

STUDENT FINANCIAL WELLNESS SURVEY

Fall 2024 Semester Report

Sul Ross State University

By Carla Fletcher and Allyson Cornett

March 2025





Helping you evolve for the modern learner: The Trellis Strategies advantage.

Trellis Strategies is a leading strategic nonprofit 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/

**Trellis research supports data-driven decision making
at institutions. Our team has:**

515

Research studies
in 2024

5.3+

Million students surveyed
since 2018

30+

Three decades of
organizational research
experience

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, 3.8 million students have been surveyed at 300 institutions in 37 states.

About Trellis Strategies

Trellis Strategies is a leading nonprofit 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.

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 rebuild 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/

Want to participate in the Fall 2025 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/>

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements3

Executive Summary4

Survey Overview9

Survey Frequencies.....11

Conclusion29

Participation in the Fall 2025 Student Financial Wellness Survey29

Appendix A: Methodology30

Appendix B: Tests for Representativeness.....31

Appendix C: Scales32

Appendix D: Participating Institutions34

Endnotes36

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the entire Trellis Strategies team, thank you for your commitment to understanding the learner experience on your campus. Our team is focused on helping institutions evolve to better serve 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 a group 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 the many external partners who took 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 work continues to evolve.

Finally, our deepest gratitude to the students who took the time to participate in the survey. 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:

Bryan Ashton
Managing Director
Trellis Strategies
research@trellisstrategies.org

Executive Summary

The SFWS provides a snapshot of student wellbeing during the fall of 2024. 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	1,820 students
Responses	204 students
Response Rate	11.2%
Completion Rate	86%
Median Time Spent	13 minutes

Key Findings: Financial Security

A majority of students—70 percent—reported they would have difficulty finding \$500 in cash or credit in case of an emergency. Many respondents reported running out of money at least once since the beginning of the year. Q39-Q40

- Some reported running out of money more frequently than others, with 28 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 higher than average inflation rates the country has experienced compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic.

- At Sul Ross State University, 59 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they worry about being able to pay their current monthly expenses. Q45

Since January 1, 2024, 84 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in that time frame said they had used it to pay for basic necessities, such as food, transportation, or housing. Many students who used credit cards did not pay off their balance each month. Q61

- While 73 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in the past year reported paying their bill on time, only 28 percent agreed or strongly agreed they fully pay off their balance each month, with the rest accruing interest at potentially high rates. Q62-Q63

80%



of students reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while enrolled.

Students who experience financial challenges while enrolled can find it difficult to focus on academics.

- Eighty percent of respondents reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while enrolled. Among those students who said they had experienced those challenges, 44 percent said they had difficulty concentrating on their schoolwork because of their financial situation. Q1, Q4

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.”

- Forty-two percent of respondents used their personal savings to pay for college, and 52 percent reported using current employment as a resource. However, only five percent paid for college solely with their savings and current employment. Q24-Q25

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

- Student loans helped support 43 percent of respondents and 19 percent reported using credit cards as a method to pay for school. Q19, Q26

Eighty-seven percent of respondents at Sul Ross State University reported completing the FAFSA in the past 12 months. Q29

- Among those who did not complete the FAFSA, 48 percent said they did not think they would be eligible for financial aid, 13 percent believed they could afford to go to school without financial aid, and 22 percent did not want the possibility of taking on debt. Q32

The 2024-2025 FAFSA introduced an overhauled application that was intended to streamline the process, but the rollout faced significant issues that led to delays and confusion among students, families, and institutions.^{1,2}

- Thirty-one percent of respondents said they had experienced challenges with the “new” 2024-2025 FAFSA. Among those who had experienced challenges, 71 percent said the delays in the FAFSA process caused them stress or anxiety regarding their financial aid situation. Q30, Q31

Key Findings: Perceptions of Institutional Support and Educational Value

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

- Twenty-seven 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. Q12-Q16

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.

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

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 20.2. Q17

While concerns about the return on investment of higher education have been growing in recent years, it is still widely valued as a pathway to career success.^{3,4} A majority of respondents at Sul Ross State University believe their education will improve their personal circumstances.

- Seventy-nine percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cost of college is a good investment for their financial future, and 85 percent believe a college degree will provide them with a higher quality of life. Q5-Q6



85%

of respondents believe a college degree will provide them with a higher quality of life.

Key Findings: Student Wellbeing

Forty-six percent of surveyed students were food insecure, a condition which can negatively impact mental and physical health, academic success, and overall wellbeing. Q75-Q80

- Forty-five percent of respondents ran out of food and were unable to buy more, while 34 percent ate less than they felt they should, and, most concerning, 28 percent were hungry but did not eat. Q75, Q79-Q80

Although food insecurity was common among respondents, 39 percent were unaware that Sul Ross State University offered at least one food pantry or closet to assist students in need. Q81

- 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. Q82

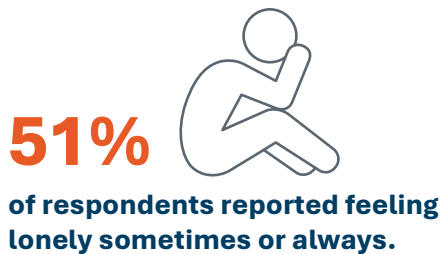
In the past year, 47 percent had faced challenges securing or maintaining affordable, safe, and quality housing. Although only two percent explicitly self-identified as having experienced homelessness since starting college, 11 percent revealed they had been unhoused within the previous 12 months. Q84-Q99

- The most common expressions of housing insecurity at Sul Ross State University included troubles paying rent (26 percent), difficulty paying the full amount of a gas, utility, or electricity bill (31 percent), and moving in with others due to financial problems (15 percent). Q84, Q86, Q89

Students often experience one or more forms of basic needs insecurity at a time. These compounded difficulties can greatly hinder students' ability to persist and be successful in their education.

