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## Budgeting 101 Outline

Developing a budget
Debt repayment
Saving


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## What is a Budget?

A money management tool
Allocates spending for different expenses
Provides control over where your money is going
Allows spending to be tracked easily
Summarizes income and expenses for a set period of time, generally one month

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## What is in a Budget?

Income from all recurring sources; paychecks, bonuses, etc.
A dedicated line for each type of expense; rent, groceries, utilities, etc.
Planned savings (short-term/long-term)
Strategic debt repayment

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PERSONAL MONTHEF BUDGET


## Considerations for Creating Your Budget

Account for fluctuations in bills, e.g. electric and/or gas by season
Are certain expense due quarterly?
property taxes, water/sewer, for example
Have I included planned savings
Do you have a strategy for paying off debt?

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## Savings

## Should be made on a schedule

Budget a set monthly amount as if it were an expense

## Short-term: For large purchases

Vacations, down payment on a car, new television, etc.
Medium-term: Emergency fund equal to 3-6 months of expenses
Funds to be used during job loss, major medical expense, etc.
Long-term: retirement

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## Contributions to Charity

Giving is a good thing, but needs to be accounted for Build monthly for contributions made annually; set aside $1 / 12^{\text {th }}$ of the annual amount each month
Consider automatic deductions
Many charitable contributions are tax deductible (if itemizing)

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## Monthly payments included in budget

Monthly payments should always be made on time, or your credit/score could be negatively affected
Budget for paying additional principal
etc.
If possible, allocate an additional monthly amount beyond the required payment

## Debt Repayment, cont.

Determine your strategy for paying off debt
Highest interest first (avalanche) or lowest amount first (snowball)
Include debt repayment strategy in budget
Once a strategy is decided on, determine the monthly amount the budget can support
Prioritize: savings vs. debt?

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Periodic changes are necessary
Make changes for increase/decrease in income
Starting a new job, reduction in hours at work, etc.
Make adjustments for changes in spending patterns
Cook more instead of eating out, change in mode of transportation, etc.
Make modifications for major life experiences
Marriage, children, move to a different city, buy a house, etc.

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