



WPI

Dollars and \$ense

Financial Wellness Newsletter, D-term 2015

Financial Literacy

Workshops:

Upcoming sessions...

Insuring Your Future

Tues. April 7th

1:00 – 2:00pm

Salisbury Labs #402

Join us as Irene Morrill & Heather Kramer, MA Assoc. of Insurance Agents, explain the different types of insurance (rental, health, auto, home), how they work, & what they cover.

Life After College

Wed. April 8th

1:00 – 2:00pm

Fuller Labs, Lower Perreault Hall

An open forum with Jeff Solomon, CFO & Tracy Hassett, VP of HR at WPI! They will be answering all your questions about starting a new job, understanding employer benefits, & managing your money.

Transitioning to the Real World

Co-hosted by the CDC!

Tues. April 14th

12:00 – 1:00pm

Fuller Labs, Lower Perreault Hall

The CDC and Financial Aid will be on hand to prepare you for your post-college life, including the different repayment options available to help you properly manage your student loans after graduation.

*Preference will be given to graduating seniors.

Investing: Planning Now for Future

Success:

Tues. April 14th

1:00 – 2:00pm

Stratton Hall #308

Join us as Kristina Harris, Fidelity Investments, prepares you for your financial post-college life. Learn the power of compound interest!

Spring has sprung...

You've made it to the home stretch!

Wasn't it just A-term?

It's hard to believe the year is almost over, & for some of you, your college career is wrapping up. As you prepare for your post-college life, we hope that we can provide you with some helpful information for surviving in the real world. It's time to graduate from student loans to paychecks!

April is Financial Literacy Month!

We are very excited to start celebrating Financial Literacy Month & we have lots of events scheduled to help us do so! All of our upcoming FinLit events are detailed in the left-hand column, & you can always find more information on our [website](#). These events are especially helpful for those of you who are about to graduate & will soon be faced with real world financial life. Even if you'll be returning to campus next fall, it's still really great information to have & it's always a good thing to be thinking about your financial future.

Space is limited, so be sure to [register now](#) to ensure your spot.

Free lunch, raffle prizes (including a possible iPad Air!), & best of all – priceless financial knowledge!

10 Cities With the Highest Utilities Bills

As you weigh your different job offers you'll want to make sure you also factor the cost of living into your decision. The same salary in two different cities could mean a very different standard of living. Choosing to live in one of these cities could hit your budget hard.

- 10 – Charlotte, NC: \$253.87
- 9 – Boston, MA: \$255.86
- 8 – Phoenix, AZ: \$256.20
- 7 – Washington, DC: \$258.21
- 6 – Las Vegas, NV: \$267.18
- 5 – San Francisco, CA: \$268.43
- 4 – Dallas, TX: \$277.26
- 3 – New York City, NY: \$288.76
- 2 – Orlando, FL: \$292.13
- 1 – Houston, TX: \$297.33

Source: BankRate.com

2015-2016 Financial Aid Requirements

It's important to make sure to submit all of your requirements for applying for financial aid for next year by the deadlines, otherwise we could be delayed in processing your financial aid eligibility.

All returning students applying for need-based financial aid must complete the [Upperclass Application](#) (due March 20th, so **submit it ASAP if you haven't already**) & the [FAFSA](#) (due April 15th) each year.

The UCA does need to be hand signed by both a parent & the student; no electronic signatures will be accepted. UCAs should be mailed to our Processing Center (the address is included on the form). More information can be found on our [website](#).

Lunch will be provided and prizes will be raffled for all sessions!

Register now on [Regi25](#) or on [Facebook!](#)



Plenty more sessions will be scheduled again next year! Keep an eye out at: www.wpi.edu/+FinLit



Want an iPad Air?

Well you can win one! This year, every time you come to one of our FinLit workshops your name will be entered to win our end-of-year grand prize – an Apple iPad Air! The more workshops you attend the better your chances...

The drawing will be held at the end of April, so this is your last chance to enter. Good luck!

