

Student Financial Wellness Survey Fall 2023 Semester Report

Sul Ross State University

By Carla Fletcher and Allyson Cornett

March 2024





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Trellis Strategies is a leading strategic research and consulting firm focused on advancing postsecondary education and strengthening the workforce. Our commitment is to provide unparalleled insights into the modern learner experience, spanning from application through graduation. Leveraging over four decades of experience in serving higher education institutions and assisting students in navigating intricate processes, Trellis Strategies' dedicated team possesses the knowledge, insight, and expertise to empower organizations to turn data into impactful action and tangible results.

As experts in gathering and analyzing both local and national data, we identify opportunities and provide scalable, tailored solutions for our partners. Our approach involves the transformation of institutions through the enhancement of the learner experience leading to higher enrollment yields, retention rates, and improved student post-graduation outcomes.

Guided by our mission, we navigate the non-linear landscape of postsecondary education, assisting institutions in adapting policies and programs to accommodate diverse learner journeys. By dismantling barriers in policy and processes, we aim to enhance learner outcomes and rebuilding trust in the credentialing process. We are dedicated to the belief that education serves as the cornerstone for unlocking new opportunities, fostering individual economic mobility, and growing community prosperity. For more information, visit our website: www.trellisstrategies.org/about-us/

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About the Student Financial Wellness Survey

The Student Financial Wellness Survey (SFWS) is a self-reported, online survey that documents the financial wellbeing and success indicators of postsecondary students across the nation. The SFWS was designed and implemented by Trellis Strategies, starting in 2018. Since then, 3.1 million students have been surveyed at 263 institutions in 34 states.

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Want to participate in the Fall 2024 implementation of SFWS? Contact us at research@trellisstrategies.org.

Newsletter subscription: Interested in receiving our monthly newsletter, Strategies 360, via email? Subscribe here: <https://www.trellisstrategies.org/insights/newsletter/>

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Acknowledgements

On behalf of the entire Trellis team, thank you, for your commitment to understanding the learner experience on your campus. Our team at Trellis Strategies is focused on helping institutions evolve to better support the modern learner and we hope that the findings contained within will serve as a catalyst for robust conversation on your campus.

The Student Financial Wellness Survey is a national instrument that is only successful because of participating institutions like yours. By participating you have joined an incredible cohort of institutions that have shown a strong commitment to addressing the underlying financial barriers that students experience. We are very appreciative of your work supporting students in their educational pursuits.

The instrument, and this reporting, would not be possible without a great team at Trellis Strategies and our external partners who take the time to review the instrument, questions, and provide feedback on emerging topics. We are grateful for the collaborative nature of this field and the opportunity to learn and grow together as this works continues to evolve.

Finally, to the students who took the time to participate in the survey—thank you so much. Our team does not take for granted the trust that you've placed in us by telling us your story through your responses. It is our hope that the information learned from your participation will be used to support students for many years to come as they work towards achieving their goals.

Comments and requests for additional information regarding this report or any of Trellis' other publications are welcome. Please direct questions to:

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Executive Summary

The SFWS provides a snapshot of student wellbeing during the fall of 2023. This section highlights key metrics and select survey findings to help Sul Ross State University better understand students' experiences and provide them the support needed to reach their academic potential. Comments and requests for additional information regarding this report are welcome.

Table 1. Survey Metrics for Sul Ross State University	
Survey Population	1,203 students
Responses	101 students
Response Rate	8.4%
Completion Rate	85%
Median Time Spent	14 minutes

Key Findings: Financial Security

Many students—73 percent—reported they would have difficulty finding \$500 in cash or credit in case of an emergency. While some of these respondents would turn to their savings or to family members for support, others would have to use their credit cards, reduce their spending, or delay paying a bill. Q38-Q39

- Concerningly, 23 percent of respondents reported they would be unable to find \$500 if faced with an emergency. Q39

73%



of students reported they would have difficulty finding \$500 in cash or credit in case of an emergency.

A majority of respondents reported running out of money at least once since the beginning of the year. Q40

- Some reported running out of money more frequently than others, with 23 percent running out of money at least eight times during the year. Q40

Affording monthly expenses is a concern for many college students, especially with the increases in inflation rates the country has experienced in the past year.

- At Sul Ross State University, 65 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they worry about being able to pay their current monthly expenses. Q45

Since January 1, 2023, 89 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in that time frame said they had used it to purchase something they did not have the money for at least once. Many students who use credit cards did not pay off their balance each month. Q60

- While 65 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in the past year reported paying their bill on time, only 33 percent agreed or strongly agreed they fully pay off their balance each month, with the rest accruing interest at potentially high rates. Q60-Q62

Key Findings: Paying for College

While many students use savings or income to pay for college, it rarely is enough; few students are able to “pay their way through college.”

- Sixty-two percent of respondents used their personal savings to pay for college, and 60 percent reported using current employment as a resource. However, no respondents said they paid for college solely with their savings and current employment. Q25-Q26

When self-help, family support, and grant aid is not enough, students turned to various forms of credit.

- Student loans helped support 54 percent of respondents and 35 percent reported using credit cards as a method to pay for school. Q20, Q27

Students can sometimes find themselves in a financial emergency that threatens their ability to remain enrolled and be successful in college. Institutions with emergency aid funding can provide timely awards that provide some financial relief and keep students on track.

- At Sul Ross State University, 12 percent of respondents said they had received emergency aid from their school during 2023. Q29

Ninety-four percent of respondents at Sul Ross State University reported completing the FAFSA in the past 12 months. Among these students, 23 percent said they received assistance from parents and four percent had help from another family member. Q30-Q31

- Among those who did not complete the FAFSA, 60 percent said they did not think they would be eligible for financial aid, 40 percent believed they could afford to go to school without financial aid, and 40 percent did not want the possibility of taking on debt. Q32

Key Findings: Perceptions of Institutional Support

Most of the respondents at Sul Ross State University (81 percent) said they had experienced financial difficulties or challenges while in college. Q1

- Thirty-five percent of those who had experienced financial challenges while enrolled disagreed or strongly disagreed that their school is aware of their financial situation. Q3

81%

of respondents said they had experienced financial difficulties or challenges while in college.



Students experiencing financial difficulties might seek help from a number of different staff and faculty across the institution.

- Twenty-six percent of students had not spoken with anyone at their institution about their financial struggles. When they did speak with someone, they were most likely to speak with financial aid advisors. However, many sought financial advice from officials who were not experts in financial aid. Q13-Q17

It is vitally important that institutions have student support resources available, and that students are aware of these resources. Students who know there is support available may feel more supported and more connected to their school.

- Fifty-five percent of students agreed or strongly agreed their school has the support services to help them address their financial situation. Q2

College is a large expense for most students, so the cost of attendance is often one of the top factors when deciding where to enroll.

- Cost was an important or very important factor for 87 percent of respondents when deciding to attend their current institution. Q7

The SFWS includes a customer satisfaction rating (Net Promoter Score or NPS) to allow the institution to better understand how current students perceive their school.

- NPS categorizes respondents into promoters (scoring 9-10), passives (scoring 7-8), and detractors (scoring 0-6), with the formula $\%Promoters - \%Detractors = NPS$. A positive NPS (>0) is typically indicative of positive feedback and sentiment. In this survey, Sul Ross State University received a NPS of 12.37. Q18

Key Findings: Student Wellbeing

Fifty-one percent of surveyed students were food insecure, a condition which can negatively impact physical health, academic performance, and overall wellness. Q77-Q82

- Reports of food insufficiency—inadequacy in the amount of food intake due to a lack of money or resources—were common among respondents. Students often ate less than they felt they should (38 percent), cut the size of their meals (36 percent) and were hungry but did not eat (29 percent).

Although food insecurity was common, 43 percent of respondents were unaware that Sul Ross State University offered at least one food pantry or closet to assist students in need. Q83-Q85

- While food pantries often serve the broader campus community, internal and external factors—such as stigma, shame, and time constraints—may prevent eligible student from accessing this valuable resource. At Sul Ross State University, only 29 percent of students had visited at least one on- or off-campus food pantry. Q84

In the past year, 51 percent had faced challenges securing or maintaining affordable, safe, and quality housing. Although only four percent explicitly self-identified as homeless, 15 percent revealed they had been unhoused since starting college or within the previous 12 months. Q86-Q101

- The most common expressions of housing insecurity at Sul Ross State University included troubles paying rent (25 percent), difficulty paying the full amount of a gas or electricity bill (26 percent) and moving in with others due to financial problems (16 percent). Q86-Q91

Students with unreliable transportation are at risk of experiencing academic setbacks, including stopping or dropping out of college.¹ In this survey, 27 percent indicated their car was only somewhat reliable (24 percent) or not at all reliable (3 percent). Q102-106

- It was much more common for students to have a car (75 percent) than report ever using public transportation to commute to school (10 percent). For those who commute by car, 14 percent shared that parking is only “sometimes” (11 percent) or “rarely” (3 percent) available on campus when needed. These students may struggle to access campus, leading to difficulties with punctuality, satisfaction, and their ability to attend classes, meetings, and events. Q102-105

In the 14 days leading up to the survey, 42 percent had experienced symptoms of depression, while 48 percent reported generalized anxiety disorder. These findings underscore the widespread prevalence of mental health challenges among college students. Q72-Q75

- With such high percentages of students facing mental health crises—especially among vulnerable populations that are less likely to seek assistance on their own—institutions like Sul Ross State University are making quick interventions to keep these students in school, including offering targeted mental health supports, access to free or reduced-cost services, medical counseling, support groups, and more. However, 42 percent of respondents either did not know (37 percent) or indicated, incorrectly, that Sul Ross State University did not have mental health or counseling services available to students (4 percent). Q76

Key Findings: Special Populations at Sul Ross State University

Understanding the distinctive challenges and opportunities encountered by diverse student groups, including first-generation students, parenting students, and former foster youth, is crucial for fostering student success and cultivating a supportive learning environment.

- **First-Generation Experiences:** Fifty-one percent of respondents identified themselves as a first-generation college student, a group that can face unique challenges while navigating the higher education landscape. Q110
- **Balancing Parenting and Academics:** Student parents, constituting a mosaic of identities, experiences, and backgrounds, made up 25 percent of the surveyed population at Sul Ross State University. Thirty-five percent of these students spent over 40 hours a week providing care for their dependents. Compared to their peers without dependents, these students may struggle to balance their caregiving responsibilities with their educational goals.² Q33, Q115
- **Juggling Multiple Personas:** Sixty-eight percent of students reported working for pay at Sul Ross State University. Over half of these respondents were working more than 40 hours a week. Among employed students, 60 percent identified as a “student who works,” while the other 40 percent saw themselves as a “worker who goes to school.” As the student persona becomes lower in priority, it may become more difficult for that individual to persist to graduation. Q19, Q125-Q126
- **LGBTQIA+ Representation:** Fourteen percent of respondents at Sul Ross State University belong to the LGBTQIA+ community. These students may encounter higher rates of discrimination, social stigma, and basic needs and mental health challenges compared to non-LGBTQIA+ peers. Q132



As the student persona becomes lower in priority, it may be more difficult for that individual to persist to graduation.

Survey Overview

Trellis Strategies' Student Financial Wellness Survey (SFWS) is a self-reported, web-based survey that seeks to document the financial well-being and student success indicators of postsecondary students at institutions across the nation. The survey opened on October 23, 2023 and closed on November 13, 2023. A total of 142 institutions participated in the survey—93 public two-year institutions, one private two-year institution, 36 public four-year institutions, and 12 private nonprofit four-year institutions.

Across all four-year students responding to the survey, 75 percent reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while in college. These struggles can take on any number of different forms. Among four-year students:

- Fifty-eight percent of respondents had experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity – food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness. Eight percent of respondents had experienced all three.
- Nearly one in five students who had a car reported it was only somewhat reliable or not at all reliable, and 15 percent of all four-year respondents said they sometimes, often, or always missed class due to lack of reliable transportation (including public transportation).
- Twenty-one percent of parenting students reported missing at least one day of classes due to lack of childcare.
- More than a quarter of respondents (27 percent) who worked while enrolled said they missed at least one day of classes due to conflicts with their job.
- Almost a quarter of respondents (23 percent) reported using at least one form of public assistance during 2023 (e.g., food, unemployment, housing, utility, medical, or childcare).
- Seven percent had borrowed either a payday loan or an auto title loan during the year.
- Fifteen percent would not be able to get \$500 in cash or credit from any resource in order to meet an unexpected need within the next month.
- Most respondents (64 percent) reported running out of money at least once during the year, and 17 percent ran out of money eight or more times.
- Twenty percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they know how they will pay for college the next semester, which was less than three months away at the time of survey implementation.

Nearly half (47 percent) of respondents who reported experiencing financial challenges while in college said they had difficulty concentrating on schoolwork because of their financial situation. This underscores the importance of dedicating resources to building out and expanding student support services. Students' basic needs must be met in order for them to fully focus on their academics.

Students and their families are willing to make the investment in their future. Sixty-seven percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cost of college was worth it, and 86 percent agreed or strongly agreed that their family believes a college degree is worth the investment.

Sul Ross State University participated in the Fall 2023 implementation of the SFWS.

