Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) 2018

Q1 Are you currently enrolled in college?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:
If Q1 = No

Q1b When were you last enrolled in college?

- Within the last month (1)
- 1-2 months ago (2)
- 3-4 months ago (3)
- More than 4 months ago (4)

Page Break

Q2a Do you live in California while attending college?

- Yes (23)
- No (24)

End of Block: Eligibility

Start of Block: Housing
I1 The first questions ask about where you live and how you get to campus while attending school during the current academic year (2018-2019).

Q2b Where do you currently live?

- On campus or in college-owned housing (dorm) (1)
- Off-campus housing that I rent (2)
- Off-campus housing that I own (3)
- With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s) (4)
- No consistent place to sleep (for example: homeless, couch-surfing, living in car or shelter) (5)

Display This Question:
If Q2b = On campus or in college-owned housing (dorm)
Or Q2b = Off-campus housing that I rent
Or Q2b = Off-campus housing that I own
Or Q2b = With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)

Q4 How many people do you live with who share responsibility for the cost of your house, apartment, or suite? (DO NOT include yourself, spouse, children, or other family members)

- Zero (1)
- One (2)
- Two (3)
- Three (4)
- Four or more (5)
Display This Question:

If Q4 = One
Or Q4 = Two
Or Q4 = Three
Or Q4 = Four or more

Q5 How many roommates share your bedroom? (DO NOT include yourself, spouse, children, or other family members)

- Zero (1)
- One (2)
- Two (3)
- Three (4)
- Four or more (5)
If Q2b = Off-campus housing that I rent
Or Q2b = Off-campus housing that I own
Or Q2b = With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)
Or Q2b = On campus or in college-owned housing (dorm)

Q6 On average, how much do you pay per month for housing expenses? Include rent or mortgage, and other utility costs such as water, gas electricity, garbage, and internet access.  If you share a residence with other people, indicate only the amount you are responsible for paying.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $400 (2)
- $400 to $799 (3)
- $800 to $1199 (4)
- $1200 to $1599 (6)
- $1600 to $1999 (7)
- $2000 to $2399 (8)
- $2400 to $2799 (9)
- $2800 to $3199 (10)
- $3200 to $3599 (12)
- $3600 to $3999 (13)
- $4000 or more (14)
- Don’t know (15)

End of Block: Housing

Start of Block: Transportation
Display This Question:
If Q2b = Off-campus housing that I rent
Or Q2b = Off-campus housing that I own
Or Q2b = With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)
Or Q2b = No consistent place to sleep (for example: homeless, couch-surfing, living in car or shelter)

Q8 How do you usually commute to and from campus?

Mark all that apply.

☐ Walk (1)
☐ Bicycle (2)
☐ Bus (3)
☐ Car or truck (driving alone) (4)
☐ Motorcycle (5)
☐ Carpool (6)
☐ Rideshare (e.g. Uber or Lyft) (7)
☐ Train, rail, or subway (8)
Q9 On average, how much do you pay per month for commuting between where you live and campus (e.g., bus fare, train fare, gasoline, tolls, parking pass)? DO NOT include car payments. If you have costs that are not monthly, such as a parking pass for the term, include an average monthly amount.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)

End of Block: Transportation

Start of Block: Misc. Expenses

I3 The next set of questions are about your monthly expenses while attending school during the current academic year (2018-2019). If these costs vary, provide your best guess for a typical month.
Q10 During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay per month for clothing and shoes?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)
Q11 During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay per month for personal care? (E.g., laundry, household products, personal hygiene, hair care, etc.)

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)
Q12 During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay **per month** for recreation, entertainment, and hobbies?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)
Q13 During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay **per month** for the cost of your cell/mobile phone plan?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $20 (2)
- $20 to $34 (3)
- $35 to $49 (4)
- $50 to $74 (5)
- $75 to $99 (6)
- $100 to $124 (7)
- $125 to $149 (8)
- $150 to $174 (9)
- $175 to $199 (10)
- $200 to $249 (11)
- $250 to $299 (12)
- $300 or more (13)
- Do not own a cell/mobile phone (14)
Q14 During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay per month for health care costs **not covered by insurance** (e.g., copayments, medication, and deductibles associated with medical, dental, and mental health care)?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)
Q15 What is your primary source of health insurance?

- My college/university sponsored plan (1)
- My parents’ plan (2)
- An individual plan I have through my employer (3)
- An individual plan I purchase on my own (4)
- My spouse’s plan (5)
- Medicare or Medi-Cal (6)
- Another plan (7)
- I don’t have health insurance (8)
- I am not sure if I have health insurance (9)
Display This Question:
   If Q15 = An individual plan I have through my employer
   Or Q15 = An individual plan I purchase on my own
   Or Q15 = My spouse’s plan

Q15b During the academic year, on average, how much do you pay per month for health insurance?