Suggestions for workshops:

Send us an email at FinLit@wpi.edu



CashCourse:

As a WPI student you are eligible to take advantage of CashCourse for free! This site offers tons of free resources to help you manage your finances. Everything from creating a budget to comparing job offers. Sign up to today at www.cashcourse.org



Contact Us:

Office of Financial Aid
2nd Floor, Bartlett Center
Phone: 508-831-5469
Email: FinAid@wpi.edu
www.wpi.edu/+FinAid
Mon. – Fri. 8:00am – 5:00pm

6 Bad Habits That Up Your Odds For Credit Card Fraud

It's nearly impossible to be fully fraud-proof. If you've shopped at a Target recently or if you have a Playstation account, news reports have already warned you about how you may be at an increased risk. Fraudsters get more creative & sneakier every day, so it's important that you stay sharp about how to best protect yourself. Here are some bad habits to avoid so you don't put yourself at an even higher risk.

1. **Throwing bank statements in the trash:** This may seem harmless, given most bank paperwork doesn't include complete account numbers, logins, or passwords, but don't underestimate the power of a few pieces of information. Switch to e-statements & forgo ATM receipts. Shredders are super affordable (and fun), so shred away!
2. **Forgetting to clear your computer cache:** It's handy to have your computer remember your favorite websites & automatically log you in, but it's putting you at risk, particularly if you're prone to carrying around a laptop like most students do. Prompting browsers to remember passwords & IDs could grant thieves easy access to your financial accounts.
3. **Reckless web-surfing & shopping:** Be careful when you buy things online. Transactions should only be made on trusted networks, & public Wi-Fi should be avoided. Hackers are known to monitor unsecured Wi-Fi networks & obtain password & login info. They can also pull payment info from unencrypted websites. Never click on suspicious links, it could download malware onto your computer, which could include keystroke loggers.
4. **Leaving your smart phone unlocked:** Your phone is a lot like your wallet; it holds a lot of critical information. Leaving your phone unlocked leaves you open for hackers/thieves to access your mobile banking apps, transfer money, request replacement cards, change the billing address, etc.
5. **Failing to protect your PIN:** Never ever write your PIN down, commit it to memory! Whenever possible, run your debit card as a signature transaction instead of entering your PIN at the register. When all else fails, shield your hand as you type your PIN, to preclude skimmers from getting a hold of it via a camera overlooking the ATM.
6. **Responding to a request for bank info:** This may seem like common sense, but scammers can be very sneaky & can be adept at making it seem as though they are from your bank. Never give out your information without verifying the source of the request. If you are at all suspicious, just disengage & call your bank.

Source: BankRate.com

Federal PLUS Loans for 2015-2016

Online application will be available soon!

If you or your parents plan on applying for the PLUS Loan for the 2015-2016 year, the application will be available on **March 31st**! This may also be helpful if you will be attending E-term classes this summer & want to use the PLUS Loan to help cover those costs. More information, as well as access to the application, can be found at www.studentloans.gov.

E-term Financial Aid

While WPI does not offer traditional need or merit based scholarships during E-term, there are options out there! In addition to the PLUS Loan (more information above) or [private loans](#), you may want to consider borrowing from next year's Federal Stafford Loans to help fund summer classes. Just be aware that whatever amount you borrow during E-term will be deducted from your total 2015-2016 eligibility.

If you plan on borrowing during E-term, make sure to complete the [Summer Application for Student Loans](#).

Changes to Relay For Life

Make sure to earn those Community Service Hours

If you have Community Service Work Study as part of your financial aid package, you must earn all 15 hours by the last day of classes. This year there are some changes to Relay For Life, so don't rely on this event to earn all 15 hours!

This year, Relay For Life will only be 12 hours long & you will be required to swipe in & out of the event every time you come & go. The event will run from Friday, April 17th at 6:00pm through Saturday, April 18th at 6:00am. More information will be forthcoming, but you can always contact the [Student Activities Office](#) for more info.