Table 2. Survey Characteristics		
Characteristic	Population (N=1,203)	Respondents (n=101)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%
Asian, Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	1%	0%
Black/African-American	6%	3%
Hispanic/Latino	71%	76%
International	0%	0%
White	19%	20%
Multiple	2%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Race/Ethnicity Not Reported	1%	0%
Gender		
Female	59%	82%
Male	41%	18%
Self-Identify/Not Reported	0%	0%
Enrollment Intensity		
Full-time	63%	62%
Part-time	37%	38%
Enrollment Intensity Not Reported	0%	0%
Class Year		
1st (<30 credits earned)	50%	52%
2nd (30-59 credits earned)	32%	30%
3rd (60-89 credits earned)	12%	15%
4th (90-120 credits earned)	5%	3%
5th (120+ credits earned)	1%	0%
Class Year Not Reported	0%	0%
Age		
Average Age (Years)	23.6	24.3
GPA		
Average GPA	2.9	2.9

Comparison groups are derived from aggregate data collected from all 142 schools participating in the survey and are presented by sector. Values presented in this report are rounded; therefore, the sum of response frequencies may not equal 100 percent. A description of the methodology, tests for representativeness, scales used in the survey, and a list of the institutions that participated in the 2023 SFWS can be found in the appendices to this report.

Survey Frequencies

Q1: While in college, have you experienced financial difficulties or challenges?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	81%	75%
No	19%	21%
I Don't Know	0%	4%

n=101 n=25696

Q2: My school has the support services to help me address my financial situation.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	14%	11%
Agree	41%	40%
Neutral	38%	32%
Disagree	5%	13%
Strongly Disagree	2%	5%

n=98 n=24664

Q3: My school is aware of the financial challenges I face.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	8%	8%
Agree	29%	29%
Neutral	29%	30%
Disagree	28%	24%
Strongly Disagree	7%	10%

n=98 n=24636

Q4: I have difficulty concentrating on my schoolwork because of my financial situation.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	17%	14%
Agree	32%	34%
Neutral	30%	24%
Disagree	14%	23%
Strongly Disagree	7%	6%

n=81 n=18541

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q1

Q5: The cost of college is a good investment for my financial future.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	38%	25%
Agree	39%	43%
Neutral	12%	22%
Disagree	9%	8%
Strongly Disagree	2%	3%

n=98 n=24649

Q6: My family believes a college degree is worth the investment.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	55%	46%
Agree	33%	40%
Neutral	9%	10%
Disagree	1%	3%
Strongly Disagree	2%	2%

n=98 n=24646

Q7:

How important was cost (tuition, room and board, textbooks and course supplies, equipment, transportation, etc.) as a factor when deciding to attend your institution?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Very Important	56%	52%
Important	31%	27%
Somewhat Important	12%	16%
Not Important	1%	4%
Not Applicable	0%	1%
<i>n=98 n=24527</i>		

Q8:

Tuition - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	15%	14%
Agree	52%	38%
Neutral	22%	20%
Disagree	9%	18%
Strongly Disagree	1%	8%
Not Applicable	1%	1%
<i>n=97 n=24243</i>		

Q9:

Housing - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	4%	5%
Agree	14%	16%
Neutral	36%	28%
Disagree	20%	24%
Strongly Disagree	4%	12%
Not Applicable	22%	16%
<i>n=97 n=24195</i>		

Q10:

Food - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	2%	6%
Agree	16%	24%
Neutral	35%	28%
Disagree	20%	20%
Strongly Disagree	8%	9%
Not Applicable	19%	13%
<i>n=97 n=24196</i>		

Q11:

Transportation - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	0%	15%
Agree	20%	27%
Neutral	40%	27%
Disagree	10%	10%
Strongly Disagree	7%	6%
Not Applicable	23%	15%
<i>n=97 n=24200</i>		

Q12:

Textbooks - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	9%	10%
Agree	35%	25%
Neutral	25%	22%
Disagree	20%	27%
Strongly Disagree	6%	15%
Not Applicable	5%	2%
<i>n=97 n=24229</i>		

**Q13-
Q17:** During my time at school, I have spoken with the following individuals about my financial struggles. (Check all that apply)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Financial Aid Advisor	62%	41%
Academic Advisor	44%	39%
Faculty Member	27%	22%
Other Staff	10%	15%
I Have Not Spoken With Any of These Individuals	26%	38%

*Percentages indicate respondents who chose at least one of the above choices

Q18: How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a friend or family member?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
0 (Not at All Likely)	0%	1%
1	1%	1%
2	1%	1%
3	5%	2%
4	5%	3%
5	9%	9%
6	5%	11%
7	15%	19%
8	19%	20%
9	8%	10%
10 (Very Likely)	31%	22%

n=97 n=24028

Q18: Net Promoter Score (NPS)* How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a friend or family member?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Promoters (Score 9-10)	39%	32%
Passives (Score 7-8)	34%	40%
Detractors (Score 0-6)	27%	28%
Net Promoter Score (NPS)*	12.37	4.33

n=97 n=24028

* A Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a research-based method to benchmark and compare customer satisfaction ratings across different services, businesses, and products. NPS uses a 0-10 scale. Those who score 9-10 are promoters, 7-8 are passives, and 0-6 are detractors. %Promoters - %Detractors = NPS. A positive NPS (>0) is generally considered good, with highest performers usually between 50 and 80.

Q19: Do you work for pay?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	68%	68%
No	28%	29%
I Don't Know	4%	3%

n=97 n=23996

Q20: Student loan(s) I have taken out for myself - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	54%	42%
No	46%	56%
I Don't Know	0%	2%

n=97 n=23443

Q21: Student loan(s) my parents took out - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	8%	15%
No	89%	81%
I Don't Know	2%	4%
	<i>n=95</i>	<i>n=23084</i>

Q22: Other support from my parents and/or family - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	51%	53%
No	47%	45%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=95</i>	<i>n=23302</i>

Q23: Pell grant and/or other grants - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	76%	51%
No	22%	45%
I Don't Know	2%	4%
	<i>n=97</i>	<i>n=23306</i>

Q24: Scholarships - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	47%	62%
No	49%	35%
I Don't Know	4%	3%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23409</i>

Q25: Current income - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	60%	60%
No	38%	37%
I Don't Know	2%	3%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23332</i>

Q26: Personal savings - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	62%	61%
No	37%	37%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
	<i>n=95</i>	<i>n=23290</i>

Q27: Credit cards - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	35%	33%
No	63%	64%
I Don't Know	2%	3%
	<i>n=97</i>	<i>n=23017</i>

Q28: Military or veteran benefits - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	4%	6%
No	94%	92%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=22733</i>

Q29: Since January 1, 2023, have you received emergency aid from your institution?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	12%	5%
No	76%	82%
I Don't Know	11%	14%
	<i>n=97</i>	<i>n=23804</i>

Q30: In the past 12 months, did you or someone on your behalf complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	94%	78%
No	6%	19%
I Don't Know	0%	3%
	<i>n=97</i>	<i>n=23679</i>

Q31: Did you receive any help in completing the FAFSA? Check all that apply.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
I completed the FAFSA on my own	66%	68%
Parents	23%	45%
Another family member	4%	4%
University or college financial aid office	14%	4%
Another on-campus office or resource	7%	1%
Community organization or college access program (e.g., TRiO, College Forward, etc.)	3%	2%
Other	13%	7%
	<i>n=119</i>	<i>n=24262</i>
<i>*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30</i>		

