



# New Paltz

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Office of Student Financial Services

## 10 Things First-Time College Students Need to Know

### 1) Check Your E-mail

Monitor your college e-mail account for all important financial aid, billing, and college notices.

### 2) Financial Aid Checklist

Complete all of your financial aid steps on our checklist at: [www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid/checklists.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid/checklists.html)

### 3) Grades and credits matter

Financial aid changes if a student drops classes. Consult with the Office of Student Financial Services about the financial implications of academic decisions such as withdrawing from courses, repeating coursework, changing majors, and enrolling for courses not required to meet graduation requirements.

### 4) Learn to build a budget and manage your money

- Determine a time period for your budget. Are you budgeting for a month, academic year, or calendar year?
- Find a budgeting tool, that helps you stay organized.
- To track spending, many banks offer free budgeting tools that may be worth checking out.
- Understand how much money you have coming in. This includes income from work and your financial aid, such as scholarships, grants, Federal Work-Study, and student loans.
- Understand how much money you have going out. Expected expenses include tuition, housing, and food. But don't forget about unexpected costs like equipment, books, supplies, and personal expenses, which will vary from month to month.

### 5) Consider opening an account with a bank or credit union near the college, and if you can, start an emergency fund in a savings account.

## **6) Save money where you can!**

Use coupons for dining out and groceries, buy or rent used textbooks, and look for student discounts.

## **7) Financial Literacy Resource**

Take advantage of our CashCourse financial resource program at: [www.cashcourse.org](http://www.cashcourse.org)

## **8) Part-time Jobs**

If you plan to work part-time while in school, find a part-time job at: [www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid/employment.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid/employment.html)

## **9) Keep yourself and your things safe!**

- Lock your dorm room and use a laptop lock
- Be aware of your surroundings. Learn where emergency exits are in your dorm or wherever you are living, as well as around campus.
- Know who to contact in an emergency. Be sure to add it as a contact in your phone.
- Protect your Social Security number (SSN), usernames, and passwords.

## **10) Develop time management skills**

Build a calendar to stay on track with your coursework, part-time job, extracurricular commitments, and deadlines, like registering for classes or applying for scholarships. Using your phone's calendar or free scheduling apps can help you stay on top of everything.

## **Additional resources available:**

[www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid](http://www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid) and [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

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## **Office of Student Financial Services**

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