

Privateer Bucks Basics

What is the Privateer Bucks Program?

A program for full-time, undergraduate students which will be assessed \$125 each semester for a declining balance plan. Students are loaded with a set amount of DB on their student ID. DB can be used to purchase food and beverages at any dining location on campus.

How does this program benefit students?

- Easy way to budget for snacks and food purchases while on campus; \$125 a semester is roughly \$.99 per day
- No need to make the \$125 purchase, process is automatic
- Financial Aid can be used towards the charge
- Students have no need to carry cash or credit cards
- DB is tax free
- Student catering options
- Students have money to easily meet up with friends to dine on campus and socialize instead of going off campus

Who is included in the Privateer Bucks Program?

All full-time, undergraduate students will be assessed \$125 each semester for a declining balance plan. Full-time, undergraduates enrolled only in online courses will be exempt.

What if I have already chosen a meal plan?

Students who have a mandatory meal plan or a scholarship meal plan will see two separate charges (the total price of the Meal Plan and the \$125 fee) and a credit (\$125) on their account. In other words, if you are required to purchase a Meal Plan or you have a scholarship, the \$125 fee will be waived.

What if my enrollment status changes?

The Privateer Bucks will be refundable if a student's enrollment status changes within the first 5 days of classes. (Examples: Drops from full-time to part-time, enrolls in online-only courses, withdraws from classes.) Adjustments to accounts will be made after the 5-day period has passed.

What if my enrollment status changes after the 5-day period?

The \$125 assessment will not be refunded if a student's enrollment status changes after the first 5 days of classes.

Are the Privateer Bucks refundable?

Any leftover Privateer Bucks at a student's time of matriculation or departure from UNO are refundable.

How to request a Privateer Bucks Refund?

Please send an email to dining@uno.edu including your Name, Student ID# and a valid Mailing Address. Privateer Bucks Refunds are processed twice a month. It usually takes 6-8 weeks to get your check on the mail.

The Purpose of the Privateer Bucks Program is three-fold:

1. **Enhancement of campus life.**

UNO has been primarily a commuter university mainly serving students from the greater metropolitan area. New initiatives to support a "Global UNO" are presently underway with the hopes of attracting a more diverse student population and increasing resident life on campus. Commuter students who spend more time on campus will further enhance our campus life.

2. **Improved academic performance.**

Research shows that higher education students who spend more time on campus perform better academically, graduate sooner and enjoy richer academic interactions than those who spend only a small amount of time on campus. Students who eat on campus, enjoying time in the community with peers and professors, rather than eating alone or in small groups at home, are far more likely to succeed in the rigorous academic environment of college life.

3. **Insures variety of food service choices.**

Implementing the commuter declining balance plan allows the university to continue to provide the current level of food service options on our campus. Students will be able to continue to enjoy all the options that are available to them campus wide.

Though many students appreciate the convenience of a declining balance plan we do understand this plan may not be desired or used by everyone. For those students who choose not to use the declining balance we have made this fee 100% refundable upon graduation or departure of UNO.

Meal Plan Basics

Meal Plan Terminology

Here is an overview of common meal plan terms.

Defining a Meal Plan

A meal plan is a product that grants the buyer some level of access to dining options on a campus. A plan is accessed using your UNO ID card, and is non-transferable – only available to the meal plan holder on the student ID. Meal plans typically include a pre-set number of **“Swipes/Meals”** and/or a set amount of **Declining Balance**.

Meals/ Swipes

Generally, a “swipe” entitles the plan holder to:

1. Access to the Galley (Dining Hall) located at The University Center.
2. Takeout from the Galley (Dining Hall) located at The University Center.
3. Cash Equivalency (\$7.25 maximum) in a Retail location.
 - a. Retail Locations include: Convenience Stores, Brewed Awakening Coffee Shops, Chick-fi-A, Subway, Suchic and The Sandbar.

Cash Equivalency: A pre-established dollar value (\$7.25) for use in a retail environment that enables the student to purchase items up to that value in exchange for a “swipe”. Overages to the limit are paid with DB, Privateer Bucks, cash or credit. Restrictions: must wait one hour between swipes.

Block Meals: Block meal plans consist of a specified number of meals that must be used during a specified period of time.

Declining Balance

Commonly referred to as DB, these are funds that are associated with meal plans or may be purchased throughout the semester. These can be spent in on-campus retail and residential dining locations, and operate similar to a debit card.

Add On DB: Add-On DB refers to Declining Balance that is purchased after the initial meal plan sales period each semester. It may be “added on” to an existing meal plan or may be a student’s first purchase of Declining Balance dollars. Add-On DB doesn’t expire unless you graduate or depart the University.

Bonus Dollars: Bonus Dollars are a separate type of declining balance funds typically provided as an incentive to purchase a meal plan or DB.

Meal Plan Types

Meal Plans may include of a number of meals in a specific time period, All Declining Balance, or a hybrid with meals in a specific time period and additional DB.

