



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Messiah's Dining Dollars Meal Plan for 2026-2027?

The Dining Dollars Meal Plan is a declining balance plan that gives you the option to purchase meals at any of our restaurants.

How does the Dining Dollars Meal Plan work?

The *Dining Dollars* Meal Plan consists of two components: a Dining Services Operations Charge (\$1862.50 per semester) and a declining balance account known as *Dining Dollars* (\$1215.00 per semester).

Who is required to purchase the Dining Dollars Meal Plan?

All students living in a traditional dorm are required to purchase the Dining Dollars Meal Plan. Total price is \$3077.50 per semester.

Why purchase a Dining Dollars Meal Plan?

By having a *Dining Dollars* meal plan and using your *Dining Dollars*, every item you purchase in one of our restaurants entitles you to a discount. (The discount does not apply to Vending purchases.)

What are Dining Dollars and where can I use them?

Dining Dollars are funds loaded on your ID card to purchase your food at our dining locations. Every meal you purchase in our restaurants is deducted from your Dining Dollars account. *Where can I use them?* The choice is yours! You may purchase your meal at our 'all-you-care-to-eat' facility at Lottie Nelson Dining Hall or purchase your food at The Union Café, The Falcon, Café Diem, Café@W.H. or The Sawyer Pavilion.

How many Dining Dollars do I have?

When you purchase the Dining Dollars Meal Plan for the 2026-2027 academic year, your ID will be loaded with \$1215.00 *Dining Dollars* for the semester.

What if I run out of Dining Dollars? What if I have a balance at the end of the semester?

You may purchase more *Dining Dollars* at the Falcon Exchange Office. This will enable you to continue to receive the discount on purchases. If you have a balance at the end of the Fall semester, up to \$100.00 *Dining Dollars* will roll over into your Spring *Dining Dollars* account. If you have a balance at the end of the academic year, up to \$200.00 (\$100.00 per semester) will be credited to your student account. When you graduate from Messiah, remaining *Dining Dollars* of up to \$200.00 (\$100.00 per semester) will be refunded to you. You can track how many *Dining Dollars* you have remaining at the cash registers in our restaurants and at the Falcon Exchange.

What does the Dining Operations Charge Cover?

The operations charge covers the primary operational costs for Lottie Nelson Dining Hall, The Falcon, Union Café, Café @ Winding Hill and the Café Diem. These costs include, but are not limited to, staff wages and benefits, chemical and paper supplies, training, equipment, equipment service and repair, kitchen small wares, service ware and utilities.

I'm not in a traditional dorm. Can I purchase the Dining Dollars Meal Plan?

Yes! **Any student** may sign up for the Dining Dollars Meal Plan using *The Nest* located on the Messiah University portal. Or you may choose an Ala Carte plan.

Are Falcon Dollars the same as Dining Dollars?

Falcon Dollars are not the same as *Dining Dollars*. Falcon Dollars can be used in dining facilities, the ticket office and the campus store, but are not associated to the meal plan. Falcon Dollars do not receive the discount for Dining purchases.

What if I don't have a meal plan but want to eat in Lottie?

Come on in! You may purchase a meal at the full price. You may pay with cash, credit or by using your Falcon Dollars. Just remember there is no discount without the Dining Dollars Meal Plan.

Still have questions?

Email Dining Services at dining@messiah.edu or visit our website.