- At Sul Ross State University, 61 percent of students were facing at least one basic needs insecurity and 32 percent were both food and housing insecure. Overall, eight percent had dealt with all three forms of basic needs insecurity in the prior 12 months or since starting college. Q75-Q99

Mental wellness is another fundamental basic need, pivotal to student success and personal welfare. A desire to succeed academically, coupled with social isolation, issues maintaining adequate access to food and housing, and financial stress can all contribute to poor mental health.



- In the 14 days leading up to the survey, 28 percent of respondents had experienced symptoms of depression and 39 percent reported generalized anxiety disorder. These findings underscore the prevalence of mental health challenges among college students. Q69-Q72

- Loneliness can also significantly impact student mental health. Chronic experiences with loneliness are not only linked to an increase in other mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, but also a

higher risk of mortality. Some estimate the effects of chronic loneliness and social isolation to be equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.⁵ At Sul Ross State University, 51 percent of respondents reported feeling lonely sometimes (43 percent) or always (8 percent). Q73

- 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, 24 percent of respondents either did not know (22 percent) or indicated, incorrectly, that Sul Ross State University did not have mental health or counseling services available to students (2 percent). Q74

Students with unreliable transportation are at risk of experiencing academic setbacks, including stopping or dropping out of college.⁶ In this survey, 12 percent indicated their car was only somewhat or not at all reliable. Q101

- Eighty-five percent of respondents have a car and 10 percent report ever using public transportation to commute to school. However, regardless of their commute type, 18 percent of respondents at Sul Ross State University had missed class at least once due to unreliable transportation. These students may struggle to access campus, leading to difficulties with punctuality, satisfaction, and their ability to attend classes, meetings, and events. Q100, Q103-Q104

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-three percent of respondents identified as the first in their immediate family to attend college, a group that can face unique challenges while navigating the higher education landscape. Q108
- Balancing Parenting and Academics:** Student parents, constituting a mosaic of identities, experiences, and backgrounds, made up 34 percent of the surveyed population at Sul Ross State University. Forty-five percent of these students spent 40 or more hours a week providing care for their dependents, and 25 percent had missed at least one day of class due to lack of childcare. Compared to their peers without dependents, these students may struggle to balance their balance caregiving responsibilities with their educational goals.⁷ Q33, Q113-Q114
- Juggling Multiple Personas:** Sixty-eight percent of students reported working for pay at Sul Ross State University. Sixty-four percent of these respondents were working more than 40 hours a week. Among employed students, 53 percent identified as a “student who works,” while the other 47 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. Q18, Q123, Q128
- Former Foster Youth:** At Sul Ross State University, one percent of surveyed students identified as a former foster youth. This population often lacks the financial means, stability, and support required to successfully complete postsecondary education, resulting in fewer than one in ten former foster youth holding a two- or four-year college degree.⁸ Q116



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 wellbeing and student success indicators of postsecondary students at institutions across the nation. The survey opened on October 21, 2024, and closed on November 12, 2024. A total of 104 institutions participated in the survey—53 public two-year institutions, two private two-year institutions, 29 public four-year institutions, and 20 private nonprofit four-year institutions.

Across all four-year students responding to the survey:

- Seventy-four percent reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while in college.
- Fifty-seven 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.
- More than half of respondents (58 percent) said they sometimes or always feel lonely.
- Twenty-one percent of parenting students reported missing at least one day of classes due to lack of childcare.
- Thirty percent of respondents who worked while enrolled reported working more than one job at the time of survey implementation. Nearly half of respondents who worked (49 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the main reason they worked while enrolled was to pay for their education, and just over half of respondents (53 percent) agreed or strongly agreed their job interferes with their ability to engage in extracurricular activities or social events at school.
- Almost a quarter of respondents (23 percent) reported using at least one form of public assistance during 2024 (e.g., food, unemployment, housing, utility, medical, or childcare).
- Fifty-four percent would have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit 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 19 percent ran out of money eight or more times.
- Over a third of respondents (35 percent) said they had experienced challenges with the “new” 2024-2025 FAFSA, and among those who had experienced challenges, most respondents (78 percent) said the delay in the FAFSA process caused them stress or anxiety.

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 are willing to make the investment in their future. Sixty-nine percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cost of college was worth it, and 83 percent agreed or strongly agreed a college degree will provide them with a higher quality of life.

Sul Ross State University participated in the Fall 2024 implementation of the SFWS.

