

Answers to  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
about Campus Dining



**Q1: Why is the College making this change?**

A1: We felt that the previous declining balance meal plans needed to be simplified and wanted a meal plan that was designed to “fit” our resident students with services for the entire student population at Linn State Technical College. The new 14-Meal Plan offers three hot meals during the week, Monday through Thursday, and hot meals for Breakfast and Lunch on Friday plus \$50 in points that may be used in the Orbit Lounge. We chose the 14-Meal Plan for the value knowing that our resident population tends to leave campus over weekends and added the points for flexibility.

**Q2: How does my meal plan work?**

A2: Your meal plan works as declining meal system allowing 14 meals per week. Each time your card is swiped a meal is removed for the week. Dining Dollars in the way of Points will also be applied to your card at the start of each semester. Each item that you purchase that is not part of the meal plan is deducted from your Points balance. Your meal plan allows you to have access to three full meals per day, Monday – Thursday and two full meals on Friday without worry.

**Q3: What are Points?**

A3: Points function as Dining Dollars—funds that are applied to your card when you purchase a meal plan. Points may be used in the Main Stream Café or Orbit Lounge. Any remaining Point balance carries over from fall to spring semester but expire on the last academic day of the spring semester. Additional Points may be purchased at any time in \$50 dollar increments from the Cashier in the Nilges Technology Center.

**Q4: Who can buy a 14-Meal Plan?**

A4: Any LSTC student may buy the 14-Meal Plan. Meal plans may be purchased from the Cashier in the Nilges Technology Center.

**Q5: Are resident hall students required to purchase the meal plan?**

A5: Yes.

**Q6: What is the cost of the new meal plan for resident hall students?**

A6: The meal plan consists of 14 meals per week—three meals per day, Monday through Thursday and breakfast and lunch on Friday plus \$50 in “dining dollars” to use in the Orbit Lounge Café, for a la carte dining, or to treat a guest to a meal in the Main Stream Cafe. The cost is \$950 per semester.

**Q7: Where are the dining locations on campus?**

A7: The Main Stream Café is located in the lower level of the Information Technology Center and the Orbit Lounge is located on the main floor of the Activity Center.

**Q8: Will I have enough financial aid to cover the cost of the new plan?**

A8: That depends on your individual award. You can access that information in myLSTC or by contacting the Financial Aid Office at (573) 897-5000.

**Q9: What new food options will there be?**

A9: There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet line at Breakfast and Lunch that will include more food choices. This line is included in the 14-meal plan. Dinner will still be served in the Orbit Lounge. Resident students may choose to replace a meal choice with daily grill specials that will be posted.

**Q10: What other differences will I see in campus dining?**

A10: In addition to more food options, including soups and salad bar selections, Great Western Dining plans to improve the flow of the Main Stream Café making it easier to move in and around food stations; plan special events for students who dine on campus and update signage to include weekly menus, prices and a special events calendar.

**Q11: If I have a meal plan, do I get a separate meal card?**

A11: No. Just show your Student ID at the door. No need to carry cash or worry about losing your wallet!

**Q12: What other meal purchase options are available for non-resident students and employees?**

A12: Non-resident students and employees may buy a 5-Meal Plan offering five meals per week for \$380 per semester or a discounted 10-meal punch card for \$50 that can be used for any meal with unlimited servings from the resident buffet line (except for special event meals). Punch cards can be purchased from the Cashier in the Nilges Technology Center.

**Q13: If I'm not a resident student, can I go through the resident buffet line without a meal plan or a punch card?**

A13: Absolutely! The resident buffet line is open to all students and employees and costs \$4.50 for breakfast; \$5.50 for lunch; \$6.75 for dinner; and \$7.50 for special events.

**Q14: What's a "special event?"**

A14: When you eat in the same place every day, it can get monotonous so in order to keep that from happening, special event meals like "steak night" or "shrimp night" will be offered. The special events calendar will clearly note when specials will be on the menu, or when other celebrations are happening, i.e. Cinco de Mayo, Thanksgiving, Sundae Bar, etc.

**Q15: Can I still go to the Main Stream Café to pick up something from grab-and-go?**

A15: Absolutely! Grab-and-go is available; however, these items are not included in the 14-Meal Plan, 5-Meal Plan, or the 10-Meal Punch Card and are individually priced for purchase.

**Q16: When are the Main Stream and Orbit Lounge Cafés open?**

A16: MAIN STREAM CAFE HOURS OF OPERATION:  
Monday-Friday 7:00 AM— 2:00 PM  
*Hot Meal Times:*  
Monday-Thursday  
Breakfast 7:00 AM— 10:30 AM  
Lunch 10:45 AM— 2:00 PM

ORBIT LOUNGE HOURS OF OPERATION:  
Monday-Friday 2:00 PM— 7:00 PM  
*Hot Meal Times:*  
Monday-Thursday  
Dinner 4:00 PM— 7:00 PM

**Q17: What methods of payment are accepted?**

A17: Cash, debit/credit card, 14-Meal Plan, Commuter 5-Meal Plan or pre-paid punch card.

**Q18: What if I'm a resident student and have special dietary needs?**

A18: Great Western Dining is committed to meeting the dining needs of the students at LSTC. If the menu does not meet your dietary requirements, Great Western Dining will provide a meal consistent with your doctor's instructions. Just notify the Food Service Director, Nathan Bush at 573.897.5106.

**Q19: What if I live in the resident hall and I'm ill; can I still eat?**

A19: If you're ill and unable to come to the Café to eat, dining service staff will prepare a "sick student tray" and arrange to have it delivered to your residence room.

**Q20: Can family and friends eat with students?**

A20: Yes, family and friends can pay the breakfast, lunch, dinner, or special event rate to eat from the buffet line or purchase items from the grill or grab-and-go stations. Students may also use their Points on their 14-Meal Plan to purchase meals for family and friends.

**Q21: How do I order a sack lunch?**

A21: Contact the food service office 24 hours in advance to submit your order. Be sure to advise when it is needed and what time you will pick it up.

**Q22: Do I pay taxes on meals purchased in the dining hall?**

A22: Tax is only charged on purchases made with cash, credit, or debit cards. Food that is purchased using your Meal Plan is tax-exempt.

For more information, contact Linn State Technical College Campus Dining at (573)-897-5106.