Q32: Did any of the following contribute to your decision to not complete the FAFSA? Please check all that apply.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
The application form(s) were too much work or too time-consuming	40%	13%
I did not want the possibility of taking on debt	40%	18%
I did not have enough information about how to apply for financial aid	20%	16%
I could afford to go to school without financial aid	40%	21%
I did not think I would be eligible for financial aid	60%	53%
I did not plan to continue my degree/program	0%	1%
Other reason(s)	20%	31%
	<i>n=11</i>	<i>n=6628</i>
<i>*Of respondents who answered 'No' to Q30</i>		

Q33: Are you a parent, primary caregiver, or legal guardian to any children?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	25%	13%
No	75%	86%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23497</i>

Q34: Your spouse - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	18%	9%
No	82%	90%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23141</i>

Q35: A child or children - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	23%	13%
No	76%	87%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23202</i>

Q36: Your parent(s) or guardian(s) - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	14%	13%
No	85%	86%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=92</i>	<i>n=23079</i>

Q37: Other family members - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	4%	8%
No	93%	91%
I Don't Know	2%	1%
	<i>n=91</i>	<i>n=23009</i>

Q38: Would you have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit in order to meet an unexpected need within the next month?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	73%	54%
No	20%	34%
I Don't Know	7%	12%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23447</i>

Q39: Imagine that you had to pay a \$500 cost unexpectedly in the next month. In this situation, which of the following resources would you turn to first?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
My savings	22%	32%
My parent(s) or other family member(s)	24%	27%
A credit card	11%	13%
Reducing my spending	6%	6%
Delaying paying a bill	13%	6%
Other	1%	2%
I would not be able to get \$500	23%	14%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23384</i>

Q40: Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you run out of money?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	21%	36%
One time	4%	8%
Two Times	11%	11%
Three Times	7%	10%
Four Times	18%	7%
Five Times	7%	7%
Six Times	6%	3%
Seven Times	2%	1%
Eight or More Times	23%	17%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23254</i>

Q41:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow money from your family and/or friends?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	22%	34%
One time	6%	10%
Two Times	23%	12%
Three Times	9%	11%
Four Times	9%	7%
Five Times	11%	6%
Six Times	3%	3%
Seven Times	1%	1%
Eight or More Times	15%	17%
	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=23161</i>

Q42:

I always pay my bills on time.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	29%	34%
Agree	45%	42%
Neutral	16%	15%
Disagree	9%	7%
Strongly Disagree	2%	2%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23044</i>

Q43:

I follow a weekly or monthly budget.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	18%	14%
Agree	35%	35%
Neutral	30%	25%
Disagree	15%	20%
Strongly Disagree	2%	5%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23027</i>

Q44:

I know how to manage my finances well.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	15%	14%
Agree	48%	43%
Neutral	25%	26%
Disagree	10%	13%
Strongly Disagree	2%	3%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=23034</i>

Q45:

I worry about being able to pay my current monthly expenses.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	20%	19%
Agree	45%	33%
Neutral	21%	22%
Disagree	11%	19%
Strongly Disagree	3%	7%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23026</i>

Q46:

I worry about having enough money to pay for school.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	34%	31%
Agree	41%	32%
Neutral	12%	15%
Disagree	10%	15%
Strongly Disagree	3%	7%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23034</i>

Q47:

I know how I will pay for college next semester.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	10%	17%
Agree	49%	43%
Neutral	23%	21%
Disagree	11%	13%
Strongly Disagree	7%	6%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23028</i>

Q48: It is important that I support my family financially while in college.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	23%	16%
Agree	34%	22%
Neutral	19%	31%
Disagree	19%	20%
Strongly Disagree	4%	12%
	<i>n=94</i>	<i>n=23016</i>

Q49: I know how to keep myself from spending too much.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	20%	22%
Agree	53%	51%
Neutral	20%	15%
Disagree	5%	10%
Strongly Disagree	1%	2%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22757</i>

Q50: I know where to find the advice I need to make decisions involving money.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	18%	16%
Agree	34%	43%
Neutral	20%	20%
Disagree	22%	16%
Strongly Disagree	5%	5%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22731</i>

Q51: Food Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	17%	11%
No	80%	86%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22493</i>

Q52: Unemployment Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	1%
No	99%	97%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22472</i>

Q53: Housing Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	9%	2%
No	90%	96%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22468</i>

Q54: Utility Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	4%	3%
No	95%	94%
I Don't Know	1%	3%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22466</i>

Q55: Medical Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	26%	15%
No	73%	81%
I Don't Know	1%	4%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22469</i>

Q56: Child Care Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	5%	2%
No	92%	96%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=93</i>	<i>n=22447</i>

Q57: Credit Card - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	59%	59%
No	37%	40%
I Don't Know	3%	2%
<i>n=91 n=22370</i>		

Q58: Pay Day Loan - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	7%	4%
No	88%	91%
I Don't Know	6%	5%
<i>n=89 n=22105</i>		

Q59: Auto Title Loan - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	3%	4%
No	90%	91%
I Don't Know	7%	5%
<i>n=88 n=22094</i>		

Q60: Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you use a credit card for something you didn't have money for?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	11%	27%
One Time	6%	6%
Two Times	13%	9%
Three Times	19%	9%
Four Times	9%	7%
Five Times	7%	7%
Six Times	4%	3%
Seven Times	2%	2%
Eight or More Times	30%	31%
<i>n=54 n=13041</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q61: I always pay my credit card bill on time.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	30%	42%
Agree	35%	38%
Neutral	20%	10%
Disagree	11%	8%
Strongly Disagree	4%	3%
<i>n=54 n=12992</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q62: I fully pay off my credit card balance each month.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	9%	25%
Agree	24%	21%
Neutral	24%	13%
Disagree	19%	22%
Strongly Disagree	24%	19%
<i>n=54 n=12972</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q63: Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow a pay day loan?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
One time	50%	35%
Two Times	17%	21%
Three Times	0%	15%
Four Times	17%	10%
Five Times	17%	5%
Six Times	0%	3%
Seven Times	0%	2%
Eight or More Times	0%	10%
<i>n=6 n=862</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q58*

Q64: Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow an auto title loan?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
One time	100%	80%
Two Times	0%	9%
Three Times	0%	4%
Four Times	0%	2%
Five Times	0%	1%
Six Times	0%	0%
Seven Times	0%	0%
Eight or More Times	0%	3%
	n=3	n=859

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q59

Q65: Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you sell your belongings to make ends meet (like at a pawn shop, online marketplace, over social media, etc.)?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	49%	67%
One time	10%	7%
Two Times	9%	9%
Three Times	10%	6%
Four Times	9%	3%
Five Times	7%	2%
Six Times	1%	1%
Seven Times	1%	0%
Eight or More Times	5%	3%
	n=92	n=22268

Q67: I have more student loan debt than I expected to have at this point.*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	36%	31%
Agree	34%	31%
Neutral	10%	18%
Disagree	12%	14%
Strongly Disagree	8%	5%
	n=50	n=9117

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q68: How confident are you that you will be able to pay off the debt acquired while you were a student?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not At All Confident	26%	29%
Somewhat Confident	44%	44%
Confident	24%	19%
Very Confident	6%	8%
	n=50	n=9101

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q69: When you first received your student loan, did you receive any in-person or online counseling that informed you about your student loans?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes, online	54%	44%
Yes, in-person	18%	5%
I did not receive counseling	24%	42%
I don't know	4%	9%
	n=50	n=9103

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q70:

The amount of total debt (e.g. credit card debt, car loan debt, or money owed to family or friends) I have right now is manageable.

