

# Be informed, be savvy and follow the smart path

There are lots of things to consider when paying for your college education. Loans may be a part of that mix, but there are many other things to consider:

## Review your lifestyle. Trim costs. Consider needs vs. wants.

Think about all the technology that you like to use. A cellphone is a need for personal safety, but a loaded smartphone is almost assuredly a want. If you have a laptop, do you really need a tablet, too? Write down your needs and wants and review the list regularly.

## Consider part-time employment to stretch your dollars without borrowing

Jobs with tips will put more cash in your pocket, restaurant jobs that provide free employee meals can reduce food expenses and some employers offer benefits such as health insurance or paid vacation. Jobs offer more than money: you get experience, develop a work ethic, and build relationships for the future.

## Stretch your dollars: Check out the U-M Payment Plan for Fall-Winter semesters

Spread your bill over five payments for each semester as an alternative to the usual payment schedule. Students and authorized parents or family members may enroll through Wolverine Access each term.

## Use personal or family assets when possible before considering a loan

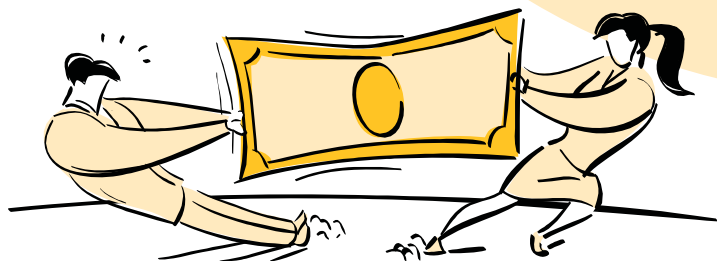
If you have nothing extra to put toward college, consider creating a budget. CashCourse ([budget.cashcourse.org](http://budget.cashcourse.org)) offers a Budget Wizard to help you get started.

## Considering summer school? Take classes closer to home and incur less cost

Or ... get one or more roommates. Get recommendations and be clear about how you like to live. Are you clean or messy? Off-campus housing costs add up quickly. Take everything into account: rent, security deposit, credit report, utilities, food, transportation, insurance, furniture and even pets.

### Online resources:

- Financial Awareness Counseling Tool: <https://studentloans.gov>
- U-M Payment Plan (Fall-Winter):  
[www.finance.umich.edu/finops/student/payments/paymentplans](http://www.finance.umich.edu/finops/student/payments/paymentplans)
- U-M Student Employment Office: <https://studentemployment.umich.edu>
- Personal federal student loan history: [www.NSLDS.ed.gov](http://www.NSLDS.ed.gov)  
*Access with your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)*
- Your Money Your Life: <https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/your-money-your-life>



**BE SMART ABOUT BORROWING**

*Look to your future.*



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Still need a loan? Follow these steps for Fall/Winter 2016-2017

(APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AFTER TUITION RATES ARE SET IN JUNE)

STUDENT NAME: LAST FIRST M.I. UMID#

This form is for undergraduate students requesting a new Federal Loan or an increase in an existing Federal Loan. It is designed to assist you in the decision-making process before incurring additional debt. Complete the following so that you fully understand how this decision will affect you:

If you have reviewed your available options and borrowing is your best alternative, complete online Financial Awareness Counseling through https://StudentLoans.gov. Using information from your session, complete the worksheet below. Once you have completed the online counseling session, you will reach a summary conclusion page. Print a copy of that and attach to this form OR submit a copy of the email you receive confirming that you completed this counseling session. If you have questions, please contact our office.

NOTE: PROCESSING AND DISBURSEMENT OF YOUR LOAN CAN TAKE UP TO 3 WEEKS.

WORKSHEET:

Sign in using your Federal FSA ID username and password (the same identifier you use to e-sign your FAFSA). Once signed in, select "Complete Counseling," click on Financial Awareness Counseling and begin. This is not the same as Entrance Counseling. Using information from this session, complete the following:

- My student debt totals (cumulative debt): \$
Amount borrowed (or scheduled) for current year: \$
I am considering borrowing this additional amount: (+) \$
If I borrow this additional loan, my total student debt will be: (=) \$
Using standard repayment, my total student loan payments will be: \$/month

CERTIFICATION:

- I am requesting the following amount in a Federal Loan \$
OR
I am requesting to borrow the maximum amount I am eligible to borrow (In addition to other loans previously awarded)

Perkins Loan Limits: Up to \$5,500/year or \$27,500 total as an undergraduate
Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized Loan limits: Visit https://finaid.umich.edu/repaying-loans/loan-limits-and-calculators

I would like these funds for the following semester(s) (check all that apply): Fall and Winter Fall Winter

Initial each of these to indicate your understanding that:

- Unsubsidized loans accrue interest immediately upon disbursement.
There are limits on the amount that I can borrow through the Federal Direct Loan Program and the Perkins Loan Program as an Undergraduate. This loan could impact remaining eligibility in future terms.
Federal Loans should only be used for educational costs and I will use these funds for educational needs.

I have made an informed decision to pursue a new or additional Federal Loan. All of the information I have provided on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE