



WPI

Dollars and \$ense

Financial Wellness Newsletter, A-term 2016

Financial Literacy Workshops:

Next session...

Good vs. Bad Debt: Building Your Credit

Wed. Oct. 5th

1:00 – 2:00pm

Atwater Kent #116

Financial Advisor Jim Valis will get you on the path of building your credit and explaining how your credit affects your future life.

Lunch will be provided & prizes will be raffled!

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



We'll be having more sessions throughout the year! Keep an eye out at: www.wpi.edu/+FinLit

Win our Grand Prize!

Last year, Yamaris Terrero Martinez '17 & Jacob Zizmor '16 each won a pair of Beats By Dre headphones! You could win big too! Every time you come to one of our FinLit workshops your name will be entered to win our End-of-Year Grand Prize! What will it be this year?...Stay tuned! The more workshops you attend the better your chances...



Suggestions for workshops:

Send us an email at FinLit@wpi.edu



Summer's over...

Welcome Class of 2020!

A-term is here & with it comes our A-term newsletter!

Warm summer days are wrapping up, & as sad as we are to see summer go, one thing that makes it okay is that the campus is bustling again!

Knowing how to properly manage your finances is important for every aspect of life, & we're here to help! We'll be updating you throughout the year with important financial aid information as well as helpful tips & tricks for making financially savvy choices.

6 Ways Smartphone Apps Help With Shopping

Smartphones truly are...well, smart! Your phone can help you make smarter spending decisions by putting information, special offers, & other resources right in the palm of your hand. It's a savvy shopper's BFF.

1. **Price comparison:** Never overpay again! Barcode scanning apps can scan & search for almost anything. *Amazon Mobile* scans the barcode of an item & searches for prices on Amazon.com. *RedLaser* lets you scan an item, then it compares prices from thousands of online & in-store retailers. It even maps out retailers near you!
2. **Price matching:** If you find a better price after scanning the barcode, many retailers will price match. Target & Best Buy are among some that will match online store prices (like Amazon). Other stores with great price matching policies include Wal-Mart, Sears, & Staples.
3. **Coupon hunting:** *RetailMeNot* is a coupon database app that allows users to share coupons & coupon codes. *Coupons.com* offers its own mobile platform which allows you to add coupons to a store loyalty card linked to the app. Target's *Cartwheel* app operates much the same way. Other apps include *Yowza*, *SnipSnap*, *Coupon Sherpa*, & *Grocery Smarts*.
4. **Getting organized:** Organization is the key to saving time & money. Toss those plastic loyalty cards & instead keep them all on your phone. *Key Ring* & *CardStar* allow you to do just that. There are also apps that help you keep track of your shopping list (& stops you from just browsing & buying things you don't need). Check out *AnyList*, *ZipList*, or *Remember The Milk*. *ZipList* even pinpoints items on sale & provides coupons!
5. **Earning points & rewards:** Some apps reward you just for shopping. *Shopkick* lets you check in at different retailers & earn points. Those points can then be redeemed for gift cards! Similar apps include *CheckPoints* & *Surveys On the Go* (requires you to take surveys while you shop).
6. **Paying for goods:** Some retailers allow you to pay with your smartphone, which is only becoming more popular. Apps like *Square Wallet* & *Apple Pay* store your bank & card information & allow you to pay right from your phone. The future is crazy!

Source: Bankrate.com

We're Hiring!

Looking for Financial Literacy Ambassadors!

Do you have Federal Work Study? Are you outgoing & creative? Do you like helping to make people's lives better by teaching them invaluable skills? We are looking for Financial Literacy Ambassadors to help increase student engagement & improve our Financial Literacy Program! This position would require you to help spread the word

Global Fair:

Be sure to attend the Global Fair on **Wed. Aug. 31st from 3 – 6pm** in Harrington Auditorium.

Stop by our booth to learn about your options to help fund your trip & how to manage your money while abroad!

Verification:

If your financial aid application was selected for verification, then your verification requirements were due to the Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy by **August 15th**. If you have not yet submitted your requirements, please do so ASAP. Failure to submit verification requirements in a timely manner will result in a delay of your federal student aid being paid to your student account. Check www.wpi.edu/+fastatus to see if you have any outstanding requirements.