   ○ Nothing (1)
   ○ Less than $50 (2)
   ○ $50 to $99 (3)
   ○ $100 to $149 (4)
   ○ $150 to $199 (5)
   ○ $200 to $249 (6)
   ○ $250 to $299 (7)
   ○ $300 to $349 (8)
   ○ $350 to $399 (9)
   ○ $400 or more (10)
The next questions about your education-related expenses per academic term (semester or quarter) during the current academic year (2018-2019). If these costs vary, provide your best guess for a typical term.

Q16 On average, how much do you pay per semester/quarter for course books (including textbook purchases and/or rentals, course readers, and digital text books) and required software?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $50 (2)
- $50 to $99 (3)
- $100 to $149 (4)
- $150 to $199 (5)
- $200 to $249 (6)
- $250 to $299 (7)
- $300 to $349 (8)
- $350 to $399 (9)
- $400 to $449 (10)
- $450 to $499 (11)
- $500 to $549 (12)
- $550 to $599 (13)
- $600 to $699 (14)
- $700 to $799 (15)
- $800 or more (16)
Q17 On average, how much do you pay per semester/quarter for technology that assists with your education? Include physical devices and also the cost of apps, connection fees, data services and other technology costs you had related to your college attendance.  If you have purchases that you use for more than one term, such as a computer or tablet, include an average amount by semester/quarter.

- Nothing  (1)
- Less than $20  (2)
- $20 to $39  (3)
- $40 to $59  (4)
- $60 to $79  (5)
- $80 to $99  (6)
- $100 to $119  (7)
- $120 to $139  (8)
- $140 to $159  (9)
- $160 to $179  (10)
- $180 to $199  (11)
- $200 or more  (12)
Q18 On average, how much do you **pay per semester/quarter** for other necessary educational supplies or equipment (E.g., pens, paper, notebooks, backpack, binders, etc.)? **DO NOT** include computers/tablets and textbooks.

- [ ] Nothing (1)
- [ ] Less than $20 (2)
- [ ] $20 to $39 (3)
- [ ] $40 to $59 (4)
- [ ] $60 to $79 (5)
- [ ] $80 to $99 (6)
- [ ] $100 to $119 (7)
- [ ] $120 to $139 (8)
- [ ] $140 to $159 (9)
- [ ] $160 to $179 (10)
- [ ] $180 to $199 (11)
- [ ] $200 or more (12)
Q19 On average, how much do you pay per semester/quarter for course material fees? Some courses have additional fees, which are typically charged per class and are sometimes called lab fees or studio fees.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $20 (2)
- $20 to $39 (3)
- $40 to $59 (4)
- $60 to $79 (5)
- $80 to $99 (6)
- $100 to $119 (7)
- $120 to $139 (8)
- $140 to $159 (9)
- $160 to $179 (10)
- $180 to $199 (11)
- $200 to $299 (12)
- $300 to $399 (13)
- $400 to $499 (14)
- $500 to $799 (15)
- $800 or more (16)
I5 The next set of questions ask about your **weekly costs** for food while attending school during the current academic year (2018-2019).

Q20 Do you have a campus meal plan?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

*Display This Question:*

*If Q20 = Yes*

Q21 About how many meals **per week** are covered by your meal plan?
If Q20 = Yes

Q22 On average, how much do you pay per week for food that you buy in addition to your meal plan (e.g., restaurant meals, snacks, or groceries)?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $10 (2)
- $10 to $24 (3)
- $25 to $49 (4)
- $50 to $74 (5)
- $75 to $99 (6)
- $100 to $124 (7)
- $125 to $149 (8)
- $150 or more (9)
Display This Question:
If Q20 != Yes

Q23 On average, how much do you pay per week for groceries and other food and snacks eaten or prepared at your residence?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $10 (2)
- $10 to $24 (3)
- $25 to $49 (4)
- $50 to $74 (5)
- $75 to $99 (6)
- $100 to $124 (7)
- $125 to $149 (8)
- $150 to $199 (9)
- $200 or more (10)
Q24 On average, how much do you pay per week for food, snacks, and meals away from your residence, such as at restaurants or purchased from vending machines?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $10 (2)
- $10 to $24 (3)
- $25 to $49 (4)
- $50 to $74 (5)
- $75 to $99 (6)
- $100 to $124 (7)
- $125 to $149 (8)
- $150 to $199 (9)
- $200 or more (10)
Q25 Do you receive food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the CalFresh program, or any other food aid programs?

Mark all that apply.

☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (1)

☐ CalFresh (2)

☐ Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) (3)

☐ Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) (4)

☐ On-campus food pantry (5)

☐ Community food pantry or meal provider (6)

☐ Other assistance program (7)

☐ Other students’ meal plans (8)

☐ None, I do not receive food assistance (9)
I6 The next few questions ask about your employment.

Q26a Are you currently working for pay?

Please consider any jobs for pay, including full-time or part-time work, self-employment, work-study jobs or paid internships, but do NOT include volunteer work or unpaid internships.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:
If Q26a = Yes

Q26b Do you currently have one job or more than one job for pay?

- One job (1)
- More than one job (2)
Display This Question:  
If Q26a = No

Q27 During the last month, have you been looking for work?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:  
If Q26a = Yes

Q28 Do you currently work on campus, off campus, or both?

- On campus (1)
- Off campus (2)
- Both on and off campus (3)
Q29 During the current academic year, on average, how many hours per week do you work?

* If you have more than one job, report the total number of hours across all jobs.


Page Break

Q30 About how much do you earn? (Select one: per hour / per week / per month)

* If you have more than one job, report the average amount earned across all jobs.

- Per Hour: $ (1) ________________________________
- Per Week: $ (2) ________________________________
- Per Month: $ (3) ________________________________
Display This Question:
If Q26a = Yes

Q31 About how much do **you** pay **per month** for commuting between where you live and your job(s) (e.g., bus fare, train fare, gasoline, tolls, parking)? **DO NOT** include car payments, repairs, insurance, or registration.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 to $249 (10)
- $250 to $299 (11)
- $300 or more (12)
I7 Now we have some questions about how you paid for your education expenses during the current academic year (2018-2019).

Q32 Did you apply for financial aid for the current academic year?

*Answer yes if you submitted application forms such as the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the California Dream Act Application, or those required by a state agency, your school, or a private organization or lender.*

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don’t Know (3)
Q33a Are you using any of the following sources to cover your education and living expenses during the current academic year?

 extrad that apply 

☐ Scholarships or grants (including the GI Bill, Pell Grant, Cal Grant, or fee waiver) (1)

☐ Student loans (2)

☐ Money from parent(s)/ guardian(s) or other relatives (3)

☐ Your own income or savings (including your spouse’s) (4)

☐ Credit cards (5)

☐ Other (6)
Q33b Which of the following are you using to cover your education and living expenses during the current academic year?

Mark all that apply

- [ ] Veterans education benefits (for example, GI Bill) (1)
- [ ] Pell Grant or Cal Grant (2)
- [ ] California College Promise Grant or BOG Fee Waiver (3)
- [ ] Other grants or scholarships from the government or your school (4)
- [ ] Scholarship from a private organization (for example, National Merit Scholarship, or civic and religious organizations) (5)
- [ ] Work-Study (6)
- [ ] Financial assistance from your employer or your parents'/guardians' employer (7)
- [ ] None of the above (8)

Display This Question:

If Q33a = Money from parent(s)/guardian(s) or other relatives

Q34 Other than yourself, how many other people are receiving financial support from your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and currently attending college?

__________________________________________________________________________
Q35 Do you have at least one credit card in your own name that is billed to you? Do not include debit or ATM cards.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:
If Q35 = Yes

Q36 Do you owe an amount that is carried over on your credit card from month to month?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:
If Q36 = Yes

Q37 About how much do you currently owe on all your credit cards combined?


Display This Question:
If Q35 = Yes

Q38 Did you use your credit card to pay for any of your education or living expenses during the current academic year?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
Q39 Do you use your credit card to pay for education or living expenses because it was the only way you could afford to pay for those expenses?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q40 Have you received money from any of the following sources during the current academic year?

*Mark all that apply*

- CalWORKS or Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) (1)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (2)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (3)
- California Veterans Cash Benefit (4)
- Refugee Cash Assistance Program (5)
- Other assistance program (6)
- None, I do not receive cash assistance (7)
I8 Now we are interested in knowing about your background.

Q41 Since you enrolled in college, have you been primarily a full-time student (at least 12 credits per semester or term) or a part-time student (less than 12 credits per semester or term)?

- Always full-time (1)
- Mostly full-time (2)
- Equal mix of full-time and part-time (3)
- Mostly part-time (4)
- Always part-time (5)

Q42 Is your current school the first college you have attended?

- Yes, this is the first college I have attended (1)
- No, I previously attended a different college (2)
Q43 What is your current marital status?

- Single/never married (1)
- Not married, living with partner (2)
- Married (3)
- Divorced (4)
- Separated (5)
- Widowed (6)

Q44 Do you have children or other dependents (other than your spouse) who receive more than half of their financial support from you?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:
If Q44 = Yes

Q45 How many people (other than yourself or your spouse), are dependent on you for more than half of their financial support?

