

## MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

BY ALYSSA COOK



With all the new advancements in today's world, someone ought to find a way to make money grow on trees, ASAP. College will be the best four years of your life (at least that's what everyone says), but they will probably be the most expensive. Before even stepping foot on campus, you're most likely in debt. Huge amounts of money go towards tuition,

room and board, textbooks, and the newest laptop you just had to have. And don't forget about the extra bucks spent on dorm essentials like bedding, room décor, cleaning supplies, etc.

Just when your wallet thought it could take a nap after all this pre-college spending, it's back in action for when you actually arrive on

campus. Being Loyola freshmen, you will be in a new environment and want to go exploring your new home of Baltimore. However, you need to keep an eye on your spending because before you know it, your bank account will be empty.



### HOW MONEY IS MISSUSED

Being located in the center of a bustling city like Baltimore allows you to discover so many exciting places. One way your money goes flying out of your wallet is through eating out at restaurants. Going out to eat is tempting because, let's be honest, who doesn't love a nicely prepared meal. Another way your money can flow out of your wallet like a running

faucet is through weekend activities. For instance, visiting the abundance of museums Baltimore houses, stopping in to check out the animals at the National Aquarium, or maintaining hobbies. My expensive yet addicting hobby includes shopping. I love it, but my bank account sure doesn't. The little things add up, including Uber rides. Since you now live in a

city, Uber will be your best friend when it comes to getting around to all these activities. However, this is definitely a love hate relationship because you love that it's convenient and hate how it makes your bank account look.

### TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY

“THE AVERAGE STUDENT SPENDS \$765 IN EATING OFF CAMPUS”  
-HUFFINGTON POST

**(1.) Politely decline activities you know will throw you over your budget in the long run.**

It's not that you can't do the things you want to do, just limit yourself so you can save long term. I know as a freshman you are trying to make friends and you don't ever want to feel lonely, but skipping the

occasional restaurant trip won't leave you missing out on anything major. I have to turn down some of the trips my roommates take to Chick-Fil-A because I don't have the extra cash, yet I never feel like it puts a strain on our friendship.

**(2.) Limit eating out.** Eating out is a lot of unnecessary spending because you already pay for a meal plan on campus. According to the *Huffington Post*, the average student spends \$765 in eating off campus. I know a lot of girls like to go out to brunch on the weekends, in cute outfits, to take pictures to post on Instagram. This is fine on

## TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY (CONT.)

occasion but honestly, Boulder is an all you can eat buffet for brunch and you won't get judged for wearing sweatpants. Much more cozy and affordable.

**3.) Put aside a set amount of money per week/ month.** This allows you to limit your spending within a reasonable time frame and make you visually see how quickly you spend your money. Gabby Bates, a freshman here at Loyola states, "I set a budget for myself of \$60 per month for eating out, Uber, and activities."

Becoming aware of your money spending is key because you can then determine what is a need and a want. For example, if a large portion of your money is being spent on art museums and you don't have enough left over to buy the essentials (such as toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, etc.) then you know you need to make some adjustments.

**(4.) Take advantage of the free activities within Baltimore and on Campus.** There are a lot of attractions you can enjoy with no damage

done to your wallet. You can enjoy the historic scenery of Federal Hill Park, feel the cool breeze from the inner harbor Baltimore Waterfront Promenade, or take part in the free trips your RAs or Messina programs cover. For example, I received many free experiences through my Messina like going to lunch in little Italy, brunch at Miss Shirley's, and dinner at Clark Burger. Engaging in programs on campus, and natural landscapes will save you money while still allowing you to have a blast.

## WRAP UP

As a Loyola Maryland freshman, the excitement to go out and explore your new environment is inevitable. Doing fun activities and discovering new places of interest are all great in moderation. Manage your money because as much as we wish it did, money doesn't grow on trees.



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