

Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) 2021-22

Start of Block: Eligibility

Q2 Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q2 = No

Q3 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

Q4 Do you live in California while attending college?

Yes (23)

No (24)

End of Block: Eligibility

Start of Block: Housing

Q5 The first questions ask about where you live and how you get to campus while attending school during the current academic year (2021-22).

Q6 Where do you currently live?

On campus or in college-owned housing (dormitory, residence hall, apartment, etc.) (1)

Off-campus housing that I rent (2)

Off-campus housing that I own (3)

Off-campus housing 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 Q6 = On campus or in college-owned housing (dormitory, residence hall, apartment, etc.)

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing that I rent

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing that I own

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing with parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)

Q7 If you live in an apartment or house, how many housemates do you have who contribute toward rent?

- Zero (1)
- One (2)
- Two (3)
- Three (4)
- Four or more (5)
- N/A (6)

Display This Question:

If Q7 = One

Or Q7 = Two

Or Q7 = Three

Or Q7 = Four or more

Q8 How many roommates do you have (with whom you share a bedroom - please do not include spouse, children, or other family member)?

- Zero (1)
- One (2)
- Two (3)
- Three (4)
- Four or more (5)

Page Break

Q9 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, and garbage. *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)
-

Q10 How much do **you pay per month** for Internet access, not including your phone data plan or cable TV?

- 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 (9)
- \$140 to \$159 (10)
- \$160 to \$179 (11)
- \$180 to \$199 (12)
- \$200 or more (8)

Page Break

Q11 How do you access the Internet for school? Please select all that apply.

- Computer that I own (1)
- Relative or friend's computer (6)
- Computer at my workplace (7)
- On-campus computer (5)
- Loaned computer/tablet from school (12)
- Public library computer (8)
- Smart Phone (2)
- Tablet (9)
- Other (11) _____

Page Break

Q12 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)

End of Block: Housing

Start of Block: Food

Q13 The next set of questions ask about your **weekly costs** for food while attending school during the current academic year (2021-22).

Q14 Do you have a campus meal plan?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q14 = Yes



Q15 About how many meals **per week** are covered by your meal plan?

Display This Question:

If Q14 = Yes

Q16 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 Q14 != Yes

Q17 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)

Display This Question:

If Q14 != Yes

Q18 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)

Page Break

End of Block: Food

Start of Block: Transportation



Q19 What zip code do you live in while attending college?

Display This Question:

If Q6 = Off-campus housing that I rent

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing that I own

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing with parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)

Or Q6 = No consistent place to sleep (for example: homeless, couch-surfing, living in car or shelter)

Q20 How long does it take you to commute to campus from where you live?

Less than 5 minutes (1)

5 to 10 minutes (2)

11 to 20 minutes (3)

21 to 30 minutes (4)

31 to 40 minutes (5)

41 to 50 minutes (6)

51 to 60 minutes (7)

More than 1 hour (8)

Display This Question:

If Q6 = Off-campus housing that I rent

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing that I own

Or Q6 = Off-campus housing with parent(s), guardian(s), or other relative(s)

Or Q6 = No consistent place to sleep (for example: homeless, couch-surfing, living in car or shelter)

Q21 How do you usually commute to and from campus?

Mark all that apply.

- Walk (1)
- Bicycle (2)
- Driving alone (e.g., car, truck, or motorcycle) (4)
- Public transportation (e.g., Bus, train, rail, or subway) (8)
- Carpool (6)
- Rideshare (e.g., Uber or Lyft) (7)

Page Break

Q22 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)

Page Break

Q23 Per quarter or semester, what are your typical expenses (e.g., airfare, bus fare, train fare, car share, gasoline) for traveling to and from your residence and the residence(s) of your parent(s)/relative(s) or your permanent residence (if different from your current residence)?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than \$100 (2)
- \$100 to \$199 (3)
- \$200 to \$299 (4)
- \$300 to \$399 (5)
- \$400 to \$499 (6)
- \$500 to \$599 (7)
- \$600 to \$699 (8)
- \$700 to \$799 (9)
- \$800 to \$899 (10)
- \$900 to \$999 (11)
- \$1000 or more (12)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q21 = Driving alone (e.g., car, truck, or motorcycle)

Q24 If you have a car payment, how much is your monthly bill?

- Not Applicable (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)

End of Block: Transportation

Start of Block: Books & Supplies

Page Break

Q25 The next questions about your education-related expenses **per academic term** (semester or quarter) during the current academic year (2021-22). If these costs vary, provide your best guess for a typical term.