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Strongly Agree	7%	8%
Agree	26%	30%
Neutral	23%	20%
Disagree	23%	14%
Strongly Disagree	9%	8%
I Do Not Have Other Debt	12%	19%
	n=91	n=21991

Q71:

How confident are you that some or all of your student loans will be forgiven?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not At All Confident	66%	65%
Somewhat Confident	20%	27%
Confident	8%	6%
Very Confident	6%	2%
	n=50	n=9072

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

**Q72-
Q73:**

Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Major Depressive Disorder - Likely	42%	33%
Major Depressive Disorder - Negative	58%	67%
	n=91	n=21843

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

**Q74-
Q75:**

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Likely	48%	45%
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Negative	52%	55%
	n=91	n=21828

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

Q72:

Having little interest or pleasure in doing things - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not at all	34%	33%
Several days	32%	39%
More than half the days	19%	16%
Nearly every day	15%	12%
	n=91	n=21833

Q73:

Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not at all	33%	37%
Several days	32%	37%
More than half the days	20%	15%
Nearly every day	15%	11%
	n=91	n=21808

Q74:

Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not at all	19%	20%
Several days	37%	38%
More than half the days	18%	21%
Nearly every day	26%	22%
	n=91	n=21807

Q75: Not being able to stop or control worrying - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Not at all	26%	30%
Several days	32%	34%
More than half the days	19%	17%
Nearly every day	23%	19%
	n=91	n=21777

Q76: Does your school have mental health or counseling services available for students?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	58%	82%
No	4%	2%
I don't know	37%	17%
	n=91	n=21875

Q77-Q82: Six-Question USDA Food Security Scale (30-Day)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
High or Marginal Food Security	49%	54%
Low Food Security	24%	23%
Very Low Food Security	27%	23%
	n=90	n=21466

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

Q77: The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have money to get more (in the last 30 days).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Often	10%	10%
Sometimes	35%	29%
Never True	45%	56%
I Don't Know	10%	6%
	n=91	n=21797

Q78: I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals (in the last 30 days).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Often	18%	17%
Sometimes	38%	28%
Never True	36%	50%
I Don't Know	8%	5%
	n=91	n=21767

Q79: In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	36%	37%
No	54%	58%
I don't know	10%	5%
	n=91	n=21777

Q80: How many days did this happen? (Skipped or cut size of meals due to money)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Fewer than 3 days	24%	23%
Three or more days	70%	65%
I Don't Know	6%	13%
	n=33	n=8018

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q79

Q81: In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	38%	35%
No	53%	60%
I don't know	9%	5%
	n=90	n=21555

Q82: In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough food?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	29%	29%
No	64%	66%
I don't know	8%	5%
	n=91	n=21733

Q83: Does your school have a food pantry or food closet on campus?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	57%	49%
No	5%	4%
I don't know	38%	47%
	n=86	n=20781

Q84: Have you visited a food pantry, on or off campus, since January 1, 2023?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	29%	14%
No	69%	83%
I don't know	2%	3%
	n=91	n=21720

Q85: Please select the type(s) of food pantries you have visited since January 1, 2023:

	SRSU	Public 4 year
On-campus food pantry or food closet at my school	73%	79%
Off-campus food pantry or food bank (e.g., at a church, non-profit organization, regional food bank, etc.)	31%	32%
Other	4%	3%
	n=28	n=3315

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q84*

Q86-Q91: Housing Security Scale (Prior 12 Months)*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Housing Secure	49%	61%
Housing Insecure	51%	39%
	n=89	n=21631

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q86: I had difficulty paying for my rent (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
True	25%	23%
False	65%	70%
I Don't Know	10%	7%
	n=89	n=21611

Q87: I didn't pay the full amount of my rent (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
True	3%	7%
False	89%	87%
I Don't Know	8%	6%
	n=89	n=21594

Q88: I had difficulty paying the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
True	26%	22%
False	65%	72%
I Don't Know	9%	5%
	n=89	n=21599

Q89: I moved 3 or more times (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4 year
True	3%	5%
False	91%	92%
I Don't Know	6%	3%
	n=89	n=21596

Q90: I lived with others beyond the expected capacity of my house or apartment (past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	15%	8%	
False	83%	88%	
I Don't Know	2%	4%	
	n=89	n=21602	

Q91: I moved in with other people due to financial problems (past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	16%	14%	
False	81%	83%	
I Don't Know	3%	3%	
	n=89	n=21589	

Q92-Q101: Homelessness Scale*			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
No Indication of Homelessness	85%	88%	
Homeless	15%	12%	
	n=89	n=21665	

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

Q92: Since starting college, have you ever been homeless?			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
Yes	4%	3%	
No	92%	96%	
I Don't Know	3%	1%	
	n=89	n=21650	

Q93: I was thrown out or forced out of my home (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	6%	3%	
False	93%	96%	
I Don't Know	1%	1%	
	n=87	n=21568	

Q94: I was evicted from my home (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	1%	1%	
False	98%	98%	
I Don't Know	1%	1%	
	n=87	n=21549	

Q95: I stayed in a shelter, transitional housing, or independent living program (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	0%	1%	
False	98%	98%	
I Don't Know	2%	1%	
	n=88	n=21557	

Q96: I stayed in an abandoned building (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	0%	0%	
False	99%	99%	
I Don't Know	1%	1%	
	n=88	n=21531	

Q97: I didn't know where I would sleep at night (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	3%	2%	
False	94%	97%	
I Don't Know	2%	1%	
	n=88	n=21514	

Q98: I didn't have a home (in past 12 months).			
	SRSU	Public 4 year	
True	3%	3%	
False	95%	95%	
I Don't Know	1%	1%	
	n=88	n=21533	

Q99:	I temporarily stayed with a relative, friend, or couch surfed while I looked for housing (in past 12 months).		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	True	13%	9%
	False	86%	90%
	I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=88</i>	<i>n=21548</i>	