Table 2. Survey Characteristics

Characteristic	Population (N=1,820)	Respondents (n=204)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	0%
Asian, Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	0%	1%
Black or African American	7%	2%
Hispanic or Latino	65%	70%
International	1%	2%
White	24%	22%
Multiple	2%	1%
Other	0%	0%
Race/Ethnicity Not Reported	1%	1%
Gender		
Female	59%	79%
Male	41%	20%
Self-Identify/Not Reported	0%	1%
Enrollment Intensity		
Full-time	52%	55%
Part-time	48%	45%
Enrollment Intensity Not Reported	0%	0%
Class Year		
1st (<30 credits earned)	65%	63%
2nd (30-59 credits earned)	22%	23%
3rd (60-89 credits earned)	8%	8%
4th (90-120 credits earned)	4%	6%
5th (120+ credits earned)	0%	0%
Class Year Not Reported	0%	0%
Age		
Average Age (Years)	26.5	27.2

Comparison groups are derived from aggregate data collected from all 104 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 2024 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 4yr
Yes	80%	75%
No	18%	21%
I Don't Know	2%	4%

n=203 n=20193

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	18%	9%
Agree	49%	43%
Neutral	21%	31%
Disagree	9%	13%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%

n=199 n=19257

Q3: My school is aware of my financial situation.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	10%	7%
Agree	28%	28%
Neutral	31%	32%
Disagree	25%	24%
Strongly Disagree	7%	9%

n=199 n=19257

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	11%	13%
Agree	33%	35%
Neutral	27%	24%
Disagree	22%	23%
Strongly Disagree	8%	5%

n=158 n=14391

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q1*

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	32%	23%
Agree	47%	45%
Neutral	16%	22%
Disagree	2%	7%
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%

n=198 n=19248

Q6: A college degree will provide me with a higher quality of life.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	42%	37%
Agree	44%	46%
Neutral	11%	13%
Disagree	2%	3%
Strongly Disagree	2%	1%

n=197 n=19241

Q7: Tuition - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	23%	12%
Agree	45%	33%
Neutral	20%	20%
Disagree	10%	23%
Strongly Disagree	2%	11%
Not Applicable	0%	1%

n=198 n=18864

Q8:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	11%	5%
Agree	18%	15%
Neutral	33%	27%
Disagree	9%	26%
Strongly Disagree	3%	15%
Not Applicable	26%	13%

n=198 n=18859

Q9:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	11%	7%
Agree	17%	25%
Neutral	34%	28%
Disagree	9%	21%
Strongly Disagree	4%	9%
Not Applicable	25%	9%

n=197 n=18849

Q10:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	9%	21%
Agree	14%	30%
Neutral	39%	24%
Disagree	7%	9%
Strongly Disagree	4%	5%
Not Applicable	27%	11%

n=197 n=18863

Q11:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	24%	11%
Agree	43%	25%
Neutral	13%	23%
Disagree	13%	25%
Strongly Disagree	7%	14%
Not Applicable	1%	1%

n=197 n=18854

**Q12-
Q16:**

During my time at school, I have spoken with the following individuals about my financial situation. (Check all that apply)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Financial Aid Advisor	65%	39%
Academic Advisor	38%	38%
Faculty Member	27%	21%
Other Staff	18%	14%
I Have Not Spoken With Any of These Individuals	27%	40%

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

Q17:

How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a potential student?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
0 (Not at All Likely)	1%	1%
1	0%	0%
2	2%	1%
3	1%	2%
4	4%	3%
5	6%	8%
6	10%	12%
7	18%	21%
8	16%	22%
9	8%	10%
10 (Very Likely)	35%	21%

n=193 n=18638

Q17:

Net Promoter Score (NPS)* How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a potential student?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Promoters (Score 9-10)	44%	30%
Passives (Score 7-8)	33%	43%
Detractors (Score 0-6)	23%	27%
Net Promoter Score (NPS)*	20.21	3.42
	n=193	n=18638

* 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.

Q18:

Do you work for pay?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	68%	67%
No	27%	30%
I Don't Know	5%	3%
	n=192	n=18648

**Q19-
Q27:**

Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college? (Check all that apply)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Student loan(s) I have taken out for myself	43%	44%
Student loan(s) my parents took out	8%	17%
Other support from my parents and/or family	26%	42%
Pell grant and/or other grants	60%	50%
Scholarships	46%	65%
Current income	52%	46%
Personal savings	42%	49%
Credit cards	19%	16%
Military or veteran benefits	9%	6%

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

Q28:

Since January 1, 2024, have you received emergency aid from your institution?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	9%	3%
No	78%	84%
I Don't Know	13%	13%
	n=191	n=18536

Q29:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	87%	82%
No	13%	15%
I Don't Know	0%	2%
	n=190	n=18361

Q30:

Did you experience challenges with the "new" 2024-2025 FAFSA (available starting January 1, 2024) for your fall semester aid?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	31%	37%
No	61%	48%
I Don't Know	8%	14%
	<i>n=190</i>	<i>n=18340</i>

Q31:

Has the delay in the FAFSA process for the 2024-2025 academic year caused you any stress or anxiety regarding your financial aid situation?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	71%	79%
No	24%	16%
I Don't Know	5%	5%
	<i>n=58</i>	<i>n=6793</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30. Percentages indicate respondents who chose at least one of the above choices.*

Q32:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
The application form(s) were too much work or too time-consuming	13%	16%
I did not want the possibility of taking on debt	22%	20%
I did not have enough information about how to apply for financial aid	13%	12%
I could afford to go to school without financial aid	13%	26%
I did not think I would be eligible for financial aid	48%	52%
I did not plan to continue my degree/program	13%	1%
Delays and/or uncertainty in the 2024-2025 FAFSA process	9%	10%
Other reasons	26%	24%
	<i>n=36</i>	<i>n=4110</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'No' to Q29*

