

The Best College Student Discounts 2025:

Where to find them and how to use them

Here are retailers that offer student discounts so you can save on back-to-school shopping.

From new backpacks to school supplies, [electronics](#) and clothes, back-to-school shopping can be expensive. According to the [National Retail Federation](#), back-to-college spending will total \$86.6 billion in 2024. On average, college students and their families will spend nearly \$1,365 on these purchases.

There are ways to cut costs by simply showing your college ID. Retailers offer college students discounts on everything from clothing to food to electronics.

Here's a list of discounts for college students, and a few [credit card options to pair](#) with those purchases to save even more.

Discounts on electronics

- **Apple:** If you purchase an Apple product, such as a Macbook or iPad from the Apple Store, you can qualify for a gift card up to \$150, 20% off AppleCare+ and more. To save even further, [the Apple Card](#) gives you 3% cash back on all purchases made directly through Apple.
- **Best Buy:** There's no specific discount, but you may be able to find special deals through the [Back to School Student Hub](#).
- **HP:** Get up to 40% off when you register for the [Education Store](#).
- **Lenovo:** Students can save an [extra 5% storewide](#) when verified through ID.me.
- **Logitech:** [Up to 30% off](#) when you join UNiDAYS.
- **Microsoft:** Receive up to [10% off on select products](#).
- **Samsung:** Up to 30% off when you register for the [Education Offers Program](#).

Discounts at restaurants

Many restaurants don't advertise if they offer a student discount. However, if you are in a college town or major metropolitan city, call ahead to see if they do. These are the few that CNBC Select was able to verify.

- **Arby's:** Up to 10% off at participating locations.
- **Buffalo Wild Wings:** Up to 10% off at participating locations.
- **Burger King:** Up to 10% off at participating locations.
- **Chick-fil-A:** [Free small drink with any purchase at participating locations](#).
- **DoorDash:** [DashPass](#) for Students plan available for \$4.99/month.
- **Dunkin':** Up to 10% off at participating locations.

Discounts on software

Software is essential for nearly all college students, whether it's a subscription to a streaming service or a necessary program to complete a school project.

Here are the software subscriptions that give college student discounts:

- **Adobe Creative Cloud:** Students receive a steep discount for the entire Creative Cloud at [\\$19.99 per month for the first 12 months](#).
- **Amazon Prime Student:** Free for the first six months, and then [half-price](#) (\$7.49/month) after that.
- **Evernote:** Students can get [up to 40% off](#) of a full year of Evernote Professional.
- **Microsoft Office:** Students are eligible to get the online version of [Microsoft 365 Personal for \\$2.99 per month](#), plus 1TB of online storage.
- **Prezi:** There's a free version, but [students can upgrade](#) for a modest \$3 or \$5 per month.
- **Slack:** For students wanting to communicate with fellow classmates, [Slack is a great option they can use with an 85% discount on Pro or Business+ paid plans](#).
- **Spotify:** [Spotify Premium Student](#) is available for \$5.99/month and includes access to Hulu (with ads) plan.
- **Youtube Premium:** [Student plan](#) available for \$7.99/month.

Discounts on furniture and home goods

- **Eight Sleep:** [Up to 6% off](#) mattress and accessories.
- **Leesa:** [Up to \\$50 off](#) select mattresses.
- **Bed Bath & Beyond:** [Up to 20% off](#) on four purchases
- **Pottery Barn:** [Up to 15% off](#)

Discounts on clothing

There are an infinite number of clothing brands that give college students discounts. We've rounded up a list of the more widely known retailers currently offering discounts, but a more extensive list can be found on [UNiDAYS](#).

- **Adidas:** [Up to 15% off](#)
- **Aeropostale:** [Up to 15% off](#)
- **American Eagle:** [Up to 20% off](#)
- **Calvin Klein:** [Up to 20% off select items](#)
- **H&M:** [Up to 10% off](#)

- **J.Crew:** [Up to 15% off](#)
- **Meshki:** [Up to 15% off](#)
- **Nike:** [Up to 10% off](#)

Best credit cards for college students

This is not an exhaustive list of everywhere you can save money with your college ID, so be sure to call your favorite retailer to see if they offer discounts.

In addition to discounts, using a credit card can help you save even further on your purchases. Whether you want to earn cash back or save up your miles for your next trip, a credit card is a useful tool to also build your [credit score](#). Just make sure you use your credit card wisely and try to pay off your balance in full each month.

Here are several of the [best credit cards for college students](#):

- **Discover it® Student Cash Back:** You can earn 5% cash back on everyday purchases (on up to \$1,500 in quarterly purchases, then 1%) for rotating categories each quarter up to the quarterly maximum when you activate. Plus, 1% on all other purchases. (See the full [Discover cash-back calendar here](#).)
- **Bank of America® Travel Rewards for Students:** You can earn 1.5X points per \$1 spent on each purchase. The points can be redeemed for travel, gift cards or statement credits to pay for flights, hotels, vacation packages, cruises, rental cars or baggage fees.
- **Discover it® Student Chrome:** You can earn 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on up to \$1,000 in combined purchases each quarter, automatically. Plus, earn unlimited 1% cash back on all other purchases.

Who can qualify for college student discounts?

Almost anyone attending college or another higher learning institute can qualify for a college student discount. It is based on active status as a student and there is typically no age maximum or minimum. Proof of enrollment is usually required by entering your student email address, verifying your information through a third party or showing your student ID.

How student discounts work

Student discounts are a way to [save money](#) from big ticket items to everyday purchases. Most student discounts require verification of enrollment in a college or other institute of higher learning. These discounts can include free items, percentage discounts or specific dollar amounts off.