



The Decisions We Make

**“YOU DON’T  
HAVE TO GO  
OUT EVERY  
WEEKEND. IT  
COSTS  
MONEY.”**



Save Your Money  
for a Rainy Day

## To Spend or Not to Spend?

By Mo Opeyemi-Ajayi

That is the burning question on the mind of every college student all over the world. Me included. I get it, temptation is everywhere and the consumer culture that we have established, especially in America, definitely does not help. Buying new clothes, going out with friends, purchasing extortionately expensive textbooks, eating out due to terrible dining hall food, and refilling necessities because your roommate won't are all a part of the college experience. However, these expenses, while seemingly pretty innocuous, can rapidly begin to add up and before you know or realize it your bank account is lower than your first semester's midterm scores. Just kidding. Sort of. In any case, that's why it's important to learn how to manage your money to last you not just until the end of the semester but into the future as well. Freshman year isn't that fun when you constantly have to make excuses to your friends just because you aren't able to afford it. Here are some tips on how to save money while in your first year of college so that you can put the "fun" in "funds." Get it? No? My bad.

### FOMO IS A NO-NO

My first tip is that you shouldn't get scared about missing out. FOMO is real and peer pressure can make you feel like you need to do everything. While it's true that college is a time for having new experiences, you don't need to go to every single one. More than that, you don't need to spend money every day on Ubers or outside food. You don't have to spend money you don't have to have a good time. While most of the events on campus are free, with some exceptions like the [BSA Fashion Show](#) for example, many off-campus are not. Let's just say that these activities can get pretty costly very quickly. I've heard from some of my friends that they spend \$50-60 and that's just for the Uber ride there and back. Granted, they're going with multiple people, but I assume you're not going to a party alone. Just saying. This is especially true around certain times like Fall Welcome Week, Halloween, Christmas, and St. Patrick's Day.

Another thing is ordering out. However, don't fear, there are a couple ways to mitigate these costs. First off assessing the risk vs reward. Sometimes, the event is just not worth taking the hit to your bank account. It's ok to say no, too. I promise. Your friends won't hate you. They probably don't have the money either. Second, go with others. They can help split the cost of the Uber so it's not that expensive. However, you should be careful about who you choose, because some students like to do this thing where they don't pay you back, but that's only some people. Most are very willing to help, because they know things will be cheaper in the end.

## WORKING HARD, OR HARDLY WORKING?

Another tip is to get a job on- or off-campus. If you're worried that you don't have any impulse control when it comes to shopping, using Uber, or getting DoorDash or Uber Eats, then you'll probably need a way to replenish your funds. In my experience, people usually do that by getting a job or multiple jobs. I don't judge. There are dozens of job opportunities on campus including working at [Boulder](#), [Iggy's](#), [Stamp It](#), with the sports teams, [the Karson Institute](#), etc. However, by far, the most tried and true method of actually finding a job is good old reliable: Handshake. Now I'm pretty sure you've heard of this already, but if you somehow haven't—first of all what are you doing? In any case, Handshake is basically like LinkedIn but for college students. Not only that, but it has access to all of [The Rizzo Career Center's](#) resources. Just make an account (it only takes like five minutes) and then get started on your job search. Handshake helps by telling you about what the job is and the requirements needed for you to apply. The second method is just basic networking. I know a lot of friends who got jobs by asking the right people or if they were really lucky having someone just offer them one. Given that there are so many different opportunities there's no excuse to not get a job. So, what are you waiting for?



The Handshake App

## IF IT'S FREE IT'S FOR ME!

Third and finally, take advantage of all the free stuff on campus. Let's face it. Everyone loves free things. I'm guessing that you're no different. Loyola provides a variety of services that are totally free to use. Ok, when I say "free" I mean that it's already paid for by your tuition, which is basically the same thing. These services include mental health counseling at the [Counseling Center](#), tutoring at [The Study](#), help with writing at [The Writing Center](#), occasionally food, and career help. Loyola also provides Microsoft office, Adobe, Canva and even Xfinity. At least I think, don't quote me on that last one. It's not that important. What is important is taking advantage of all of these wonderful opportunities which will help you save money for other things. It would be a waste of your tuition not to take advantage of these resources. I can personally attest that these resources have helped more times than not, especially navigating life as a college freshman.

In the end, college is just what you make of it. You reap what you sow. That's why saving and making smart decisions is so important. Spending wisely and not needlessly spending your hard-earned money on useless items will help make the transition that much smoother. Plus, creating good habits now will help you down the line when you're really on your own; whether your dealing with rent, groceries, gas, leisure, or other different expenses. Especially with the way that inflation is at the moment. Yikes! Anyways, enjoy your first year by making sure that you actually have enough money to last both semesters. As the kids like to say: Get your money up, not your funny up.

**“With food specifically, eat more on campus since you are paying for it with**



Good Luck and Have Fun