

Budget Category Breakdown:

This is to show you where we are getting our numbers from, an explanation of what exactly is being calculated in each category and to further explain what you see on your example budgets.

Category Breakdowns:



Groceries –

This category is assuming if you are living with a roommate, you are splitting the grocery bill evenly. If you are married or married with 1 child, we assume it is a young child and there is only one person working full time (40-hour week) in the family. This category includes all things you would buy at the grocery store. The section is also assuming you are shopping at a reasonably priced store, living within your means. This section does not include eating out or ordering in. Food in this category represents food that is prepared at home.



Food-

This category represents the amount spent on food eating out or dining in (door dash, Uber eats, deliver services etc...) On average, a person typically eats out or order in 4-5 times a week. If you are single, it's assumed you are paying for your own meals, if you have a roommate, it's assumed it is split evenly. Married or married with child assuming only one spouse is working, and the child is young. The average meal in your city is multiplied by the number of times a person eats out per week than multiplied to find monthly cost.



Medical-

This category covers your health insurance, any medical services, prescriptions, or emergencies that may happen. This was calculated from the average by county. If you are a single student or student with a roommate, you pay your own insurance, so the numbers stay the same. If you are married or married with a child, we assume you fall under your spouse's healthcare or some sort of alternative medical care provided by the government or state.



Housing-

This category includes rent/mortgages and HOA fees. If you are a single student or a single student with a room, then it is based on renting a 1- or 2-bedroom apartment. Also, assumed that you and your roommate are splitting the rent evenly. If you are married or married with a child, it based on renting a single-family home or a 2+ bedroom home. Adults are allocated 1 bedroom and child 1 bedroom each.



Utilities-

The utilities are based on the average in the county. A single or student with a roommate is based on a 800+ square foot home and are split evenly between roommates. A married or married with children is 900+ square foot home. Utilities include trash, water, electric, and Wi-Fi.



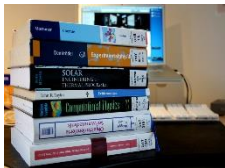
Transportation-

This category includes car payment, insurance, gas, and other vehicle expenses such as maintenance. Expenses for vehicles are based on the size of the household.



Entertainment-

This includes any entertainment expenses such as nights out, movies/show tickets, hobbies, travel, gym memberships etc....These are based on city averages. Expenses depend on the size of the household and allow about \$50 per month per person.



School Supplies-

This category includes books, pens, pencils, notebooks, binders, and any other school supplies that you may need throughout the year. This does not include the initial purchase or a laptop or tablet or Wi-Fi that is used for school.



Cell phone-

This category is based on city average for unlimited data plans, getting less expensive as lines are added. Single and students with roommates are expected

to pay their own, while married or married with children assumed one spouse is working, that spouse pays for the cell phones. Also assume married students with children have young children and would not have a cell phone yet.



Miscellaneous-

This category is for all other things not listed. This could be considered a savings account, payments for additional subscriptions, credit card payments, clothes, toys for children etc... we took this from a city average of things not listed in specific categories but still need to be accounted for.



Personal Care Items-

Students and student with roommates are expected to buy their own personal care items. These items are bought from affordable stores and are not considered as luxury care items. These items can include hair products, skin products, soaps, razors, and other personal care items.



Child Care-

Child care includes market rate for childcare facilities. These averages are based by county and per child. This does not include date night sitters, nannies or in home childcare.



Living Wage Calculation-

Is to show what you or your spouse would need to make to live within your means based on the budget shown above. These wages are by county and updated annually.

-These calculations are to show you what you can live off and are examples. The calculations will not be exact to your budget. These are based on county and city average in your area. The data is shown annually but has been broken down into monthly expenses for you! The data is pulled annual to ensure the numbers are the most up to date.

Reference:

[Living Wage Calculator - Living Wage Calculation for Davidson County, Tennessee \(mit.edu\)](#)

-data pulled by county and is updated annually

[Nashville Cost of Living: Nashville, TN Living Expenses Guide \(nashvillemls.com\)](#)