Q33:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	34%	11%
No	64%	89%
I Don't Know	2%	1%
	<i>n=189</i>	<i>n=18206</i>

Q34: Are you a caregiver or legal guardian to any other dependents?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	18%	4%
No	81%	95%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=189</i>	<i>n=18183</i>

Q35: Your spouse - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	17%	8%
No	82%	91%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=187</i>	<i>n=18131</i>

Q36: A child or children - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	32%	10%
No	66%	89%
I Don't Know	2%	1%
	<i>n=188</i>	<i>n=18115</i>

Q37: Your parent(s) or guardian(s) - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	19%	12%
No	81%	87%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=186</i>	<i>n=18098</i>

Q38: Other family members - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	9%	8%
No	91%	91%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=185</i>	<i>n=18027</i>

Q39: Would you have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit in order to meet an unexpected need within the next month?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	70%	54%
No	21%	35%
I Don't Know	9%	11%
	<i>n=188</i>	<i>n=18068</i>

Q40: Since January 1, 2024, approximately how many times did you run out of money?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Never	21%	36%
One Time	6%	7%
Two Times	10%	9%
Three Times	12%	9%
Four Times	10%	7%
Five Times	7%	6%
Six Times	5%	4%
Seven Times	2%	1%
Eight or More Times	28%	19%
	<i>n=187</i>	<i>n=17988</i>

Q41: Since January 1, 2024, have you borrowed money from your family and/or friends?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	65%	64%
No	33%	34%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=187</i>	<i>n=17999</i>

Q42: I always pay my bills on time.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	21%	31%
Agree	46%	44%
Neutral	18%	15%
Disagree	12%	8%
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%
	<i>n=187</i>	<i>n=17931</i>

Q43: I follow a weekly or monthly budget.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	11%	13%
Agree	45%	36%
Neutral	23%	24%
Disagree	18%	22%
Strongly Disagree	3%	5%
<i>n=187 n=17929</i>		

Q44: I know how to manage my finances well.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	8%	13%
Agree	49%	42%
Neutral	24%	28%
Disagree	15%	14%
Strongly Disagree	4%	3%
<i>n=187 n=17912</i>		

Q45: I worry about being able to pay my current monthly expenses.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	17%	17%
Agree	42%	36%
Neutral	20%	20%
Disagree	18%	21%
Strongly Disagree	4%	6%
<i>n=186 n=17734</i>		

Q46: I worry about having enough money to pay for school.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	30%	31%
Agree	35%	33%
Neutral	16%	13%
Disagree	13%	16%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%
<i>n=187 n=17747</i>		

Q47: I know how I will pay for college next semester.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	14%	16%
Agree	35%	44%
Neutral	29%	20%
Disagree	13%	14%
Strongly Disagree	9%	6%
<i>n=187 n=17745</i>		

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	25%	12%
Agree	32%	19%
Neutral	28%	33%
Disagree	12%	23%
Strongly Disagree	2%	13%
<i>n=185 n=17727</i>		

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	18%	20%
Agree	59%	51%
Neutral	12%	15%
Disagree	9%	12%
Strongly Disagree	2%	2%
<i>n=185 n=17562</i>		

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	18%	15%
Agree	40%	45%
Neutral	22%	19%
Disagree	16%	17%
Strongly Disagree	5%	5%
<i>n=186 n=17540</i>		

Q51:

Food Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	14%	11%
No	85%	86%
I Don't Know	1%	3%
<i>n=183 n=17400</i>		

Q52:

Unemployment Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	3%	1%
No	96%	97%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=182 n=17394</i>		

Q53:

Housing Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	2%	2%
No	96%	96%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=181 n=17383</i>		

Q54:

Utility Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	4%	3%
No	95%	95%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=183 n=17387</i>		

Q55:

Medical Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	11%	15%
No	86%	81%
I Don't Know	3%	4%
<i>n=183 n=17400</i>		

Q56:

Child Care Assistance - Since January 1, 2024, have you used or received public assistance in the following areas?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	2%	1%
No	96%	97%
I Don't Know	3%	2%
<i>n=182 n=17325</i>		

Q57:

Credit Card - Since January 1, 2024, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	56%	56%
No	44%	43%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=183 n=17355</i>		

Q58:

Buy Now, Pay Later Services - Since January 1, 2024, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	39%	20%
No	60%	78%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
<i>n=183 n=17340</i>		

Q59:

Pay Day Loan - Since January 1, 2024, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	9%	3%
No	89%	94%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=183 n=17297</i>		

Q60: Auto Title Loan - Since January 1, 2024, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	6%	5%
No	92%	92%
I Don't Know	2%	3%
<i>n=183 n=17248</i>		

Q61: Since January 1, 2024, have you used a credit card to pay for basic necessities, such as food, transportation, or housing?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	84%	90%
No	16%	10%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
<i>n=102 n=9638</i>		

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

Q62: I always pay my credit card bill on time.*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	27%	39%
Agree	46%	40%
Neutral	12%	9%
Disagree	10%	8%
Strongly Disagree	5%	3%
<i>n=100 n=9612</i>		

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

Q63: I fully pay off my credit card balance each month.*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	11%	26%
Agree	17%	23%
Neutral	16%	12%
Disagree	35%	21%
Strongly Disagree	22%	18%
<i>n=101 n=9609</i>		