- Zero (1)
- One (2)
- Two (3)
- Three (4)
- Four or more (5)
Display This Question:
If Q44 = Yes

Q46 While attending school, on average how much do you pay per month for child or dependent care?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $100 (2)
- $100 to $249 (3)
- $250 to $499 (4)
- $500 to $749 (5)
- $750 to $999 (6)
- $1,000 to $1,249 (7)
- $1,250 to $1,499 (8)
- $1,500 or more (9)
Q47 What is the highest level of education completed by your parent(s)/guardian(s)?

Please select one for each column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than high school (1)</th>
<th>High school diploma/GED (2)</th>
<th>Some college, but no degree (3)</th>
<th>Vocational/technical degree or certificate (4)</th>
<th>Associate’s degree (5)</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree (6)</th>
<th>Degree beyond a bachelor’s degree (e.g. MA, PhD, JD, or MD) (7)</th>
<th>Don’t Know (8)</th>
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I9 This section asks about how you manage your living and educational expenses.

Q48 Please state your level of agreement for the following statement for each category:

"I have enough resources to cover the following expenses."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Strongly agree (1)</th>
<th>Somewhat agree (2)</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree (3)</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree (4)</th>
<th>Strongly disagree (5)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Utilities (1)</td>
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<td>Food &amp; Groceries (2)</td>
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<td>Books &amp; Supplies (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Needed Expenses (6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Q48b What so far has been the biggest obstacle for you to be successful in college?

Mark all that apply.

☐ Cost of college (1)

☐ Balancing school and work responsibilities (9)

☐ Balancing school and family responsibilities (10)

☐ Classes are too difficult (11)

☐ Too little support from the college (12)

☐ Too little support from family (13)

☐ Other obstacles (14)

☐ No major obstacles (15)
### Display This Question:

If Q48b = Cost of college
Or Q48b = Balancing school and work responsibilities
Or Q48b = Balancing school and family responsibilities
Or Q48b = Classes are too difficult
Or Q48b = Too little support from the college
Or Q48b = Too little support from family
Or Q48b = Other obstacles

---

**Q48c** Among the items you selected, which has been the **biggest** obstacle to your success in college?

*Mark one.*

- Q48b = **Cost of college**
  - Cost of college  (1)

- Q48b = **Balancing school and work responsibilities**
  - Balancing school and work responsibilities  (4)

- Q48b = **Balancing school and family responsibilities**
  - Balancing school and family responsibilities  (5)

- Q48b = **Classes are too difficult**
  - Classes are too difficult  (6)

- Q48b = **Too little support from the college**
  - Too little support from the college  (7)

- Q48b = **Too little support from family**
  - Too little support from family  (8)

- Q48b = **Other obstacles**
  - Other obstacles  (9)
I10 The next items ask about your living situation in the past 30 days.

Q49 In the past 30 days, was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q50 In the past 30 days, did you not pay or underpay your rent or mortgage?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
Q51 In the past 30 days, did you not pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q2b = \text{ Off-campus housing that I rent}$
Or $Q2b = \text{ Off-campus housing that I own}$
Or $Q2b = \text{ With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)}$

Q52 In the past 30 days, have you moved two times or more?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:

If $Q2b = \text{ Off-campus housing that I rent}$
Or $Q2b = \text{ Off-campus housing that I own}$
Or $Q2b = \text{ With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)}$

Q53 In the past 30 days, did you move in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
**Display This Question:**

- If Q2b = Off-campus housing that I rent
- Or Q2b = Off-campus housing that I own
- Or Q2b = With parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)

Q54 In the past 30 days, did you live in a house or apartment with more than were listed on the lease or rental agreement?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

---

Q55 The following are several statements that people have made about their food situation. For these statements, please indicate whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the last 30 days.

Q55a “I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.” Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the last 30 days?

- Often true (1)
- Sometimes true (2)
- Never true (3)
- Don’t know (4)
Q55b “The food that I bought just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more.”
Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 30 days?

- Often true (1)
- Sometimes true (2)
- Never true (3)
- Don’t know (4)

Q55c “I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.”
Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 30 days?

- Often true (1)
- Sometimes true (2)
- Never true (3)
- Don’t know (4)
Q55d 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?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:
If Q55d = Yes

Q55e In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?

_________________________________________________________________
Q55f In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Q55g In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)
Q55h In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Q55i In the last 30 days, did you not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)
Q55j In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?

________________________________________________________________

End of Block: Insecurity

Q56 Is there anything else you’d like to tell us about your experience paying for college?

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Q57 That concludes the Student Expenses and Resources Survey. Thank you for your participation!

Would you like to be entered into the drawing for a $50 Amazon.com gift certificate? If you win, we will email you the information.

○ Yes (1)

○ No (2)

End of Block: End