How to stay financially stable

Food, cleaning supplies, electricity bills, toiletries — A lot more goes into living in off-campus housing than the average college student may think.

Luckily, there are resources that can help with maintaining a steady budget.

Students such as Emeri Bradford, psychology sophomore, use coupons to dial back the amount of money spent on groceries and other items that are needed to live comfortably on one's own in an apartment.
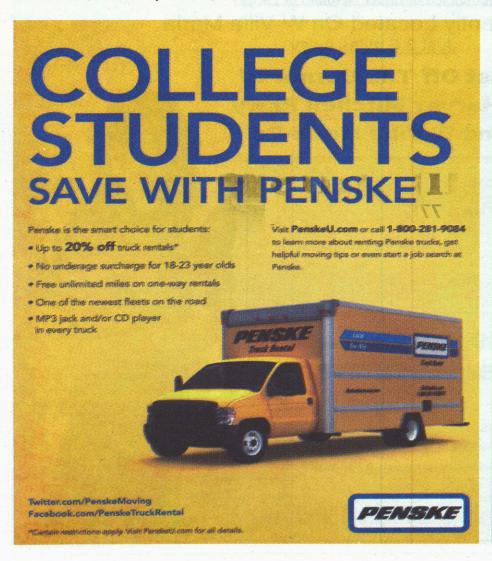
"When I got to college, I went into shock because suddenly I had to learn to budget, which I never had to do before," Bradford said. "Freshman year I tried it but didn't really succeed, but my parents didn't really care because I was an overwhelmed freshman. Once I moved off campus, expenses got to be out the roof, so I had to find a way to budget."

The Adult, Graduate and Off-Campus Student Services Program on campus created an Aggie Budget, a form that allows students to track their income and compare it to the various items needing to be purchased.

"We simply provide it as a tool students can use to be more informed when making a decision about what type of off-campus housing they can afford," said Sarah Jaks, assistant coordinator of the program.