

Before You Borrow Checklist:

Think of how long and hard you have to work to earn your money. A little pre-planning can save you hundreds even thousands of dollars!

- Develop a budget including all your monthly expenses. Factor in periodic expenses such as medical, clothing, home and car maintenance. Include an emergency fund for unanticipated expenses.
- Determine, in advance, what monthly payment fits comfortably within your budget
- Ask yourself if this is a need or a want
- Check your credit reports for accuracy at www.annualcreditreport.com
- If you have damaged credit or need to establish credit, don't despair, you can make positive changes to your credit score in the preceding months before you borrow.
- Shop around when preparing to finance a loan. Multiple inquiries for credit, within a 30 day period, will only count as one inquiry on your credit report when shopping for automobile, home loan, or student loan financing.

To learn how to fix inaccuracies in your credit report, or how to develop an individualized action plan to improve your credit score, make an appointment with the Financial Wellness Center.

The Financial Wellness Center is a *free* service available to FVTC students. The contact number is (920) 735-2506 or email drew@fvtc.edu.