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

Q65: I have more student loan debt than I expected to have at this point.*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	24%	25%
Agree	37%	32%
Neutral	18%	21%
Disagree	15%	18%
Strongly Disagree	6%	4%
<i>n=82 n=7522</i>		

**Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('Yes' to Q19)*

Q66: How confident are you that you will be able to pay off the debt acquired while you were a student?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All Confident	30%	29%
Somewhat Confident	45%	43%
Confident	17%	19%
Very Confident	7%	9%
<i>n=82 n=7523</i>		

**Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('Yes' to Q19)*

Q67: 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 4yr
Strongly Agree	4%	8%
Agree	27%	30%
Neutral	27%	19%
Disagree	19%	15%
Strongly Disagree	11%	8%
I Do Not Have Other Debt	11%	20%
<i>n=181 n=17083</i>		

Q68: How confident are you that some or all of your student loans will be forgiven?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All Confident	75%	67%
Somewhat Confident	19%	26%
Confident	5%	5%
Very Confident	1%	2%
	n=80	n=7509

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('Yes' to Q19)

Q69-Q70: Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Major Depressive Disorder - Likely	28%	32%
Major Depressive Disorder - Negative	72%	68%
	n=179	n=16988

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

Q71-Q72: Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Likely	39%	48%
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Negative	61%	52%
	n=179	n=16984

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

Q69: Having little interest or pleasure in doing things - Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All	31%	31%
Several Days	41%	40%
More Than Half the Days	17%	17%
Nearly Every Day	11%	11%
	n=179	n=16968

Q70: Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless - Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All	41%	36%
Several Days	37%	39%
More Than Half the Days	11%	15%
Nearly Every Day	11%	10%
	n=179	n=16971

Q71: Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge - Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All	24%	16%
Several Days	41%	38%
More Than Half the Days	12%	23%
Nearly Every Day	22%	23%
	n=179	n=16967

Q72: Not being able to stop or control worrying - Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Not At All	33%	26%
Several Days	35%	34%
More Than Half the Days	8%	19%
Nearly Every Day	24%	20%
	n=178	n=16955

Q73: How often do you feel lonely?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Never	19%	12%
Rarely	30%	28%
Sometimes	43%	48%
Always	8%	12%
	n=179	n=16970

Q74: Does your school have mental health or counseling services available for students?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	76%	85%
No	2%	2%
I Don't Know	22%	13%
	n=179	n=16958

**Q75-
Q80:** Six-Question USDA Food Security Scale (30-Day)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
High or Marginal Food Security	54%	54%
Low Food Security	23%	23%
Very Low Food Security	22%	22%
	n=178	n=16791

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

Q75: 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 4yr
Often	11%	9%
Sometimes	35%	29%
Never True	51%	57%
I Don't Know	4%	6%
	n=179	n=16930

Q76: I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals (in the last 30 days).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Often	16%	17%
Sometimes	27%	29%
Never True	51%	49%
I Don't Know	6%	5%
	n=178	n=16920

Q77: 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 4yr
Yes	36%	35%
No	60%	59%
I Don't Know	4%	5%
	n=180	n=16910

Q78: How many days did this happen? (Skipped or cut size of meals due to money)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Fewer Than 3 Days	28%	22%
Three or More Days	60%	64%
I Don't Know	12%	14%
	n=65	n=5971

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q77*

Q79: 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 4yr
Yes	34%	35%
No	61%	61%
I Don't Know	5%	5%
	n=179	n=16856

Q80:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	28%	29%
No	69%	66%
I Don't Know	3%	4%
	n=179	n=16855

Q81:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	53%	57%
No	4%	2%
I Don't Know	35%	37%
Not Applicable	7%	4%
	n=180	n=16855

Q82:

Have you visited a food pantry, on or off campus, since January 1, 2024?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	29%	16%
No	68%	81%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	n=180	n=16843

Q83

Please select the type(s) of food pantries you have visited since January 1, 2024*:

	SRSU	Public 4yr
On-campus food pantry or food closet at my school	72%	81%
Off-campus food pantry or food bank (e.g., at a church, non-profit organization, regional food bank, etc.)	36%	30%
Other	4%	3%
	n=59	n=3033

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q82

**Q84-
Q89:**

Housing Security Scale (Prior 12 Months)*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Housing Secure	53%	60%
Housing Insecure	47%	40%
	n=179	n=16818

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

Q84:

I had difficulty paying for my rent/mortgage (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	26%	23%
False	68%	70%
I Don't Know	6%	7%
	n=179	n=16801

Q85:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	14%	7%
False	79%	86%
I Don't Know	7%	6%
	n=179	n=16789

Q86:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	31%	21%
False	62%	73%
I Don't Know	7%	6%
	n=178	n=16791

Q87:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	5%	5%
False	92%	92%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	n=178	n=16795

Q88:

I lived with others beyond the expected capacity of my house or apartment (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	6%	7%
False	88%	89%
I Don't Know	6%	4%
	<i>n=178</i>	<i>n=16794</i>

Q89:

I moved in with other people due to financial problems (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	15%	15%
False	80%	82%
I Don't Know	6%	3%
	<i>n=177</i>	<i>n=16776</i>

**Q90-
Q99:**

Homelessness Scale*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
No Indication of Homelessness	89%	88%
Homeless	11%	12%
	<i>n=179</i>	<i>n=16825</i>

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

Q90:

Since starting college, have you ever been homeless or unhoused?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	2%	3%
No	98%	96%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=179</i>	<i>n=16800</i>

