based on your package and whether you own or rent a router.
<b>Additional Monthly Expenses</b>	This section is for any unplanned monthly expenses that may arise such as car repairs, new clothes, or an expensive outing. <u>Note:</u> if you are filling this out ahead of time, try to estimate a reasonable expense amount for each month.
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	This section simply adds up all of your monthly expenses. It is an auto-fill section and will adjust as you fill out your expenses.

### Monthly Income

<b>Initial Monthly Income</b>	This an autofill section that will start with one fifth of your initial semester income from the Initial Expenses/Income section. <u>Note:</u> As you progress through each month, this section will also add any income left over from the previous section/subtract any leftover expenses.
<b>Additionally Monthly Income</b>	In this section, you will put in any <u>planned</u> monthly income you know you will receive. This could include paychecks from your job, monthly benefits, or an allowance from your parents.
<b>Unexpected Income</b>	This section is for any <u>unplanned</u> income received. This may be a bonus from your job, a gift from family and friends, or even accrued savings from investment. <u>Note:</u> Just like the Additional Monthly Expenses section, if you are filling this out ahead of time, just do your best to estimate this section.
<b>Total Income Before Expenses</b>	This is an autofill section, and will simply add up your income from the above sections.
<b>- Monthly Expenses</b>	This section will import your total monthly expenses, and is done automatically.
<b>Income After Expenses</b>	This is another autofill section, and will subtract your expenses from your total income. <u>Note:</u> If you are consistently ending up in the negative in this section, you will want to look over your budget and determine where you can cut costs.

<b>Potential Savings (End of Semester)</b>	This is the last portion of the budget calculator, and is also an autofill section. It simply imports any leftover income from the Income After Expenses section of Month 5. If it turns up negative you will need to adjust your budget. If it turns up positive, you can save it, use it for next semester's initial income, or even invest it!
--	---