Do you have Federal Direct Loans?

The deadline for first-time Direct Loan borrowers to complete the 2 online requirements of “Entrance Counseling” and “Master Promissory Note” at www.studentloans.gov is **Friday, Sept. 9th**. Not sure if you’ve completed them? Check www.wpi.edu/+fastatus to see if they are outstanding.

MA No Interest Loan:

If you were awarded a MA No Interest Loan, you will need to sign your Promissory Note in person. This must be done every year that you borrow this loan. You will receive an email shortly notifying you of our MA NIL drop in days & times. Stay tuned!

Failure to complete these requirements will result in a delay of your MA NIL paying to your student account.

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 today at www.cashcourse.org



Contact Us:

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

Our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5th for Labor Day.

about our programming & help to research new & innovative ways to get students involved. There is a lot of opportunity for you to be creative in this position! More info can be found [here](#).

Looking for Student Office Assistants!

Do you have Federal Work Study? Do you interact well with others & stay focused on the task(s) at hand? Are you mature & responsible? Come work with us! Job responsibilities include greeting & assisting visitors, answering the telephone, taking messages, scanning & uploading documents, performing computer work, & a willingness to learn the basics of financial aid while maintaining a professional demeanor. This position interacts closely with students, parents, & other departments on a regular basis both in person & on the telephone. Any student hired for this position is highly encouraged to stay on with the office during their undergraduate career as there is extensive training involved. More info can be found [here](#).

Federal Work Study

Did you miss the FWS/CSWS info session? Fear not – here is everything you need to know about work study (or at least a good deal of it).

All freshmen who were awarded Federal Work Study/Community Service Work Study must complete verification before they will be allowed to get an on-campus job. Check www.wpi.edu/+fastatus to see if you have any outstanding requirements.

Make sure you earn at least \$500 of Federal Work Study AND all \$165 of Community Service by the end of the academic year in order to maintain your FWS/CSWS eligibility for next year! Students that lose eligibility will not regain it in subsequent years.

Jobs are posted on [HR’s website](#). You could even work in our office!

Community service opportunities, as well as more information about acceptable sites, are posted on the [Student Activities Office’s website](#).

Swipe or Insert? We’re All Confused

To swipe or not to swipe, that is the question.

In October 2015 the great switch over (to inserting our credit cards into the payment terminal rather than swiping them) began, but there’s no denying the switch has left both consumers & cash register clerks confused & annoyed.

Experts say only 47% of U.S. retailers currently accept chip card transactions. They hope the switch to be substantially complete by the end of 2018.

Part of the delay is because some retailers have resisted paying for the costly change, while others are stuck in a lengthy certification process for their new terminals. It’s not helping that retailers aren’t required to install these new devices, but rather they’re just strongly encouraged.

We agree it’s annoying & confusing, every time you go into a new store, trying to figure out what to do with your card. While the confusion may not end anytime soon (I suppose it’s all relative), at least know you’re not alone! We feel you.

Source: Bankrate.com

Savings Challenge #7

Don’t eat out for all of A-term.

It’s no surprise that eating out can cost big money. Even if you go to an affordable restaurant, once you factor in the food, drinks, tip, tax, & the process of getting to the restaurant (gas, cab/bus fare, etc.) you can be left with a big price tag. Challenge yourself to put the kibosh on that unnecessary spending for all of A-term!

Need some encouragement to get you going? Look back on a past term, month, etc. & calculate up how much money you spent eating out. Is it more than you expected? And for what? A few hours later you were just hungry again!

If you live on campus, challenge yourself to only use your meal plan (unless Mom & Dad come to visit & want to treat you, of course ☺). If you live off campus, stick to your grocery shopping spoils only. This could be a great excuse to improve your cooking skills! Pasta is cheap...& really delicious, so you can still have a great meal on a Friday night without breaking the bank.

Think of all you could do with that extra money...

If you take our challenge, tweet us @WPIFinancialAid using the hashtag #SpendingChallenge to let us know how it went! You could win our End-of-Year Grand Prize for doing so!