Q100:	I slept in an outdoor location such as a street, sidewalk, or alley, bus or train stop (in past 12 months).		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	True	0%	1%
	False	99%	98%
	I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=88</i>	<i>n=21550</i>	

Q101:	I slept in a closed area/space not meant for human habitation such as a car or truck, van, RV, or camper, encampment or tent, or unconverted garage, attic, or basement (in past 12 months).		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	True	1%	2%
	False	98%	97%
	I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=88</i>	<i>n=21545</i>	

BNI_ Any	Basic Needs Insecure - identified as either food insecure and/or housing insecure and/or homeless.		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Yes	68%	58%
	No	32%	42%
		<i>n=91</i>	<i>n=21760</i>

BNI_ FH	Basic Needs Insecure - identified as both food insecure and housing insecure		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Yes	35%	27%
	No	65%	73%
		<i>n=89</i>	<i>n=21584</i>

BNI_ ALL	Basic Needs Insecure - identified as food insecure, housing insecure, and homeless		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Yes	9%	8%
	No	91%	92%
		<i>n=89</i>	<i>n=21672</i>

Q102:	Do you have a car?		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Yes	75%	75%
	Sometimes	6%	4%
	No	19%	21%
	<i>n=88</i>	<i>n=21604</i>	

Q103:	How reliable would you say your car is?*		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Very Reliable	39%	50%
	Reliable	33%	33%
	I Don't Know	0%	0%
	Somewhat Reliable	24%	15%
	Not At All Reliable	3%	2%
		<i>n=66</i>	<i>n=16262</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q102*

Q104:	Parking is available on campus when I need it.		
		SRSU	Public 4 year
	Never	2%	8%
	Rarely	3%	16%
	Sometimes	11%	22%
	Often	18%	20%
	Always	55%	19%
	Not applicable	12%	15%
		<i>n=66</i>	<i>n=16266</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q102*

Q105: Do you use public transportation to get to school?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	66%	56%
Rarely	5%	9%
Sometimes	3%	9%
Often	1%	5%
Always	1%	7%
Not applicable	24%	14%

n=88 n=21583

Q106: Have you ever missed class due to lack of reliable transportation?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Never	61%	55%
Rarely	11%	16%
Sometimes	11%	12%
Often	0%	3%
Always	0%	1%
Not applicable	16%	13%

n=88 n=21579

Q107-Q109: Financial Knowledge Questions*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Zero Questions Correct	21%	19%
One Question Correct	22%	18%
Two Questions Correct	32%	27%
Three Questions Correct	25%	36%

n=87 n=21328

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q107: Imagine that the interest rate on your savings account is 1% per year and inflation is 2% per year. After 1 year, would you be able to buy more than today, exactly the same as today, or less than today with the money in this account?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
More Than Today	9%	6%
Exactly The Same As Today	9%	10%
Less Than Today (correct answer)	48%	54%
I Don't Know	33%	30%

n=87 n=21383

Q108: Suppose you have \$100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much would you have in the account if you left the money to grow?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
More Than \$102 (correct answer)	47%	64%
Exactly \$102	8%	6%
Less Than \$102	11%	5%
I Don't Know	33%	25%

n=87 n=21359

Q109: Suppose you borrowed \$5,000 to help cover college expenses for the coming year. You can choose to repay this loan over 10 years, 20 years, or 30 years. Which of these repayment options will cost you the least amount of money over the length of the repayment period?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
10-Year (correct answer)	67%	61%
20-Year	6%	5%
30-Year	5%	12%
I Don't Know	23%	22%

n=87 n=21369

Q110: Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend college?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	51%	35%
No	48%	64%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
	<i>n=87</i>	<i>n=21428</i>

Q111: Are you a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	3%
No	100%	97%
	<i>n=87</i>	<i>n=21421</i>

Q112: Did you transfer to your current institution from another institution?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	63%	34%
No	34%	65%
I don't know	2%	1%
	<i>n=87</i>	<i>n=21404</i>

Q113: Do you plan on transferring from your school to another institution in the future?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	13%	9%
No	68%	74%
I don't know	20%	18%
	<i>n=87</i>	<i>n=21406</i>

Q115: About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week providing care for dependents (children, parents, etc)?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Less than 20 hours	47%	55%
20-39 hours	18%	16%
40 or more hours	35%	30%
	<i>n=34</i>	<i>n=5731</i>

**Of respondents who indicated supporting family members financially ('Yes' to any of Q33-Q37)*

Q116: Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2023] due to lack of child care?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
None	52%	56%
One to two days	30%	13%
Three to five days	9%	6%
More than five days	0%	4%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2023	9%	21%
	<i>n=23</i>	<i>n=2898</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q33*

Q117: If you were to lose access to your current child care arrangement(s), would you (check all that apply):

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Need to take fewer classes or drop classes	48%	29%
Be less likely to enroll in future semesters	30%	23%
Have less time to focus on studying and academics	61%	38%
Be likely to get worse grades	39%	28%
Consider bringing your child(ren) to classes	35%	17%
None of the above	30%	43%
Other	0%	8%
	<i>n=56</i>	<i>n=5357</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q33*

Q118: At any time since you turned 13, were you in foster care or were you a dependent of the court?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	1%
No	100%	98%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	n=87	n=21380

Q119: Did you indicate on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that you were previously in foster care or a ward of the state?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	65%
No	0%	23%
I Don't Know	0%	12%
	n=0	n=213

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30 and 'Yes' to Q118

Q120: Did you receive increased funding/support as a result of identifying yourself as a former foster youth on the FAFSA?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	45%
No	0%	25%
I Don't Know	0%	30%
	n=0	n=137

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30 and 'Yes' to Q118 and Q119

Q121: Does your state have a state-level, foster youth-specific financial aid program or policy for college?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	29%
No	0%	16%
I Don't Know	0%	55%
	n=	n=255

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118

Q122: Have you participated in the state-level, foster youth-specific financial aid program or policy for college?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	68%
No	0%	23%
I Don't Know	0%	8%
	n=0	n=73

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118 and Q121

Q123: Does your institution have a foster youth-specific financial aid, scholarship, or outreach program?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	20%
No	0%	13%
I Don't Know	0%	67%
	n=0	n=255

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118

Q124: Have you participated in your institution's foster youth-specific financial aid, scholarship, or outreach program?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	0%	71%
No	0%	25%
I Don't Know	0%	4%
	n=0	n=51

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118 and Q123

Q125: Do you consider yourself a student who works or a worker that goes to school?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Student	60%	71%
Worker	40%	29%
	n=58	n=14543

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19

Q126: During the school year, about how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week working for pay?*

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Less than 20 hours	14%	23%
20-39 hours	33%	42%
40 or more hours	53%	35%
	n=57	n=14025

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19

Q127: Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2023] due to conflicts with your job?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
None	51%	56%
One to two days	19%	15%
Three to five days	12%	8%
More than five days	8%	5%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2023 or did not have a job	10%	16%
	n=59	n=14575

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19

Q128: Are you a dependent or independent student?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Dependent	47%	45%
Independent	43%	42%
I Don't Know	10%	13%
	n=86	n=21327

Q129: Where do you currently live?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
On-campus residence	24%	26%
Off-campus college/university-affiliated residence	5%	7%
Off-campus private (not college/university-affiliated) residence	66%	64%
No current residence or homeless	0%	0%
Other	5%	3%
	n=86	n=21354

Q130: What format are your classes in this semester (Fall 2023)?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
In-person only	19%	40%
Online or remote only	44%	18%
Hybrid (a mix of online and in-person classes)	37%	41%
Other	0%	1%
	n=86	n=21344

Q132: Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?

