If dumpster diving isn’t your thang; 5 Tips to Shaving some Zeros off your Grocery Bill:

1. Stop pooing at home; go at school. School = free TP letting you reduce your monthly bill by $7-10 meaning more green for you and less brown.
2. Buy whole instead of individually cut protein. A whole chicken is only $8-10 whereas a package of thighs/breasts is usually $6+. Butcher what you need, freeze the rest and use the carcass to make stock.
3. Plan meals in advance. If you go in with a game plan you are less likely to impulse buy. Also, buy bulk so that you can make extras = leftovers/lunches down the road.
4. Buy vinegar instead of detergent/dish soap. Vinegar does the same thing but costs A LOT less. FYI: if you go the detergent route, don’t use balsamic.
5. Buy fruit and veg only as you need them if you buy fresh. Lots of waste comes from things going bad from having bought too much. If you can, buy frozen. They taste the same and last forever.

Avoid getting ripped-off for housing this semester:

1. Paying $750+/month for most students is too much. Don’t be afraid to shop around if you’re looking for accommodations. Living off whyte is great, but pricey. Up and down 109th there are plenty of suites for rent, or even look downtown/down the LRT system. You have UPASS and can travel and often can find places on the North-side for $500/month easier.
2. The physically higher you go, the pricier it will be; ground floor = cheap, and a hockey stick wedged into a window/doorway = peace of mind.
3. Shop-around in April/May for start-of-summer rates. When students leave, landlords are usually desperate to fill. Sign a lease for the lower rate and you’re locked-in for a year.
4. Take pictures before you move your stuff in. Those pictures can be used to prevent any mooching on your security deposit.
5. Familuarize yourself with the landlords-tennants act. The more you know/can easily point-out the less likely you’ll be taken-for-a-ride.
6. Finally, if you’re in a house, ask for a non-sale agreement in your lease. This prevents your landlord from breaking the lease and selling the house/space while you occupy it, meaning that you won’t suddenly find yourself on the streets or entertaining potential-buyers on walkthroughs.