My Monthly College Budget

Plan with the money you have. Include saving as part of your plan.

Name: _____ Month / Year: _____

Use take-home pay and confirmed support. Enter $0 for categories that do not apply.

1. MONEY AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

	PLANNED ($)	ACTUAL ($)
Take-home pay / work-study		
Family or other confirmed support		
Scholarship / grant funds available for living costs		
Monthly share of semester refund*		
Other: _____		
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE (A)		

2. SPENDING AND SAVING

Housing & utilities		
Groceries & household basics		
Transportation & phone		
School & personal essentials		
Fun & dining out		
Emergency savings		
Other / debt payments: _____		
TOTAL PLANNED SPENDING & SAVING (B)		

3. CHECK YOUR PLAN

Money available (A) $_____ - Spending & saving (B) $_____ = $_____

If the result is negative, adjust the plan. Give any money left over a purpose.

One change I will make: _____

Next income date: _____ Bills due before then: $_____

*Monthly refund amount = (refund - upfront costs - reserve) / months it must cover.

Do not count the same funds twice. A loan-funded refund still has to be repaid.

Sample Monthly Budget

Hypothetical example | Use your own costs and confirmed resources.

1. MONEY AVAILABLE

Take-home pay	$700.00
Confirmed family support	$200.00
Monthly share of semester funds	$600.00
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE (A)	**$1,500.00**

2. SPENDING AND SAVING

Housing & utilities	$650.00
Groceries & household basics	$250.00
Transportation & phone	$200.00
School & personal essentials	$150.00
Fun & dining out	$150.00
Emergency savings	$100.00
TOTAL SPENDING & SAVING (B)	**$1,500.00**

Budget check: $1,500.00 - $1,500.00 = $0.00

All money has a purpose, including the $100 set aside for emergencies.

HOW THE $600 SEMESTER AMOUNT WORKS

$3,200 refund - $400 books - $400 emergency reserve = $2,400

$2,400 / 4 months = $600 available each month

The $400 reserve is separate from the $100 saved each month in this example.

DISCUSSION

If income drops by $100, which expenses could you adjust?

_____

What bill or upcoming cost would you add to make this plan fit your life?

_____