

Meal Plan Questions & Answers

- **Who must have the All-Access Meal Plan?** First and Second Year Students who live in the residence halls (Peterson, Osborn, Schilling, Manor, Sorin and Drew) have signed a Housing and Meal Services contract that requires them to have the **All Access Meal Plan**.
- **Moving from All-Access to the 110-Block Meal Plan:** Once a student earns 64+ credits, they can move from the All-Access Plan to the 110-Block meal plan. You can fill out this [Meal Plan Exception Request](#) and attach proof of credits earned thus far.
- **Is a Meal Plan Required for upperclass students living in the Hamline Apartments?** Upperclass students are the only students allowed to live in the Hamline Apartments and a *meal plan is not required*. However, any upperclass student who wants to have a meal plan can absolutely purchase a meal plan of their choosing. Send an email to reslife@hamline.edu.
- **What if I have dietary restrictions, allergy concerns, cross-contamination questions or need special food accommodations?** We strongly suggest that you speak to the Director of Dining Services, Nick Ortega,, nortega01@hamline.edu, 651-523-2381, to see if your needs can be met.
- **As a commuter, can I get the mandatory \$200 declining balance removed from my student account?** No, the \$200 in declining balance (each semester) for commuters is a mandatory fee set by the university and a request for this fee to be removed will be denied. This \$200 can be used at Starbucks and Leo's convenience store.
- **Who can get the 40-Block Meal Plan?** Commuter students or those upperclass students who live in the Hamline Apartments are the only ones who are allowed to have the 40-block meal plan.
- **How long will my Declining Balance dollars last?** Your declining balance funds will carry over from fall to spring during the academic year. Any unused balance is removed at the end of the academic year. If you don't use it, you will lose it.
- **Can I get more Declining Balance added to my account?** Yes, please reach out to Dining Services at 651.523.2453.
- **Meal Plan Exception: What if I have a very special circumstance (religious, medical, eating disorder, etc.) and need to be excused from a meal plan?** If you have specific condition or circumstance, here is what you must do:
 - **First:** You must get very strong support documentation like medical records or letters of support from a dietician, nutritionist, eating disorder clinic, physician, priest, chaplain, pastor, therapist, counselor, Rabbi, etc. that shows proof that you need a decreased meal plan or no meal plan.
 - **Second:** You must fill out this [Meal Plan Exception Request](#) and attach the above letter, files, records, etc.
 - **TIP #1:** If you provide the correct documentation, the request will be approved very quickly by the committee and ResLife, Dining Services and Student Accounts will process your request within 2 to 5 business days.
 - **TIP #2:** If you submit the form without the correct documentation, it will not be forwarded to the committee for review and your approval process will be delayed and / or not approved at all and it will be classified as **"PENDING STATUS"** until you get the needed documentation for the committee to review.