

2011-2012 Dining Options

Who needs to purchase a meal plan?

A meal plan is mandatory for all residents residing in the residence halls with the exception of Creekview, Campus Apartments and College Creek. Three meal plans are offered so students can select the one that best suits their particular needs. The Green Plan is designed for the student with a small to average appetite or who may eat off campus and at home on weekends. This student typically skips breakfast, eats a light lunch and average dinner. The Gold Plan is designed for the student who eats a light breakfast and lunch, and a moderate dinner. The Humboldt Plan is for the student who eats a moderate breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Students living in Creekview, Campus Apartments and College Creek can choose from these same three meal plans, as well as the Mini Meal Plan. More information about the meal plans can be found in the Meal Plan Selection section of this site or at the Dining site www.humboldt.edu/dining.

Dining Services will be available on campus during posted hours on the following dates:

Semester	Dates of Service	Service
Fall Semester 114 Total Days of Full Service	August 16 th to November 18 th	Full – 95 Days
	November 19 th to November 27 th – Fall Break	Limited – Convenience Store
	November 24 th	Closed
	November 28 to December 16 th	Full – 19 Days
	December 17 th to January 2 nd	Closed
	January 3 rd to January 9 th – Semester Break	Limited – Convenience Store
Spring Semester 114 Total Days of Full Service	January 10 th to March 9 th	Full – 69 Days
	March 10 th to March 18 th – Spring Break	Limited – Convenience Store
	March 19 th to May 11 th	Full – 45 Days

How does a meal plan work?

Students who purchase a meal plan receive J Points. The amount of points depends upon the plan you select. Food items are purchased using J Points which are electronically deducted from your account. It is an a la carte declining balance point system. You are charged only for the items you select and not for missed meals.

The residence hall cafeteria is similar to a co-op in that each resident pays the same share of the fixed operating costs. Fixed operating costs consist of staff wages, benefits, supplies, rent, insurance, utilities, paper products, office costs, cleaning supplies, etc. The fixed operating costs fund operating The “J.”

For sample point pricing for items in The “J”, visit <http://www.humboldt.edu/housing/dining/mealplans.html>.

What are some of the advantages to a declining balance point system vs. “all-you-can-eat?”

The declining balance system offers a wider variety of food items to select from, allows a higher quality of food, and offers the convenience of being able to take items to go. Additionally, with a declining balance system light eaters do not subsidize heavy eaters. Remember, you do not lose J Points for missed meals.

In an “all-you-can-eat” cafeteria the hours are limited, the food quality and selections are limited, the light eaters subsidize the heavy eaters, you cannot take food to go, and you have no options of purchasing prepackaged foods or bottled drinks. With this system, it is to the cafeteria’s benefit if you miss a meal since you have already paid for it.

How many J Points do I have?

Your points are placed on your account at the beginning of each semester. The number of points you receive depends on which meal plan you selected. You can look up your J Point balance and transaction history at www.humboldt.edu/dining. The Housing Cashier and any Dining Services cashier can also tell you your J Point balance. Points that you did not use by the end of the fall are left on your account to use in the spring. Any balance on your account at the end of the academic year in spring will be lost.

Academic Year Dining Costs

Plan	Fixed Cost	J Points Cost	J Points Allotted	Price per J Points	Total Meal Plan Cost
Green	\$2325	\$1551	155,100	0.01	\$3876
Gold	\$2325	\$2251	225,100	0.01	\$4576
Humboldt	\$2325	\$2951	295,100	0.01	\$5276
Mini	\$1132	\$744	74,400	0.01	\$1876

Spring Semester Only Dining Costs

Plan	Fixed Cost	J Points Cost	J Points Allotted	Price per J Points	Total Meal Plan Cost
Green	\$1162.50	\$775.50	77,550	0.01	\$1938
Gold	\$1162.50	\$1125.50	112,550	0.01	\$2288
Humboldt	\$1162.50	\$1475.50	147,550	0.01	\$2638
Mini	\$566	\$372	37,200	0.01	\$938

Where can I use my J Points?

J Points may be redeemed at any of the dining service operations. It is important to note that a portion of the initial cost of the meal plan goes toward the operating cost of The “J.” This fixed cost pays for staff wages, supplies, utilities and so forth. As a result, all items in The “J” are priced without the fixed operating cost; therefore this becomes the best value for spending your J Points.

The “J,” the main dining room for residents and the campus, features a choice of three entrées per meal (one vegetarian), a build your own sandwich bar (lunch time only), a salad bar (lunch and dinner), a variety of beverages, snack items and assorted fruits and desserts. If you wish, you may design your own breakfast on the grill, cook your own waffles or toast your own bread or bagel, as well as purchase assorted “grab & go” meals and full breakfast entrées. The “J” is also a campus wireless “Hot Spot.”

