

Stall Street Journal

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✦ Be "\$SMART" About Your Credit!

Everyone talks about it, but just how *does* someone build and maintain good credit? There's a long list of ways you can help or hurt your credit, but here are a few facts:

- Pay your bills **on time**, one 30 day late payment not only costs you a late fee, it could reduce your credit score by as much as 75 points!!
- Pay more than the minimum balance on credit cards each month.
- On credit cards, keep balances under 50% of your credit limit. The closer your balance is to the credit limit, the more negatively it affects your credit score.

— nelliemae.org

\$ It's late and I'm hungry...

We're not saying never order late night take-out. From time to time - it's just fine. PHOP, Mandarin, it's all tasty—but pricey! Why not try some of these cheaper alternatives:

- Sodexo Meal exchanges—from 7:30-10:30 pm is a cheap way!
- Use your Flex Cash at the snack bars on campus—why not, you've already paid for it!
- Hannaford/Wal*Mart - it is cheapest to stock up on foods you can store and heat up yourself in that fridge or microwave Dad lugged up the stairs for you :-)

✦ Is grad school right for me?

That's an excellent question! With the economy the way it is, & with how much a master's or PHD can help, there's a lot to consider! Have a chat with your advisor and try applying these simple thoughts to the process:

- Has graduate school always been on my to-do list? Without a clear objective you could be wasting your time and money, especially if you start and don't finish and owe more money...
- Am I a good student? Do you enjoy the classroom learning style? Grad school can be intense, a lot of work in a very short period. A challenge shouldn't stop you, but you'll want to pause and consider.
- Cost? • What salaries people in your intended field are earning • What (if any) are the funding options for this program/degree • What will your monthly student loan payments be? • How many jobs are in your field and is the field poised for growing? • What career options are available with the degree you're pursuing? • Is an MA degree even necessary for entry or advancement in this field ?

Sanyika Calloway Boyce—22-Sep-2008
- youngmoney.com

I thought I had more \$\$\$

"Keep a written record of all the money you spend throughout the day, no matter how insignificant it seems at the time (Coffee, newspaper, sodas, cigarettes, gum, and so on). The process of writing each purchase down helps you see clearly where the money's dripping out of your life. If you find your money's going out to incidentals and impulse purchases writing them down can actually help you say no to overspending."

- frugalfacts.com



PLEASE
RECYCLE