

Instructions: Print out a copy of each sheet for each of your parents to do by themselves. Ask them not to confer with each other on their answers. You should complete one also. Then get together with them for a short conversation to see which items you agree on and which you disagree on.

The idea is not that they will give you exactly what you want, but the idea is that you can agree on what items your allowance/spending money will cover, and then make sure those items are reasonably funded. Your parents will have some great ideas about saving money too!

Be sure to include some accountability too. Parents will be more willing to help financially if they know that the money is not going into a black hole.

If you find that you are stuck, consider offering a compromise. Agree with whatever amount they are offering but ask if you can revisit it after two months at college. You'll have some real world experience and examples for them to consider when you do.

Food - Not including your meal plan, how much money do you think you will spend each month on food?

\$ _____ to \$ _____
Lower estimate Upper estimate

Gas & Transportation - What will you spend each month on gas money for your car or to give to friends who drive? Don't include money for trips back home, this is just for life at college.

\$ _____ to \$ _____
Lower estimate Upper estimate

Fun - This category is for everything else you'll spend money on except gas and meals out, so things like going shopping, movies, concerts, coffee, whatever you like to spend your money on.

\$ _____ to \$ _____
Lower estimate Upper estimate

What does "spending money" include?

It is important that you identify the items that your spending money will cover and things that it will not be used for. Which of these common student expenses would you argue should be included in your spending money and which would you keep separate?

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Haircuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Pizza at midnight | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Cell phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| T-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Daily Diet Cokes | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Apps/Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Parking tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Laundry | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Activity Fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Oil changes | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| School supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Printing costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Parking permits | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Replace sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Trips home | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| ATM fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |
| Spring break trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Include | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't include |