

SPENDING PLAN

In previous financial courses, you should have developed a spending plan. Now, it is time to dust it off and re-examine to help prepare for your transitions to post-military life. If you have not previously created a spending plan, now is the time. Either way, this will help you understand:

- Where you are now?
- Where do you want to be?
- Can you get there from here?

The goals you established during initial counseling can have a financial impact during transition.

Employment:	Education	Entrepreneurship
It may take a few months to find a job that will cover your living expenses and even after obtaining the job, there may still be a 2-4- week lag between starting and receiving the first paycheck. There may be a similar lag in receiving a retirement check.	Even if using Veterans Affairs' (VA) education benefits to help pay for tuition, housing, and books, you may still need additional funds to cover expenses like insurance, transportation, or housing. In addition, housing is not paid until after the start of the semester and only for those days for which you are in school. During breaks (spring, fall, winter) and summer (if not in class), you will not receive the housing allowance.	When starting your own business, it could take some time to realize a profit.

Remember, your spending plan is a tool to help you understand your current financial situation and to build a financial plan to meet your transition goals.

Take time to review your current financial situation, identify tools that can help you understand the financial changes associated with transition, and how transition will affect your financial situation.