

MONEY MANAGEMENT TIPS

Since you know how much your income and basic expenses are, pay all bills at the beginning of every month. You will then know exactly how much remains.

- Keeping track of your expenses in various categories (food, books, utility bills, telephone bills, etc.) will help you identify where most of your money is being spent. Be especially aware of how much you spend on long-distance telephone calls.
- Keep track of money taken out with your ATM card.
- If you have cash in your pocket, your tendency may be to spend it more quickly. Use a debit/checking card.
- If you plan to own a car, budget all expenses related to the car (gas, parking, insurance, regular maintenance, emergency repairs).
- If you have a credit card, beware of over-spending. Remember you may pay 15-25% per year in interest for the unpaid balance on your account.
- Credit card companies may call or send you information that you are eligible for their credit card. Read all of the information thoroughly before deciding on getting the card. Most companies have high annual fee charges.
- Cooking meals at home is not only cheaper, but also healthier than eating out at fast food restaurants.
- In the summer, electric bills can be very high because of the use of air conditioning. If your apartment has a window unit, turn it off during the day when you are not at home. If you have a central air unit and do not want to turn it off completely, turn up the temperature on the thermostat when you are not at home.
- Keep an eye out for coupons in newspapers and local magazines.
- Whenever you are planning to buy an expensive item, SHOP AROUND. Don't just buy at the first place you find it. Often, you can find what you are looking for at another store for a lower price.

TIPS FOR THOSE WITH A LOW BUDGET

Buying used furniture can save you a lot of money. Here are some places to contact:

- **Canal Furniture**
4021 Tulane Avenue
(504) 482-1185
- **Pelican Furniture & Thrift**
341 N. Hennessey
(504) 483-9996
- **Bridge House Thrift Store**
4243 Earhart Blvd
(504) 821-2479

- **The Habitat ReStore**
2900 Elysian Fields Avenue
(504) 943-2240

Buying used clothing for you and your family can save a lot of money.

- You can find clothing at the Salvation Army Thrift Store, Goodwill, and Volunteers of America Thrift Stores. You will also find kitchen supplies, plates, etc. at these stores.
- **Goodwill**
123 Robert E. Lee
504.286.1858
4329 Veterans Blvd.
(504) 309-5101

Shopping at recognized discount stores can also help you to save money. Some of these include:

- Save-a-lot
- Walmart
- Target
- Dollar General
- Big Lots
- K-Mart

Craigslist

You can also find low-priced, used goods on the website, Craigslist: <https://neworleans.craigslist.org>. If using Craigslist, please USE CAUTION and BEWARE OF SCAMS. Deal locally, face-to-face. Do not extend payment to someone you have not met in person. Meet in public. Never give out personal information. For more safety tips, visit their website: <https://www.craigslist.org/about/safety>