Q91:

I was thrown out or forced out of my home (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	3%	3%
False	97%	96%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=178</i>	<i>n=16758</i>

Q92:

I was evicted from my home (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	2%	1%
False	98%	98%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=177</i>	<i>n=16740</i>

Q93:

I stayed in a shelter, transitional housing, or independent living program (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	1%	1%
False	99%	99%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=178</i>	<i>n=16741</i>

Q94:

I stayed in an abandoned building (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	1%	0%
False	99%	99%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16731</i>

Q95:

I didn't know where I would sleep at night (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	1%	2%
False	99%	97%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=178</i>	<i>n=16728</i>

Q96:

I didn't have a home (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	3%	3%
False	97%	96%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=178</i>	<i>n=16742</i>

Q97:

I temporarily stayed with a relative, friend, or couch surfed while I looked for housing (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	8%	9%
False	92%	90%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	n=177	n=16748

Q98:

I slept in an outdoor location such as a street, sidewalk, or alley, bus or train stop (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	0%	1%
False	100%	99%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	n=178	n=16739

Q99:

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 (past 12 months).

	SRSU	Public 4yr
True	3%	2%
False	97%	97%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	n=176	n=16714

**BNI_
Any**

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as either food insecure and/or housing insecure and/or homeless.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	61%	58%
No	39%	42%
	n=179	n=16897

**BNI_
FH**

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as both food insecure and housing insecure

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	32%	28%
No	68%	72%
	n=178	n=16810

**BNI_
All**

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as food insecure, housing insecure, and homeless

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	8%	8%
No	92%	92%
	n=179	n=16856

Q100:

Do you have a car?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	85%	75%
Sometimes	3%	4%
No	12%	21%
	n=178	n=16769

Q101:

How reliable would you say your car is?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Very Reliable	54%	48%
Reliable	34%	33%
Somewhat Reliable	11%	17%
Not At All Reliable	1%	2%
I Don't Know	0%	0%
	n=151	n=12537

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q100

Q102:

Parking is available on campus when I need it.

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Never	1%	9%
Rarely	5%	17%
Sometimes	9%	23%
Often	13%	20%
Always	50%	17%
Not Applicable	22%	14%
	n=151	n=12557

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q100

Q103: Do you use public transportation to get to school?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Never	62%	49%
Rarely	3%	10%
Sometimes	3%	12%
Often	1%	7%
Always	2%	10%
Not Applicable	29%	12%

n=177 n=16757

Q104: Have you ever missed class due to lack of reliable transportation?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Never	60%	53%
Rarely	10%	17%
Sometimes	6%	13%
Often	2%	3%
Always	0%	1%
Not Applicable	22%	12%

n=178 n=16753

**Q105-
Q107:** Financial Knowledge Questions*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Zero Questions Correct	23%	19%
One Question Correct	15%	16%
Two Questions Correct	32%	27%
Three Questions Correct	30%	38%

n=176 n=16508

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

Q105: 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 4yr
More Than Today	8%	6%
Exactly The Same As Today	12%	11%
Less Than Today (correct answer)	51%	54%
I Don't Know	29%	29%

n=177 n=16567

Q106: 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 4yr
More Than \$102 (correct answer)	58%	66%
Exactly \$102	6%	6%
Less Than \$102	7%	4%
I Don't Know	29%	24%

n=177 n=16574

Q107: 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 4yr
10-Year (correct answer)	59%	64%
20-Year	5%	4%
30-Year	9%	11%
I Don't Know	28%	21%

n=176 n=16560

Q108: Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend college?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	53%	33%
No	46%	66%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16613</i>

Q109: Are you a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	1%	3%
No	99%	97%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16591</i>

Q110: Did you transfer to your current institution from another institution?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	53%	32%
No	47%	67%
I Don't Know	0%	1%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16596</i>

Q111: Do you plan on transferring from your school to another institution in the future?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	11%	8%
No	69%	75%
I Don't Know	19%	17%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16596</i>

Q112: After you graduate from your current institution, what do you expect your approximate annual salary will be?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
\$0-\$30,000	11%	11%
\$31,000-\$60,000	49%	36%
\$61,000-\$90,000	30%	38%
\$91,000-\$120,000	6%	11%
\$120,000+	4%	4%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16553</i>

Q113: About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week providing care for dependents (children, parents, etc.)?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Less than 20 hours	36%	61%
20-39 hours	20%	12%
40 or more hours	45%	27%
	<i>n=76</i>	<i>n=3732</i>

**Of respondents who indicated supporting family members financially ('Yes' to any of Q33-Q38)*

Q114: Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2024] due to lack of child care?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
None	49%	52%
One to two days	18%	13%
Three to five days	5%	7%
More than five days	2%	5%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2024 or did not require child care	26%	23%
	<i>n=61</i>	<i>n=1783</i>

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

Q115:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Need to take fewer classes or drop classes	36%	34%
Be less likely to enroll in future semesters	20%	27%
Have less time to focus on studying and academics	34%	41%
Be likely to get worse grades	23%	32%
Consider bringing your child(ren) to classes	7%	19%
None of the above	43%	40%
Other	10%	9%
	n=105	n=3574

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q33. Percentages indicate respondents who chose at least one of the above choices.