“J Grill,” located in The “J,” is open Sunday through Friday nights and offers a variety of gourmet burgers, fries, charbroiled chicken and vegetarian options. All dishes that the “J Grill” serves are custom made to fit the taste of the customers who can watch their food being made through the glass enclosed cooking area.

Giant’s Cupboard or “The Cupboard” is a convenient on campus mini-grocery store for residence hall students located on the 1st floor of the Jolly Giant Commons. It carries a variety of snacks and vegetarian foods, as well as a variety of locally made items. Toiletries and school supplies are available for the student’s convenience.

The Depot has several unique food stations that offer a variety of flavors and prices. Some examples include Jack’s Grill, Hot Stuff Pizza, Los Bagels, Salsa City Mexican food and locally roasted organic coffees from Humboldt Bay Coffee Co. and Muddy Waters Coffee and Espresso. At the Depot you can find atmospheres to hang with friends, listen to music, or study in silence. “Hot spots” or Wireless Internet connections can be found throughout the Depot. Items are listed at cash price with a 25% discount given to customers using J Points.

The Library Café is a wireless internet coffee bar offering light snacks, coffee and espresso drinks. Conveniently located on the first floor of the Library, the café offers a modern coffee shop environment where students can study, meet with friends, and charge their laptops or cell phones, all while enjoying a bite to eat or their favorite beverage.



Hilltop Marketplace offer snacks as well as a variety of locally made food items. Toiletries and school supplies are also available for the student's convenience. Merchandise is listed at cash price with a 25% discount given to customers using J Points.

College Creek Market is a full service marketplace, offering a wide variety of groceries, featuring innovative organic and natural products as well as conventional classics. The market also offers a made-to-order sandwich bar, coffee and espresso, local gourmet baked goods, a salad bar, hot soups and more, making it the perfect stop to pick up lunch or a few essentials after class.

How are items priced in The "J"?

A typical entrée is priced at the cost of the ingredients divided by the number of servings, taking into account a waste factor. Prepackaged items are priced at our costs with consideration given to spoilage and breakage.

How much do I pay per J Point?

You pay a penny per J Point, excluding the initial payment of the fixed costs, and can purchase additional J Points at a penny per J Point without paying more fixed costs. Fixed costs are paid only once when the meal plan is opened. Points may not be added to the Mini meal plan.

Is it possible to run out of J Points?

It is not possible to design a meal plan that will fit everyone's needs. To avoid running out of points, we suggest you eat most of your meals in the "J," limit the amount of higher priced entrées you select during the year, or purchase a larger meal plan. You can also enjoy significant savings by using fountain drinks and cafeteria prepared items rather than purchasing prepackaged foods and bottled drinks. Rest assured that when you do need to buy additional J Points, they are only a penny per J Point and you are paying only for the cost of that item when you make your selection in The "J" (i.e. no more operating costs!). If you have a Green, Gold or Humboldt meal plan, you can purchase up to a maximum of 276,500 additional points.

Points cannot be added to Mini meal plans.

The Director of Dining Services is available to meet with students to help them budget and plan the most economical way of stretching their J Points!

How do I purchase additional J Points?

You can purchase additional J Points from the Housing Cashier located on the second floor of the Jolly Giant Commons. Payments can be made in person with cash, check or Visa/MasterCard/Discover, mailed to the Housing Cashier with check or credit card, or over the phone with a credit card number. Visit www.humboldt.edu/dining to add J Points over the web.

You can reach the Housing Cashier at:
707.826.5510, by email at housingcashier@humboldt.edu or by mail at:
Housing + Dining Services ATTN: Housing Cashier 355 Granite Avenue Arcata, CA 95521-7914

Can I change my meal plan?

We do offer opportunities to change meal plans each semester. Please change your meal plan by September 2, 2011 for the fall semester or by January 27, 2012 for the spring semester. We suggest you review your balance at the end of the first semester to see if you need to change plans.

What are Care Packages?

Our Care Package service offers a variety of gift packages for parents to send their students in the residence halls. Some of the most popular packages are the Birthday Celebration, Movie Night, Thinking of You and Get Well Pack. Visit our website at www.humboldt.edu/carepack to view all of our gift package options. You can also contact us by phone, 707.826.5310, or by e-mail, carepack@humboldt.edu. Parent Network members receive a 10% discount on all HSU Care Packages.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns regarding how the meal plan works?

Ron Rudebock, Director of Dining Services, can be reached at 707.826.3451 and welcomes any comments, suggestions, concerns or feedback that you would like to share.

Our website, www.humboldt.edu/dining, also has detailed information about each meal plan, all of our dining locations, hours of operations and menus.

