Providence Campus Returning Student 2015-16 Room & Meal Plan FAQs

Q: Why has the university decided to separate room and meal plan charges for 2015-16 academic year?

As part of JWU’s commitment to continually build upon the student experience, the university has been reviewing feedback from students and analyzing how room and board is charged. Collectively, students have long expressed a desire for more flexibility and choice with meal plan offerings, particularly residents in apartment-style housing. As a result, beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, room and board charges will be separated. The new structure will allow for a better understanding of individual charges as well as greater flexibility and choice with meal plans.

Q: How has the meal plan program changed?

Previously, only students who lived in traditional residence halls (non-apartment-style, no kitchen in room) were provided with a meal plan. The plan was the same for everyone (15 meals per week) and students in apartment-style housing could not partake in the plan. A student in apartment-style housing wanting to purchase blocks of meals or a student in traditional housing wanting to add more meals to their existing plan had to purchase Wildcat Meals online or at Student Academic & Financial Services and these meals had to be paid for out of pocket— the cost could not be added to the student’s account, and financial aid could not be applied.

For the 2015-16 academic year, all resident students will be able to select from a range of meal plan options based on where they choose to live on campus, and the cost of the plan will be applied to their student account. Each plan also offers “flex dollars” which can be used instead of a full meal swipe at any JWU dining location to make small purchases (e.g., a beverage at Starbucks).

Q: How have room rates changed?

Many room rates have changed as a result of separating the meal plan cost. View 2015-16 room and meal rates.

Q: What are the new meal plan options?

There are a variety of meal plan options depending on where a student opts to live on campus.

Returning students living in traditional housing (where they do not have a kitchen in their room) will be required to subscribe to the minimum plan of 10 meals per week. They will have the option to upgrade to 14 or 18 meals per week if they choose.

Students living in apartment-style housing (where a kitchen is provided in their apartment) will not be required to subscribe to a meal plan; however, they will be able to select from ANY of the meal plan options.

Every plan offers “flex dollars” or cash value which is loaded onto the student’s ID card and can be used at any JWU dining location. This allows students to make smaller purchases rather than utilizing a full meal swipe—for example, buying a beverage at Starbucks. The balance will decline as flex dollars are used.
2015-16 Providence Campus Meal Plan Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meals Per Week</th>
<th>Flex Dollar Amount</th>
<th>Total Cost of Plan</th>
<th>Available to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Term: $100</td>
<td>Year: $300</td>
<td>Term: $1,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Term: $200</td>
<td>Year: $600</td>
<td>Term: $1,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Term: $200</td>
<td>Year: $600</td>
<td>Term: $1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Term: $100</td>
<td>Year: $300</td>
<td>Term: $678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Q: How will I select my meal plan for the year?

Resident students will select their meal plan for the 2015-16 academic year when they select their room online during the Wildcat Room Selection Process in the spring.

Q: I’m going to be an RA. Do I have to have a meal plan?

RAs will follow the same meal plan model as residents. RAs living in traditional housing (where they do not have a kitchen in their room) will be required to subscribe to the minimum plan of 10 meals per week. They will have the option to upgrade to 14 or 18 meals per week if they choose.

RAs living in apartment-style housing (where a kitchen is provided in their apartment) will not be required to subscribe to a meal plan; however, they will be able to select from ANY of the meal plan options.

Q: How do these changes affect commuter students?

Commuter students can still purchase Wildcat Meals online or at Student Academic & Financial Services.

Q: Can resident students still purchase Wildcat Meal blocks?

Resident students who want more meals in addition to their plan can still purchase Wildcat Meals online or at Student Academic & Financial Services. (This cost cannot be charged to the student’s account and financial aid dollars cannot be applied.)

Q: Can I change the meal plan I have selected before the year starts?

Yes. Resident students who want to change the meal plan selection they have made can do so by contacting Residential Life at reslife.pvd@jwu.edu or 401-598-1141.

Q: Can I change the meal plan I have selected during the year?

After a term begins, students will be able to change their meal plan selection online for the upcoming term during a brief adjustment period. (Note: Returning / transfer students in traditional housing are required to subscribe to a minimum 10 meal per week plan.)

Q: What if I don’t want to change my meal plan during the adjustment period?

If you do not want to change your meal plan, you do not need to participate in the adjustment period. The plan you selected during room selection will apply for each term for that academic year.

Q: What if I move to a different hall after the meal plan adjustment period?

Students who move from one traditional hall to another (no kitchen in room) will retain the meal plan they had previously selected.
Students who move from a traditional hall to an apartment-style community (kitchen in room) will be able to adjust their meal plan, including eliminating it, since it is not required in apartment-style housing. (Note: If the move occurs during the term and the meal plan is adjusted, the cost will also be adjusted in accordance with when the student’s move was completed.)

Students who move from an apartment-style community to a traditional hall will be required to subscribe to a minimum 10-meal-per-week plan, but have the option to select 14 or 18 meals per week. (Note: If the move occurs during the term and the meal plan is added, the cost will be prorated in accordance with when the student’s move was completed.)

Q: When does the meal plan start and end?
The meal plan resets at the end of the business day on Saturday. The new meal week begins on Sunday.

Q: Do unused meal swipes roll over from week to week or term to term?
Meal swipes are allotted each week based on the plan selected. Unused swipes do not roll over from week to week or from one term to the next.

Q: Do unused flex dollars roll over from week to week or term to term?
Flex dollars are allotted for each term. Unused dollars roll over from week to week but expire at the end of the term and cannot be rolled over to a new term.

Q: How can I use my meal plan for guests?
Students can use flex dollars in any campus dining venue for guest meals. (Swipes are to be used by the student only.)

Q: Can I use flex dollars to buy non-food items at locations such as Liberty Market or Starbucks?
Yes. Flex dollars may be used in any campus dining venue for any purchase.

Q: How can I check the balance of my flex dollars?
Dining Services will provide students with the balance on their accounts.

Q: Will I receive a refund if I leave the university or university housing.
The Room Terms Agreement (or housing agreement) is for the entire academic year. As long as a student is in attendance at the university they will be responsible for room and meal charges (if applicable) for the entire academic year, even if they decide not to occupy the room or to utilize the meal plan for whatever reason, voluntary or involuntary.

Students who withdraw from the university should review the Tuition & Fees Credit Policy.