Q116:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	1%	1%
No	98%	98%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	n=176	n=16578

Q117:

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 4yr
Yes	0%	70%
No	0%	20%
I Don't Know	100%	10%
	n=1	n=208

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q29 and 'Yes' to Q116

Q118:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	0%	58%
No	0%	22%
I Don't Know	0%	21%
	n=0	n=146

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q29 and 'Yes' to Q116 and Q117

Q119:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	0%	27%
No	50%	14%
I Don't Know	50%	59%
	n=2	n=238

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q116

Q120:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	0%	67%
No	0%	16%
I Don't Know	0%	17%
	n=0	n=64

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q116 and Q119

Q121:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	0%	25%
No	50%	13%
I Don't Know	50%	63%
	n=2	n=236

*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q116

Q122:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	0%	66%
No	0%	22%
I Don't Know	0%	12%
	<i>n=0</i>	<i>n=58</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q116 and Q121*

Q123:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Student	53%	74%
Worker	47%	26%
	<i>n=124</i>	<i>n=11126</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q124:

How many jobs do you currently have?*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
1 job	73%	71%
2 jobs	23%	24%
3 jobs	3%	4%
4 or more jobs	1%	1%
	<i>n=123</i>	<i>n=11093</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q126:

The main reason I work during school is to pay for my education.*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	14%	22%
Agree	30%	29%
Neutral	24%	19%
Disagree	22%	22%
Strongly Disagree	10%	8%
	<i>n=124</i>	<i>n=11128</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q127:

My job(s) interferes with my ability to engage in extracurricular activities or social events at my school.*

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Strongly Agree	19%	23%
Agree	33%	33%
Neutral	21%	20%
Disagree	22%	18%
Strongly Disagree	5%	6%
	<i>n=124</i>	<i>n=11120</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q128:

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

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Less than 20 hours	9%	26%
20-39 hours	27%	38%
40 or more hours	64%	36%
	<i>n=114</i>	<i>n=10374</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q129:

Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2024] due to conflicts with your job?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
None	57%	57%
One to two days	12%	14%
Three to five days	10%	8%
More than five days	6%	5%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2024 or did not have a job	15%	16%
	<i>n=124</i>	<i>n=11077</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q18*

Q130: Are you a dependent or independent student?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Dependent	30%	45%
Independent	61%	39%
I Don't Know	9%	17%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16513</i>

Q131: Where do you currently live?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
On-campus residence	21%	30%
Off-campus college/university-affiliated residence	4%	9%
Off-campus private (not college/university-affiliated) residence	66%	58%
No current residence or homeless	0%	0%
Other	9%	3%
	<i>n=175</i>	<i>n=16521</i>

Q132: What format are your classes in this semester (Fall 2024)?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
In-person only	15%	46%
Online or remote only	50%	15%
Hybrid (a mix of online and in-person classes)	35%	38%
Other	0%	1%
	<i>n=176</i>	<i>n=16526</i>

Q133: Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?

	SRSU	Public 4yr
Yes	15%	22%
No	81%	73%
Prefer not to answer	3%	5%
	<i>n=175</i>	<i>n=16499</i>

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 2025 Student Financial Wellness Survey

Trellis is currently recruiting institutions to participate in the Fall 2025 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 wellbeing and student success outcomes of postsecondary 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 2024 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:

- Race/Ethnicity – There were significant differences found; see Survey Characteristics table
- Gender – Female respondents were overrepresented in the sample
- Age – Respondents 25 years or older were overrepresented in the sample

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

- Enrollment Intensity (full-time/part-time)
- Credit Hours Earned

Appendix C: Scales

Scales: Net Promoter Score (Q17)

- 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. $\% \text{Promoters} - \% \text{Detractors} = \text{NPS}$. 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 (Q75-Q80)

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.⁹ 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."⁹
- 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 (Q84-89) and Homelessness (Q90-99)

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.¹⁰

- Researchers and policymakers often define a homeless person as an individual "who lack[s] a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence"¹¹ and housing insecurity as a broader term encompassing "lack of affordability, lack of stable occupancy, and lack of safety and decency," including overcrowding and frequent moves.¹²
- Respondents are categorized as 'Housing Insecure' if they answered 'True' to any of the six housing insecurity questions (Q84-89).
- Respondents are categorized as 'Homeless' if they answered 'Yes' and/or 'True' to any of the ten homelessness questions (Q90-99).

Scales: Patient Health Questionnaire-2 and Generalized Anxiety Disorder-2

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) (Q69-70)

This survey used a modified, short-form scale that measures the frequency of depressed mood and the inability to feel pleasure over the past 14 days.¹³

- 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.¹⁴

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2) (Q71-72)

This survey also incorporates a modified, short-form instrument used to screen for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).¹⁴

- 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%.

Scales: Financial Knowledge (Q105-107)

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.¹⁵ 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.