	SRSU	Public 4 year
Yes	14%	17%
No	81%	78%
Prefer not to answer	5%	5%
	n=86	n=21332

Conclusion

Trellis Strategies administers the Student Financial Wellness Survey to provide institutions with insight into the wellness of their student body. With this information, colleges have evaluated current initiatives, developed new programs, assessed communication strategies, built financial education curriculum, made proposals for grant funding, and informed policymakers. This rich body of evidence can be used to improve student success and strengthen the infrastructure needed to support today's students.

Trellis provides this analysis to facilitate this understanding and welcomes feedback so that we can make iterative improvements to this annual resource.

Participation in the Fall 2024 Student Financial Wellness Survey

Trellis is currently recruiting institutions to participate in the Fall 2024 SFWS! The survey is 100% free for institutions to participate in, and all participating institutions receive a school-level report of findings with comparison response groups from their sector. If you have colleagues at institutions that might benefit from participating in this survey, or would like more information on how to participate in upcoming implementations of the Student Financial Wellness Survey, please contact Trellis at research@trellisstrategies.org.

Appendix A: Methodology

The Student Financial Wellness Survey seeks to document the financial well-being and student success outcomes of post-secondary students across the nation. Trellis hosted and delivered the web-based survey in an attempt to understand more about the financial challenges/barriers facing students, how students view their institutions' awareness of those challenges/barriers, and how the challenges/barriers alter how students view/attend college. All participating institutions receive a school-level report of findings with comparison response groups from their sector.

In order to host and deliver the survey to students, participating institutions provide Trellis with the contact information and select demographics (to allow assessment of representativeness) of study participants. Participants in the SFWS are asked to consent to having additional select student-level records (e.g., number of credit hours, gender, age) released by their institution for matching with their survey responses. Participating institutions with enrollments above 10,000 students could choose to randomly sample 5,000 of their students or provide their entire population. Institutions with enrollments lower than 10,000 included all students in the survey population.

To maximize student responses, Trellis contributed fifty, \$50 Amazon gift cards which were randomly awarded to 50 study participants. Institutions were encouraged to supplement the survey-wide incentive offered by Trellis with their own incentives where possible. For survey-wide incentives provided by Trellis, Trellis randomly chose incentive winners, contacted the incentive winners, and disbursed the incentives. For institutional incentives, Trellis randomly chose incentive winners and provided institutions with contact information to disburse the incentives. If a participant withdrew from the survey before completion, they were still eligible for the incentive drawing.

Data were de-identified in order to create a dataset for analysis. In most instances, reports primarily consist of descriptive statistics; however, additional exploratory data analysis was conducted in order to identify trends among groups of respondents and answer the research questions. Analyses conducted include chi-square tests and reliability tests to construct and validate indexes contained within the survey instrument. All data are reported in aggregate form only and reported data do not identify individual institutions outside of confidential institution-level reports.

Appendix B: Tests for Representativeness

Voluntary surveys tend to achieve modest response rates and there is always some amount of response bias with any survey. Trellis obtains data on both the total population and responders from institutions, which allows for comparison to determine if, based on these characteristics, responders mirror the total population. Response bias in the sample may marginally affect the magnitude of the response frequencies presented for questions in the survey but are unlikely to affect the overall findings and themes found from the study.

The Fall 2023 sample of responders at Sul Ross State University had some characteristics different from the population. Tests for representation indicated statistically significant difference between the sample and the population for:

- Gender – Female respondents were overrepresented in the sample

Tests for representation found no statistically significant differences between the sample and population for:

- Race/Ethnicity
- Enrollment Intensity (full-time/part-time)
- Credit Hours Earned
- Age
- GPA

Appendix C: Scales

Scales: Net Promoter Score (Q18)

- Trellis' Student Financial Wellness Survey includes a customer satisfaction rating for institutions to benchmark future work and to better understand how students perceive their institution. Trellis collected the information with a scale that allows a Net Promoter Score (NPS) to be calculated. NPS is a method, based in research, to benchmark customer satisfaction ratings across different services, businesses, and products. NPS uses a 0-10 scale. Those respondents who score 9-10 are promoters, 7-8 are passives, and 0-6 are detractors. %Promoters - %Detractors = NPS. A positive NPS (>0) is generally considered good, with highest performers usually between 50 and 80.

Scales: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 30-Day Food Security (Q77-82)

Trellis' Student Financial Wellness Survey uses a six-question scale designed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that measures food security within the prior 30 days.⁴ Many researchers of food security amongst college students use a more robust twelve-question USDA scale. The six-question scale was chosen to reduce cognitive overload within a survey that seeks to measure many financial wellness topics in other ways.

- USDA methodology assigns levels of food security to individuals based on how many affirmative responses they give to certain questions. Under the short-form survey, individuals who give 2-4 affirmative responses have “low food security” and individuals who give 5-6 affirmative responses have “very low food security.”⁴
- While categorical labels are helpful, food insecurity exists on a spectrum, and even the underlying responses to the survey questions cannot definitively locate individuals on that spectrum. Rather, more affirmative responses indicate higher odds that an individual is experiencing greater difficulty maintaining an adequate or desirable diet.

Scales: Housing Security (Q86-91) and Homelessness (Q92-101)

The Student Financial Wellness Survey incorporates standard housing security and homelessness measurements commonly used by other researchers studying basic needs security in order to ensure data validity and facilitate comparisons with findings in prior research.³

- Leading researchers in this field define a homeless person as “a person without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside,” and housing insecurity as, “broader set[s] of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently.”⁵
- Respondents are categorized as ‘Housing Insecure’ if they answered “True” to any of the six housing insecurity questions (Q86-91).
- Respondents are categorized as ‘Homeless’ if they answered ‘Yes’ and/or ‘True’ to any of the ten homelessness questions (Q92-101).

Scales: Financial Knowledge (Q107-109)

The financial knowledge scale used in this survey is a version of the Lusardi three-question scale, augmented to be more relevant to students in higher education.⁶ Respondents who provided an answer for all items on the financial knowledge scale were included for analysis. Correct answers for each question are totaled for the scale value.

Scales: Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (Q72-73) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder-2 (Q74-75)

To assess potential mental health challenges among respondents, two validated scales were used—the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item (GAD-2).

Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) (Q72-73)

This survey used a modified, short-form scale first used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that measures the frequency of depressed mood and the inability to feel pleasure over the past seven days.⁷

- The purpose of the PHQ-2 is to act as a screener for depression in a “first-step” approach. Respondents are asked: Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by...
 - Having little interest or pleasure in doing things?
 - Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?
- The scale includes the following answer options: “Not at all” (score of 0); “Several days” (score of 1); “More than half the days” (score of 2); and “Nearly every day” (score of 3).
- A PHQ-2 score ranges from 0-6, with a score of 3 acting as the optimal cut point when screening for depression. If a respondent scores 3 or greater, a diagnosis of major depressive disorder is likely.⁷

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2) (Q74-75)

This survey also incorporates a modified, short-form instrument used to screen for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) by the CDC.⁸

- Similar to the PHQ-2, respondents are asked: Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by...
 - Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge?
 - Not being able to stop or control worrying?
- The scale includes the following options: “Not at all” (score of 0); “Several days” (score of 1); “More than half the days” (score of 2); and “Nearly every day” (score of 3).
- A GAD-2 score ranges from 0-6, with a score of 3 acting as the optimal cut point when screening for generalized anxiety disorder. If a respondent scores 3 or greater, a diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder is likely. Using this cut-off of 3 points, the GAD-2 has a sensitivity of 86% and specificity of 83%.

Appendix D: Participating Institutions

Participating Institutions in the Fall 2023 SFWS

The Fall 2023 implementation of the Student Financial Wellness Survey captures the attitudes, perspectives, and self-reported financial behaviors of over 63,000 students from 142 colleges and universities in 25 states. Student respondents attended public universities, private colleges, and community colleges that range in size from over 64,000 students to fewer than 600. Student responses from all schools were aggregated to provide a comparison group for individual institutional findings by school sector.

Four-Year Public Institutions (35)

Alabama State University (AL)
Alcorn State University (MS)
Central Washington University (WA)
Florida Atlantic University (FL)
Florida International University (FL)
Indiana University – Bloomington (IN)
Indiana University – Columbus (IN)
Indiana University – East (IN)
Indiana University – Fort Wayne (IN)
Indiana University – Indianapolis (IN)
Indiana University – Kokomo (IN)
Indiana University – Northwest (IN)
Indiana University – South Bend (IN)
Indiana University – Southeast (IN)
Mississippi State University (MS)
Mississippi University for Women (MS)
Purdue University (IN)
Sam Houston State University (TX)
State University of New York Oneonta (NY)
Sul Ross State University (TX)
Tarleton State University (TX)
Texas A&M University – College Station (TX)
Texas A&M University – Commerce (TX)
Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TX)
Texas A&M University – San Antonio (TX)
Texas Tech University (TX)
Texas Woman’s University (TX)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
University of Oklahoma (OK)
University of Science and Arts at Oklahoma (OK)
University of Southern Mississippi (MS)
University of Texas at Austin (TX)
University of Texas at El Paso (TX)
University of West Alabama (AL)
University of Wyoming (WY)

Four-Year Private Institutions (12)

Concordia University Texas (TX)
Herzing University (WI)
Houston Christian University (TX)
Lafayette College (PA)
Lubbock Christian University (TX)
Martin Luther College (MN)
Midway University (KY)
Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)
Peirce College (PA)
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PA)
South Texas College of Law Houston (TX)
University of New Haven (CT)

Two-Year Institutions* (95)

Alvin Community College (TX)
 Amarillo College (TX)
 Angelina College (TX)
 Ashland Community and Technical College (KY)
 Atlanta Technical College (GA)
 Austin Community College (TX)
 Bay de Noc Community College (MI)
 Belmont College (OH)
 Big Sandy Community and Technical College (KY)
 Bluegrass Community and Technical College (KY)
 Brazosport College (TX)
 Cape Fear Community College (NC)
 Carteret Community College (NC)
 Catawba Valley Community College (NC)
 Central Ohio Technical College (OH)
 Central Texas College (TX)
 Chattanooga State Community College (TN)
 Cincinnati State Technical and Community College (OH)
 Clarendon College (TX)
 Clark State College (OH)
 Coastal Bend College (TX)
 College of the Mainland (TX)
 Cuyahoga Community College (OH)
 Dallas College (TX)
 Delgado Community College (LA)
 Edison State Community College (OH)
 El Paso Community College (TX)
 Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (KY)
 Fayetteville Technical Community College (NC)
 Galveston College (TX)
 Gateway Community and Technical College (KY)
 Glen Oaks Community College (MI)
 Grayson College (TX)
 Harcum College (PA)
 Harper College (IL)
 Hazard Community and Technical College (KY)
 Henderson Community College (KY)
 Henry Ford College (MI)
 Hill College (TX)
 Hopkinsville Community College (KY)
 Houston Community College (TX)
 Jefferson Community and Technical College (KY)
 John Wood Community College (IL)
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI)
 Kilgore College (TX)
 Madisonville Community College (KY)
 Marion Technical College (OH)
 Maysville Community and Technical College (KY)
 McLennan Community College (TX)
 Mid Michigan College (MI)
 Midland College (TX)
 Monroe County Community College (MI)
 Mott Community College (MI)
 Navarro College (TX)
 North Central State College (OH)
 Northampton Community College (PA)
 Northeast Iowa Community College (IA)
 Northeast Lakeview College (TX)
 Northeast Texas Community College (TX)
 Northwest State Community College (OH)
 Northwest Vista College (TX)
 Northwestern Michigan College (MI)
 Odessa College (TX)
 Owens State Community College (OH)
 Owensboro Community and Technical College (KY)
 Palo Alto College (TX)
 Panola College (TX)
 Paris Junior College (TX)
 Ranger College (TX)
 Rhodes State College (OH)
 Roanoke-Chowan Community College (NC)
 Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (NC)
 Somerset Community College (KY)
 Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
 Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
 Southeastern Community College (NC)
 Southern Maine Community College (ME)
 Southwest Texas Junior College (TX)
 St. Philip's College (TX)
 Stanly Community College (NC)
 Stark State College (OH)
 Surry Community College (NC)
 Temple College (TX)
 Texarkana College (TX)
 Texas Southmost College (TX)
 Trident Technical College (SC)
 Tyler Junior College (TX)
 Washington State Community College (OH)
 Waubonsee Community College (IL)
 West Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
 West Texas A&M University (TX)
 Western Texas College (TX)
 Wharton County Junior College (TX)
 Yakima Valley College (WA)
 Zane State College (OH)

*All colleges listed under “Two-Year Institutions” are public colleges with the exception of Harcum College, which is a private nonprofit two-year college.

Endnotes

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⁵ Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., Goldrick-Rab, S., Looker, E., Richardson, B., & Williams, T. (2020). #RealCollege 2020: Five years of evidence on campus basic needs insecurity. https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2020-02/2019_realcollege_survey_report.pdf

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