There are 4 Types:

1. Unlimited

Unlimited meal plans give participants an unlimited number of meal swipes for use at The Galley (dining hall) throughout the semester. Unlimited meal plans do not allow Equivalency. They include a set amount of DB. *Example – Ultimate All-Access with \$300 DB*

2. Weekly

Weekly plans offer a set number of meals to the student each week. Students cannot use more than the allotted number of meals during the week and must wait one hour between swipes. They often include a set amount of DB. *Example - 15 meals per week with \$200 DB*

3. Block

Block meal plans offer a set number of meals that can be used at any time during the semester. Students are not limited on the number of meals they can use in any particular week. They often include a set amount of DB. *Example - 50 meals per semester with \$344 DB*

4. All Declining Balance

All DB plans consist of only declining balance dollars and have no meal swipes.

Example - \$344 Declining Balance Plan.

Mandatory/Voluntary Status

Mandatory or Voluntary status describes whether or not a person is required by the campus to purchase some type of meal plan.

Mandatory status means that there is a minimum level of meal plan purchase required. At UNO all Pontchartrain Hall Residents are required to purchase one of the following Meal Plan options:

- 1. Freedom Plan: Redeem your Meals Anytime, Anywhere.**
 - 19 meals/week [Cash Equivalency]
 - \$100 Declining Balance dollars
 - Price: \$2,100/semester
- 2. Ultimate All-Access Plan: With full access, no restrictions and unlimited fuel for coffee lovers.**
 - Unlimited meals at The Galley
 - \$300 Declining Balance dollars
 - Unlimited drip coffee @ any location
 - Price: \$1,850/semester
- 3. Privateer All-Access Plan: With full access and no restrictions, a great value for anyone.**
 - Unlimited Meals at The Galley
 - \$175 Declining Balance dollars
 - Price: \$1,745/semester

4. Cap'n Plan: Meals are allotted and available each week.

- 15 Meals/week at The Galley
- \$200 Declining Balance dollars
- Price: \$1,625/semester

Important Notice: for Mandatory Meal Plans, unused Meals and DB balances expire on the last day of the semester or last day of finals week. Meal Plans and Declining Balance funds are non-refundable. When no choice is specified on your housing application, **Plan# 3: Privateer All-Access** will be automatically selected.

Voluntary status means there is no requirement for a meal plan purchase which means that you can choose from all our seven Meal Plan options! You are considered to be "voluntary status" if you live off-campus, Privateer Place or Lafitte Village.

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4. Cap'n Plan: Meals are allotted and available each week.

- 15 Meals/week at The Galley
- \$200 Declining Balance dollars
- Price: \$1,625/semester

5. 50 Block Plan: The best of both worlds.

- 50 Meals/semester
- \$344 Declining Balance dollars
- Price: \$700/semester

6. 25 Block Plan: When a little goes a long way.

- 25 Meals/semester
- \$210 Declining Balance dollars
- Price: \$395/semester

7. All DB Plan: The best value if you never know where you'll be eating next!

- \$354 Declining Balance Dollars
- \$15 Bonus
- Price: \$354/semester

Important Notice: for Voluntary Meal Plans, unused Meals expire on the last day of the semester or last day of finals week while leftover DB balances expire upon graduation or departure from the University.

Scholarships & Awards

UNO awards students for their academic achievements and works to assist those with financial need by utilizing grants, state supplements (such as TOPS), and scholarships to meet students' financial obligation to the University. See below to find the scholarships that offer dining coverage.

1. **Homer Hitt Scholarship:** Includes a **Cap'n Plan**. See below for plan details.
 - 15 Meals/week at The Galley
 - \$200 Declining Balance dollars
 - Price: \$1,625/semester
2. **Dining Scholarship # 1:** Includes 6 Meals/Week at The Galley + \$203 DB
3. **Dining Scholarship # 2:** Includes 5 Meals/Week at The Galley + \$404 DB

Financial Aid

To apply your Financial Aid towards your Meal Plan, please visit the Bursar's Office.

Ways to sign up

1. Sign up using Financial Aid/ Scholarship at Bursar's Office.
2. Online at www.unodining.com
3. Stop by our offices at the University Center Suite 114.
4. **Living at Pontchartrain Hall?** Sign up with your Housing Application.
Available Options for Pontchartrain Hall Residents: Plan#1 through Plan#4.

Important Notice: Meal Plans and Declining Balance funds are non-refundable.

All funds and plans purchased for use in The University of New Orleans are for the personal use of the owner of the account or plan only and are non-transferable. The University of New Orleans Dining Services funds and plans cannot be used as a gift card or gift certificate. Except as otherwise expressly stated, all UNO Dining funds and plans are non-refundable and will expire as applicable, upon graduation or departure from UNO.

Why is my meal plan not activated?

For Mandatory & Financial Meal Plans: You must first pay your minimum balance due as shown on your Webstar Account (25% of total due). Once this minimum balance is satisfied, please notify the Office of Bursar Operations to activate the meal plan.

For Online Purchases: Your Meal Plan should be activated within 1 business day. Please e-mail dining@uno.edu or call 504-280-6370 if you are experiencing difficulties.

For Dining Office Purchases: Your Meal Plan should be activated within 10 minutes. Please e-mail dining@uno.edu or call 504-280-6370 if you are experiencing difficulties.