

# UHCL HAWK MEAL PLAN (DINING DOLLARS)

Terms and conditions (Subject to change without notice)

## Overview:

Dining Dollars is a declining balance meal plan on your Hawk card. It is a fixed amount of money added to a person's ID card that functions like a debit card - each time one makes a meal purchase, the costs are deducted from the balance on your Hawk Card. A declining balance is a dollar-for-dollar exchange. This meal plan is available to the university community (students, faculty and staff), but is designed with residential students in mind.

## Definitions:

- Commuter Students – Students whose place of residence while attending university is not in a campus residence hall (Hunter Residence Hall).
- Residential Students – Students who live or reside in on-campus residence hall (Hunter Residence Hall), while attending university.
- Faculty – Individuals, specifically teachers, professors, lecturers, adjuncts with a common duty or obligation to provide instruction at a university. They are the academic staff of a university. Researchers and scholars are also part of university faculty.
- Staff – Individuals with varied administrative functions.
- Mandatory Participants – Residential students contractually bound by a Residence Hall Service Agreement to have a meal plan.
- Voluntary Participants – Commuter students, faculty and staff not required to have a meal plan.
- Academic Year – Fall, Spring and Summer terms.

## Requirements:

- Mandatory participants – A minimum meal plan of \$1,500 each semester of the academic year. If a meal plan is not selected by August 1st for the Fall semester and January 1st for Spring semester, a meal plan of \$1,500 will be auto assigned. Meal plan for Summer semester is optional.
  - A minimum meal plan for temporary residents \$500 per month.
- Voluntary participants – A minimum of \$50 initial purchase.

## Costs and Payment Methods:

- Available to all - Meal plan options \$1,500, \$1,680, or \$2,100.
- \$50 minimum for commuter students, faculty and staff.
- Payment methods include cash, check, financial aid, payment plan options via student's account and/or direct purchase with credit card via Hawk Card on-line.

## Restrictions:

- Dining Dollars must be used before the end of the semester in which they are purchased. This includes fall, spring and summer semesters.
- Unused Dining Dollars do not roll over from semester to semester.
- Dining Dollar balances left over at the end of any given semester, are non-refundable for all students.
- Additional Dining Dollars may be purchased to an existing plan with a minimum of \$50 with credit card via Hawk Card on-line.

- Dining plan refunds of the unused portion of student's dining plan at the beginning of a semester, are subject to the UHCL Tuition and Fee Refund schedule and Residence Hall Service Agreement.
- Dining Plans are not transferable. Hawk Cards must be present to access Dining Plans. Any attempt to use a Hawk card by someone other than the cardholder, will be subject to Student Conduct Policy.
- Dining Dollars cannot be converted to cash.
- Dining Dollars balances are forfeited, after one year of inactivity, for faculty and staff.

### Meal Plan Changes:

- The student is permitted to make changes to their meal plan (changing to a higher meal plan, changing to a lower meal plan, etc.) up to the 12th day of class, subject to the UHCL Tuition and Fee Refund schedule. Changes will not be accepted after the fee refund deadline per the UHCL Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule.
- During this period the student may make a change to their meal plan by sending an email to [foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu](mailto:foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu)

### Meal Plan Release Petition:

The student may submit a Meal Plan Release Petition up to the 12th day of class, for any reason as stated below. Petitions will not be accepted after the 12th day of class each semester. Submissions accepted via email to [foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu](mailto:foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu)

A Meal Plan Petition is not required for the following reasons:

- The student is accepted into a UHCL approved study abroad program with verification.
- The student receives an approved Housing Contract Release (for non-disciplinary purposes) from Student Housing and Residential Life.
- The student is academically dismissed with verification from the Dean of Students office or the student's undergraduate/graduate program.
- The student withdraws from UHCL due to medical reasons. Verification must be received from the Dean of Students office.
- The student is called to serve the country in an active duty status.

Meal Plan Release Petitions are considered by the Meal Plan Release Committee for well-documented extraordinary circumstances. While completing the petition, student will need to have any necessary documents available to submit based on specific reasons for petitioning:

- Financial: A significant change in income and expenses, i.e. bills, checking/savings, loans, tax returns, and/or W2's, since the start of the semester.
- Medical: Approved documentation from the Accessibility Support Center that supports an accommodation for a meal plan release.
- Housing: (students living in Hunter Residence Hall)
- Students who have been released from their Housing Contract (Residence Hall Service Agreement) due to disciplinary purposes must complete a meal plan release petition.
- Dietary: Documentation from UHCL staff dietitian stating on-campus dining options cannot meet dietary needs.
- For special diets, Dining Services has a staff dietitian available for private consultation, nutrition questions and meal planning. Email to set up an appointment: [foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu](mailto:foodservicefeedback@uhcl.edu).
- Other verification of circumstance.