**Living expenses**

It is suggested that students arrive in the Phoenix metro area with at least $500 and have access to another $1000 during their first two weeks here. This will be needed for expenses associated with organizing housing, such as security deposits and rent in advance. Connections to power, gas and telephone may also require a deposit. A co-signer may be required as well for students who have not established credit for themselves.

Students who do not have permanent housing organized should arrive a few weeks before school begins so accommodations can be found before the start of the semester. We highly suggest contacting any relatives that live here to help you get started and may be able to provide a room to rent or a place to stay for a few days while you get things worked out

Living costs vary, depending upon your tastes, interests and finances. Students and parents should set a budget according to their individual needs, but this should be flexible enough to allow for changes.

**Suggested weekly budget**

***This table is intended as a guide only***. Figures may vary for individual students and we suggest splitting costs with a roommate which will usually be divided by however many people live with you.

| **SERVICE** | **Single** | **Family of 4** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rent unfurnished apartment—average | $600+/month | $650+/month |
| Utilities—gas, water, electricity, phone | $100+/month | $150+/month |
| Food | $100+/month | $200+/month |
| Transportation (fuel, insurance, etc) | $100+/month | $120+/month |
| Misc. expenses | $100+/month | $140+/month |
| **Total** | **$1000+/month** | **$1260+/month** |

Students with a motor vehicle should understand additional expenses such as gasoline, insurance, and registration costs. We also encourage the use of public transportation (*city bus lines or light rail*) that may incur a less costly expense than a car. Transportation costs obviously will vary from student to student.

**Student employment**

Students studying at Mesa Community College are also able to work. Some students may qualify for Federal Work-Study and work up to 20 hours per week at an on-campus job. However, you must check that option when doing your FAFSA. Those jobs tend to be taken quickly so do your searching early or establish a network when you arrive to prepare for a possible work-study job the next semester or next year even.

Restaurants and retail outlets often have part-time jobs available, but competition for these positions is strong. Students are advised that part-time work may distract them from their studies and they should not rely on their earnings solely to pay tuition fees or other living expenses.

**Supplemental Resources**

Phoenix Indian Center [www.phxindcenter.org](http://www.phxindcenter.org)

4520 N. Central Ave. 2nd floor 602-264-6768

Phoenix, AZ 85012

Native American Connections [www.nativeconnections.org](http://www.nativeconnections.org)

4520 N. Central Ave. Suite 600 602-254-3247

Phoenix, AZ 85012

info@nativeconnections.org

Housing Authority of Maricopa County [www.maricopahousing.org](http://www.maricopahousing.org)

710 W. 8th Ave. 602-744-4562

Mesa, AZ 85210 Public Housing or

Section 8 program