Appendix D: Participating Institutions

Participating Institutions in the Fall 2024 SFWS

The Fall 2024 implementation of the Student Financial Wellness Survey captures the attitudes, perspectives, and self-reported financial behaviors of over 54,000 students from 104 colleges and universities in 27 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 (29)

Alcorn State University (MS)
Austin Peay State University (TN)
Iowa State University (IA)
Lincoln University (MO)
Metropolitan State University of Denver (CO)
Minnesota State University – Mankato (MN)
Mississippi State University (MS)
Oregon State University (OR)
Prairie View A&M University (TX)
Sam Houston State University (TX)
Southeastern Oklahoma State University (OK)
State University of New York Oneonta (NY)
Sul Ross State University (TX)
Tarleton State University (TX)
Tennessee Tech University (TN)
Texas A&M International University (TX)
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TX)
Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TX)
Texas State University (TX)
University of Kansas (KS)
University of Memphis (TN)
University of New Hampshire (NH)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
University of North Texas (TX)
University of Oklahoma (OK)
University of Texas at Austin (TX)
University of West Alabama (AL)
University of Wisconsin-Stout (WI)
University of Wyoming (WY)

Four-Year Private Institutions (20)

Concordia University Texas (TX)
Cumberland University (TN)
Franklin Pierce University (NH)
Herzing University (WI)
Houston Christian University (TX)
Johnson University (TN)
Lubbock Christian University (TX)
McPherson College (KS)
Midway University (KY)
Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)
Peirce College (PA)
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PA)
Rockhurst University (MO)
Southern Adventist University (TN)
Southern Methodist University (TX)
Stanford University (CA)
Tennessee Wesleyan University (TN)
Thomas More University (KY)
University of the Incarnate Word (TX)
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology (NY)

Two-Year Institutions* (55)

Atlanta Technical College (GA)	Nash Community College (NC)
Baton Rouge Community College (LA)	Navarro College (TX)
Bishop State Community College (AL)	North Central Texas College (TX)
Cape Fear Community College (NC)	Northeast Lakeview College (TX)
Catawba Valley Community College (NC)	Northwest Vista College (TX)
Central Carolina Community College (NC)	Oakland Community College (MI)
Central Ohio Technical College (OH)	Owens Community College (OH)
Central Texas College (TX)	Palo Alto College (TX)
Cleveland State Community College (TN)	Pellissippi State Community College (TN)
Cuyahoga Community College (OH)	Portland Community College (OR)
Dallas College (TX)	Rhodes State College (OH)
Delgado Community College (LA)	Roane State Community College (TN)
Drake State Community and Technical College (AL)	Robeson Community College (NC)
El Paso Community College (TX)	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (NC)
Grayson College (TX)	Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (MI)
Greenville Technical College (SC)	Schoolcraft College (MI)
Harcum College (PA)	Seminole State College of Florida (FL)
Hill College (TX)	Sinclair Community College (OH)
Jackson College (MI)	Snead State Community College (AL)
Johnston Community College (NC)	Southeastern Community College (NC)
Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI)	St. Philip's College (TX)
Lackawanna College (PA)	State University of New York – Sullivan (NY)
Lakeland Community College (OH)	Texas Southmost College (TX)
Lone Star College (TX)	Tyler Junior College (TX)
Lorain County Community College (OH)	Washington State Community College (OH)
Marion Technical College (OH)	Waubensee Community College (IL)
Motlow State Community College (TN)	Wharton County Junior College (TX)
	Yakima Valley College (WA)

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

Endnotes

- ¹ Ramirez, J. (2024, November 8). *New FAFSA survey confirms extensive impact on fall class*. National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. www.naicu.edu/news-events/washington-update/2024/november-8/new-fafsa-survey-confirms-extensive-impact-on-fall-class
- ² Lauff, E. & Velez, E. D. (2024, May 7). *FAFSA rollout means fewer students will enroll in college next year*. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/fafsa-rollout-means-fewer-students-will-enroll-in-college-next-year/>
- ³ Marken, S. (2022, May 4). *Few say quality, affordable U.S. higher ed widely available*. Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/392366/few-say-quality-affordable-higher-widely-available.aspx>
- ⁴ Lumina Foundation & Gallup. (2024). *The state of higher education 2024*. <https://www.luminafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/State-of-Higher-Education-2024.pdf>
- ⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2023). *Our epidemic of loneliness and isolation: the U.S. Surgeon General's advisory on the healing effects of social connection and community*. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>
- ⁶ Schuette, A. (2024). *More than miles: Bridging gaps in student transportation for academic success*. Trellis Strategies. <https://www.trellisstrategies.org/student-transportation/>
- ⁷ Cornett, A. (2023). *Navigating college and parenthood: Insights from the Fall 2021 Student Financial Wellness Survey*. Trellis Strategies. https://www.trellisstrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2023/10/Navigating-College-and-Parenting.pdf
- ⁸ National Foster Youth Institute. (n.d.). *Higher education for foster youth*. <https://nfyi.org/issues/highereducation>
- ⁹ United States Department of Agriculture. (2023). *Definitions of food security*. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/>
- ¹⁰ Leopold, J., Cunningham, M., Posey, L., & Manuel, T. (2016). *Improving measures of housing insecurity: a path forward*. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/improving-measures-housing-insecurity-path-forward>
- ¹¹ The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless. (n.d.). National Center for Homeless Education. <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/>
- ¹² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2023). *Measuring housing insecurity: index development using American Housing Survey data*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/Measuring-Housing-Insecurity-Index-Development-Using-AHS-Data.html>
- ¹³ National HIV Curriculum. (2021). *Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)*. <https://www.hiv.uw.edu/page/mental-health-screening/phq-2>
- ¹⁴ Centers for Disease Control. (2021). *Anxiety and depression: Household Pulse Survey*. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/mental-health.htm>
- ¹⁵ Lusardi, A. (2008). *Financial literacy: An essential tool for informed consumer choice*. Dartmouth College, Harvard Business School, and NBER. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~alusardi/Papers/Lusardi_Informed_Consumer.pdf

Evolving for the
modern learner.
