



WPI

Dollars and \$ense

Financial Wellness Newsletter, C-term 2017

Financial Literacy Workshops

Upcoming sessions...

Student Panel: Moving Off-Campus

Wed. Feb. 1st

5:00 – 6:30pm

Bartlett Center, Presentation Room

This panel, comprised of students and an insurance expert, will be moderated by a representative from Residential Services. Attend this open forum to learn what to be aware of when making the decision to move off-campus. It's an opportunity to ask questions about splitting bills, renter's insurance, and so much more! Or, just listen and learn!

Dinner will be provided & prizes will be raffled!

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

Transitioning to the Real World

Wed. Feb. 22nd

4:00 – 5:00pm

Salisbury Labs #411

Amanda Woodward-Mitchell, WPI OSAFL and Amanda Dionne, WPI CDC will tell you what to expect as you leave WPI to begin a new job and help you to understand your options when it comes to managing, repaying, or deferring student loans after graduation.

Dinner will be provided and prizes will be raffled!

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



We'll be having more sessions throughout the year! Keep an eye out at: www.wpi.edu/+FinLit or follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WPIFinancialAid!

Bring on the new...

Spring Has Sprung!

Well Spring semester at least; the weather outside might prove otherwise. A new semester is a chance to take new classes, try new clubs/organizations, and make the most of everything WPI has to offer. A new year is the chance to make a better you! We hope that you challenge yourself to do just that. Read on for some tips and challenges to help you make yourself a more financially conscious person; something that your future self will surely thank you for.

3 NYE Money Resolutions You Should Make (and Keep) in 2017

It's that time of year again, where we all have the best of intentions. While some ambitious (and well-intentioned) people may make vague, blanket resolutions like "save more" or "spend less," you'll likely have a lot more success if you break it down and make your resolution more measurable and focused.

Make your NYE resolution one of our Money Resolutions! See if you can stick to one for the whole year. If you're feeling really determined, try to stick to two, or all three to see the most benefits!

1. **Save 20% of every paycheck:** If you have found that sticking to a detailed budget each month is a challenge for you, then this one is much simpler. The moment you get a paycheck, immediately put 20% into your savings account – and leave it there! Then you'll be forcing yourself to only spend the remaining 80%. This should be plenty to pay your necessities, but still leaves you enough to treat yourself. Those treats will feel even better knowing that you've already saved a good chunk of your paycheck, and at the end of the year you'll be rewarded with an even better treat! Start now and let this become a lifelong habit.
2. **Experiment with a new app:** This one is even easier! Make it a goal to experiment with a new personal finance app. If it improves your budgeting, saving, and spending habits, keep it. If not, delete it and try another. Some suggestions include Mint, Digit, and Level Money. If you find a great one, tweet us [@WPIFinancialAid](#) to share your tip!
3. **Cut out one frivolous spending habit:** Making a general statement like, "I'm going to spend less" may not prove to be all that helpful. Instead set a very specific expense that you will cut out for all of 2017. A good goal needs to be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. Pick one indulgence that drains your bank account but doesn't really add much to your life. Do you really need to pay for Hulu AND Netflix? Probably not. Want a big challenge? Try our Savings Challenge #9 (below) for a full year!

Source: Bankrate.com

Suggestions for Workshops

Send us an email at FinLit@wpi.edu



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!

Follow us [@WPIFinancialAid](https://twitter.com/WPIFinancialAid) to spy other ways to enter – we're always up to something!

What will the prize be this year?...Stay tuned!

Have suggestions for the prize? Send us an email at finlit@wpi.edu.



Community Service Reminder

If you are receiving Federal Work Study/Community Service Work Study, remember that you have to earn all \$165 of Community Service by the end of D-term. Failure to earn all \$165 will result in the loss of FWS/CSWS in future years.

The Student Activities Office posts opportunities on their [website](#), so check it out and be sure to hand in your completion forms to our office!

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

2017-2018 Financial Aid Requirements

WPI Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy - making your life easier since 2017

Applying for financial aid for next year? We've worked to make things a lot easier and less time-consuming. We're happy to announce that we will no longer be requiring the Upper Class Financial Aid Application! Returning students need only to submit their 2017-2018 FAFSA in order to apply for financial aid.

Many of you have already completed next year's FAFSA (thank you!) as it was made available beginning in October (thank you, Dept. of Education!).

We recently sent you an email with some more information, so be sure to check your inbox.

Remember: With FAFSA's change to "prior-prior year" you will be using 2015 tax information to apply for financial aid for 2017-2018. Be sure to use the Data Retrieval Tool to make things even easier!

If you have not already completed your FAFSA you can do so at fafsa.ed.gov.

Savings Challenge #9

Save some dough by skipping the Joe

It's cold outside and nothing helps warm you up faster than a nice, hot cup of coffee from the oh-so-convenient Dunkin Donuts in the Campus Center. No judgement; I'm sure you've seen us in that line too.

But have you ever sat down and calculated how much you spend on coffee each week? What about for the whole term? Those quick cups add up even quicker.

Challenge yourself to skip the Dunks line for all of C-term. I know, it sounds impossible, what with late night studying and early morning classes, but it's worth it! Take another look at that total for money spent on Joe each term. Now imagine that someone handed you a stack of money that amount. That's basically what can happen; you'll have all that money to put toward something much more valuable – like your savings account!

Tweet us a picture of you making coffee at home, or drinking it at The Wedge [@WPIFinancialAid](https://twitter.com/WPIFinancialAid) using the hashtag #SavingsChallenge. Every tweet will get you an entry into our End-of-Year Grand Prize raffle. See the left hand column for more info!

Valentine's Day on a Budget

Being in love should not be a segue to being broke

Worcester is known as "the heart of the Commonwealth," and appropriately it can be a great place to spread some love on a small budget. As a WPI student, you have access to a ton of discounts and freebies, so take advantage of that! Pack a nice lunch and take your Valentine to the Worcester Art Museum. You can fall in love with Romanticism and each other!

Prefer to stay in doors? Cook your Valentine a nice home cooked meal, then relax and watch your favorite movie.

Don't mind facing the chilly outdoors? The Worcester Common Oval is a great place to go ice skating! It's romantic and only costs \$5 (plus \$3 for skate rentals). Check out the city's [website](#) for hours.

Want to stay warm and have fun? Have a gaming night! The loser has to make the other dinner. Who doesn't love a little competition?

Tweet us a picture of your frugal celebrations [@WPIFinancialAid](https://twitter.com/WPIFinancialAid) and you'll get entered into our End-of-Year Grand Prize raffle! See the left hand column for more info!