

Frequently Asked Questions about the Meal Plan

Who can purchase a Meal Plan?

Resident students are required to purchase a Meal Plan as the Board portion of the semester Room and Board fee for living on campus. Meal Plans are purchased GST exempt. Commuter students have the option of purchasing a Meal Plan in a specified minimum increment. Commuters may also purchase food in the dining room, however, GST is charged on all purchases which are not through a meal plan.

What is the Meal Plan?

The Meal Plan is your bulk pre-semester purchase of food for each semester. The student ID card will be activated with a predetermined value amount (based on Meal Plan value purchased) at the beginning of each academic semester that can be used at Student Centre dining facility. Every time you use your card, the dollar value of food selected is deducted from the total dollar value in your meal plan account.

Food services are also available to commuters and the public outside of the meal plan by using cash, debit, or credit card.

What is the value amount on the Meal Plan?

The value is placed on the ID card account and becomes the means of recording various meal purchases.

Resident students: The Basic Meal Plan minimum value is \$1150 (which is the board portion of the R&B fees of \$2540) **and is GST exempt. GST exempt add-on amounts can be purchased in increments of \$25 or more.** This may be done at registration or at any time during the semester. **(Larger Meal Plans are available as indicated on the pre-registration forms)**

Commuter Students: The Commuter Meal Plan minimum value is \$300 which can be purchased GST exempt. If the Commuter Meal Plan has been purchased, GST exempt add-on amounts can be purchased in increments of \$25. Without a meal plan, Commuter students may eat in the dining room by paying cash or buying pre-paid amounts added to their ID cards, however, these are not considered "Meal Plan" and are not GST exempt.

Exceptions to the \$1150 as a minimum meal plan for Residents will only be considered when accompanied by a doctor's note.

What if I don't use all the Meal Plan value by the end of the semester?

Any unused portion of the Meal Plan on your ID card from the fall semester will roll over and be added to the spring semester Meal Plan. The change in semesters from fall to spring is the **ONLY** time in which you may transfer an unused amount of the Meal Plan. All Meal Plan amounts are forfeited at the end of every spring semester and cannot be forwarded, refunded or used elsewhere on campus.

Are there any foods I cannot obtain with my Meal Plan value?

Some foods are excluded from the Meal Plan because they are not GST exempt. Goods and Services exemptions are controlled by Federal legislation. Changes to this legislation may alter your tax exemption status and impact the food offerings. CBC assumes no liability for these changes.

What if I think I may eat more than the Meal Plan value purchased at registration?

You have the important added option to purchase any additional food value you wish. Meal Plans can be “topped up” at any time in increments of a minimum of \$25 in order to have these increments treated as GST exempt Meal Plan values. These incremental amounts can be purchased at registration or anytime during the semester from the front office. Increments can also be purchased by charging against credit balances available in the student’s main account. This can be done in the Front Office during regular office hours Monday through Friday.

How do I know how much remaining value I have in my Meal Plan?

This can be determined in one of two ways. First, you may request a receipt at the point of sale anytime of usage, which will indicate the remaining balance. Second, a full printed statement of all your transactions is available from the Front Office during regular office hours. All questions should be directed to the Front Office.

How can I make the best use of my Meal Plan?

The student lifestyle is difficult to predict, so the Resident Basic Meal Plan has been geared to the student with a light appetite or who misses a significant number of meals. A student with a robust appetite and/or who misses few meals would be advised to purchase an increased amount. It is also important to remember that there are no refunds in the Meal Plan. (Please see, "Can I obtain a full refund on the unused portion of my Meal Plan?" below)

Can I obtain a full refund on the unused portion of my Meal Plan?

The simple answer is no. The only exception requires full academic withdrawal. In this case, a refund of the meal plan charges less any food eaten (plus GST) for the current semester, will be refunded.

There are no refunds at the end of any semester regardless of the value left in the Meal Plan. A Student who transitions from Residence to Commuter status mid-academic year (December) may rollover their meal plan balance to a Commuter Meal Plan

Why is it important not to lose my ID card?

Your ID card does have a real value so it needs to be kept safe and secure at all times. If you lose your ID card during regular office hours notify the College Front Office immediately. Your lost card will be cancelled. If you lose your card after hours or on a weekend, notify the Dining Services Supervisor who will make arrangements so you can continue dining. You need to remember the importance of your personal ID card and its access to your Meal Plan value.

How can I budget my Meal Plan to ensure it lasts me through my Semester?

You can budget your Meal Plan by periodically checking to see if your declining balance is at the level it should currently be at. Please go online to our website at [www.columbiabc.edu/student_services/Food Services](http://www.columbiabc.edu/student_services/Food_Services) and scroll down to the bottom to view the chart which shows by week how much you should have left on your Meal Card as you progress through the Semester. Compare your existing amount on your Meal Card to the chart. (refer to previous question regarding how to find your remaining balance on your Meal Card).

Check out the Sample Meal Plan Menu’s (included in this package) & contact your Admissions Counsellor to discuss which plan is best for you.