Q26 On average, how much do you pay **per semester/quarter** for course books (including text book 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)
-

Q27 On average, how much do you pay **per semester/quarter** for technology that assists with your education? Include physical devices (not including a computer) and also the cost of apps, connection fees, data services and other technology costs you had related to your college attendance.

- 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)

Page Break

Q28 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)

Page Break

Q29 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)

Page Break

End of Block: Books & Supplies

Start of Block: Misc. Expenses

Q30 The next set of questions are about your **monthly expenses** while attending school during the current academic year (2021-22). We recognize these costs may vary, so please provide your best guess for a typical month.

Q31 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)
-

Page Break

Q32 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)

Page Break

Q33 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)

Page Break

Q34 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)
-

Q35 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)
- Don't Know (13)

End of Block: Misc. Expenses

Start of Block: Financial Resources

Q36 The next few questions ask about your employment.

Q37 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 Q37 = Yes

Q38 How many jobs do you currently have?

- One job (1)
- Two jobs (2)
- Three jobs (3)
- Four or more jobs (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q37 = No

Q39 During the last month, have you been looking for work?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q37 = Yes

Q40 Do you currently work on campus, off campus, or both?

- On campus (1)
- Off campus (2)
- Both on and off campus (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q37 = Yes

Q41 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.

- Less than 10 hours (1)
- 11 to 15 hours (2)
- 16 to 20 hours (3)
- 21 to 25 hours (4)
- 26 to 30 hours (5)
- 31 to 35 hours (6)
- 36 to 40 hours (7)
- More than 40 hours (8)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q37 = Yes

Q42 On average, about how much do you earn **per week**? Please report your net or take-home (after taxes) pay.

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

- Less than \$100 (1)
- \$100 to \$149 (2)
- \$150 to \$199 (3)
- \$200 to \$249 (4)
- \$250 to \$299 (5)
- \$300 to \$349 (6)
- \$350 to \$399 (7)
- \$400 to \$449 (8)
- \$450 to \$499 (9)
- \$500 to \$549 (10)
- \$550 to \$599 (11)
- \$600 or more (12)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q37 = Yes

Q43 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)

Page Break

End of Block: Financial Resources

Start of Block: Other Resources

Q44 Now we have some questions about how you paid for your education expenses during the current academic year (2021-22).

Q45 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)
-

Page Break

Q46 Are you using any of the following sources to cover your education and living expenses during the current academic year?

Mark all 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) _____

Display This Question:

If Q46 = Scholarships or grants (including the GI Bill, Pell Grant, Cal Grant, or fee waiver)

Or Q46 = Other

Q47 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)
- Emergency grant from college (9)
- 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)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q46 = Credit cards

Q48 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)

Page Break

Q49 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)

Page Break

Q50 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)

Page Break

Start of Block: Demographics

Q51 Now we are interested in some of your demographic information.

Q52 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)
-

Q53 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)
-

Page Break

Q54 Do you have children who receive **more than half of their financial support** from you?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q54 = Yes

Q55 How many children 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 Q54 = Yes

Q56 While attending school, on average how much do **you** pay **per month** for child 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)

Page Break

Q57 Do you have dependents (other than children or your spouse) who receive **more than half of their financial support** from you?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Display This Question:

If Q57 = Yes

Q58 How many people (other than children 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 Q57 = Yes

Q59 While attending school, on average how much do **you** pay **per month** for non-child 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)

Page Break

Q60 What is the highest level of education completed by your parent(s)/guardian(s)?

Please select one for each column

	Less than high school (1)	High school diploma/ GED (2)	Some college, but no degree (3)	Vocational/ technical degree or certificate (4)	Associate's degree (5)	Bachelor's degree (6)	Degree beyond a bachelor's degree (e.g. MA, PhD, JD, or MD) (7)	Don't Know (8)	Not Applicable (9)
Parent or Guardian 1 (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent or Guardian 2 (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

End of Block: Demographics

Start of Block: Insecurity

Q61 This section asks about how you manage your living and educational expenses.

Q62 Please state your level of agreement for the following statement for each category:

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

	Strongly agree (1)	Somewhat agree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat disagree (4)	Strongly disagree (5)
Housing & Utilities (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food & Groceries (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tuition & Fees (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Books & Supplies (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Needed Expenses (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Insecurity

Start of Block: End

Page Break

Q63 Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience paying for college? Are there any additional expenses that you have that were not covered by this survey?

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