

Financial Aid and Living Off Campus/ Reduced Meal Plans

Are you considering living off campus and/or reducing your meal plan, but are concerned about how these changes may impact your financial aid? The Student Aid Office (SAO) is here to help you make those decisions.

Living Off Campus



HOW FINANCIAL AID WORKS:

- The cost of housing included in your financial aid budget remains the same regardless of whether you live on or off campus. Financial aid does not change based on where you live.
- If you live on campus, the cost of housing appears on your bill.
- If you live off campus, you will not be billed for housing by the College, which may result in a credit balance.
- If you have a credit balance on your semester bill, you may request a refund from the Bursar's Office to help pay for off-campus housing.
- If you have a balance owed on your semester bill, you must pay that in addition to off-campus living expenses.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Will your off-campus housing cost more or less than living on campus? If it costs more, your family will be responsible for paying the increased cost.
- Is your lease nine or twelve months? Be sure you know the full extent of your financial responsibility and build a personal budget.
- Will you have additional costs such as heating, electricity, WiFi, or cable? Include all of these costs in your personal budget.

SCENARIOS TO CONSIDER:

- What will happen if a roommate leaves school? Who will pay for their share of rent and utilities?
- Will you sublease in the summer if you have a twelve-month contract? What will happen if a sublease falls through?
- Will you need transportation to and from campus?

Reduced Meal Plans



HOW FINANCIAL AID WORKS:

- The standard financial aid budget assumes that each student is on the full nineteen-meal plan.
- If you change your meal plan to anything other than the nineteen-meal plan (including no plan at all), your financial aid budget will be adjusted to reflect the cost of the fourteen-meal plan.
- The change in financial aid budget results in a reduction of Bowdoin grant to reflect the cost of the fourteen-meal plan.
- Exceptions may be made for students who are from the Brunswick area and live at home.



Still have questions?

Consult the [SAO website](#), call the SAO at 207-725-3144, or stop by the SAO at 254 Maine Street.