



First Time in College (FTIC) Aggie Experience Survey 2018 Financial Topics

In early September 2018, all First Time in College (FTIC) students were invited to complete the “Class of 2022” Aggie Experience Survey. The survey included Bryan-College Station, Galveston, Qatar, McAllen, and online students. Of the 11,300 FTIC students invited to take it, 3,098 students responded, for a 27% response rate. Female respondents were overrepresented in the survey compared to the fall 2018 FTIC population. First Generation (First Gen), Regents’ Scholars, ethnicity, Freshmen (U1), and Top 10% demographics were similar for the survey respondents and the FTIC population. The survey gathered feedback regarding factors in choosing Texas A&M; academic goals; time allocation; sense of belonging; academic self-efficacy and current level of proficiency; concerns, potential obstacles, and challenges; awareness of university resources; living situation; satisfaction; admissions information and process; and recruitment program. This report will address financial topics.

When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the value of their education for the price they are paying, 88% of the new students said they were somewhat satisfied, satisfied or very satisfied. At the same time, students expressed some concerns about their financial stability and actions they were taking to resolve the issues.

Table 1: Areas of Financial Concern

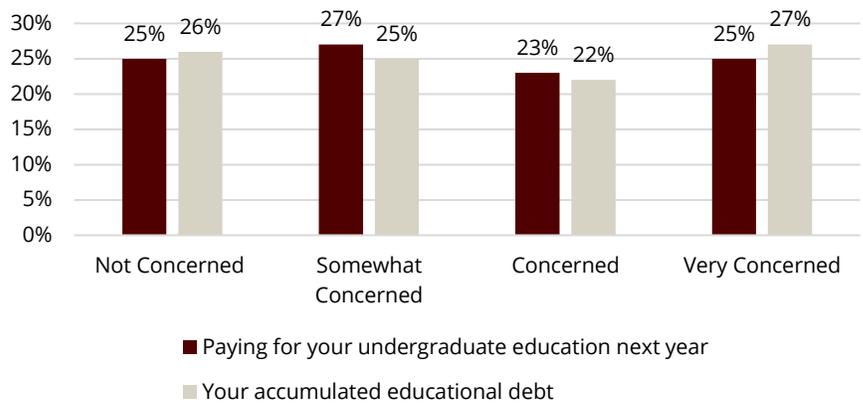
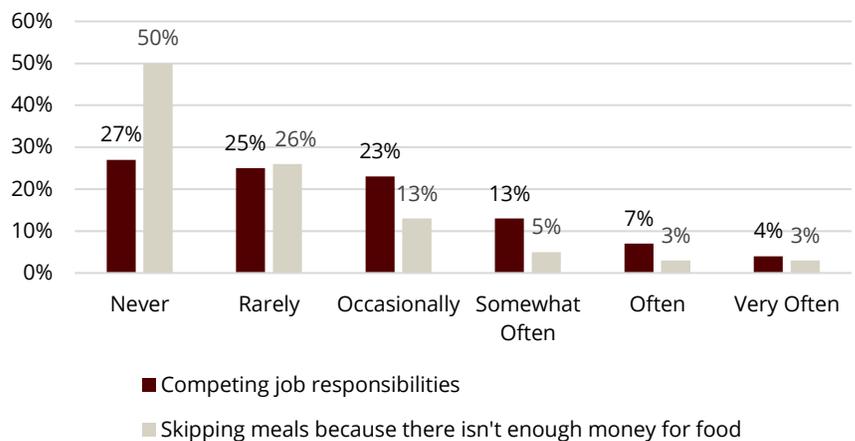


Table 1 indicates that most students experience some concern about paying for school next year and their overall educational debt. Female, First Gen, Top 10%, and underrepresented minority students are more concerned than their counterparts.

Table 2: Obstacles to Academic Success



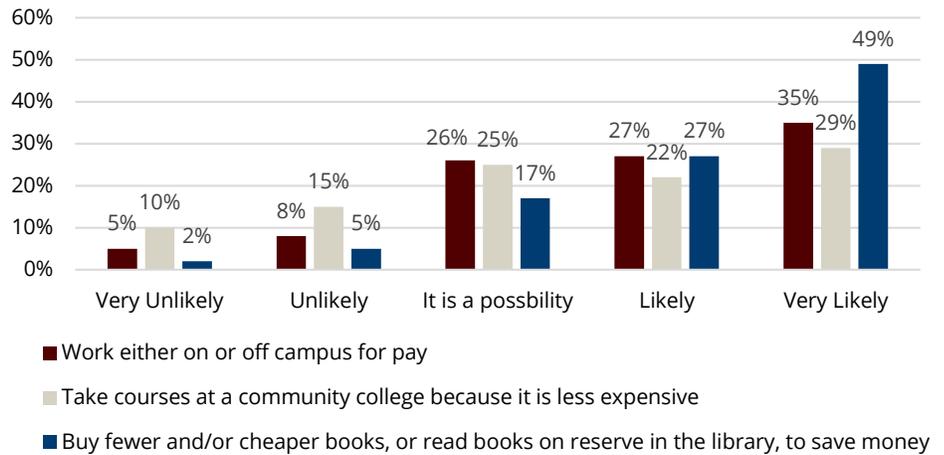
FTIC students expected to experience some obstacles to their academic success: students expect job responsibilities interfering with school more than lack of food (Table 2). Female, First Gen, and underrepresented minority students anticipated job responsibilities and skipping meals as obstacles more than their counterparts. Top 10% students anticipated more competing job responsibilities than non-Top 10% students.





Table 3: Financial Actions

As seen in Table 3, when asked how likely they will do several things while at Texas A&M, most students thought it was at least likely they would work, take a cheaper course at a community college, and spend less money on textbooks. Groups more likely than their peers to work: Female and First Gen students. Groups more likely to take a community college course and spend less on books than their counterparts: Female, First Gen, underrepresented minority, and Top 10% students.



When asked how many hours per week they anticipated working for pay on or off campus this academic year, 76% said 1-5 hours, 9% said 6-10 hours, and 9% indicated 11-15 hours. Another 5% said 16-20 hours, and 2% indicated over 20 hours. First Gen and Black students anticipated working more hours than their counterparts.

Conclusions

First Time in College students expressed some concerns for their financial wellbeing at Texas A&M. Those concerns, for some students, could affect their academic success while in college. In order to address their concerns, most students anticipate working at some point, taking one or more courses at a community college, and spending less money on textbooks. Scholarships and Financial Aid can continue to educate students about financial resources, financial decision-making, and financial plans for the future. In addition, staff who supervise student employees can support students and provide resources as needed. All students should be aware of 12th Can, the Texas A&M University food bank, so they always have food available. Academic Advisors can guide students to complete their curriculum in a timely manner, so students do not accumulate more debt over time. Texas A&M has a variety of financial, human, and material resources to support students who are in financial need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Department of Student Life Studies at
sls@tamu.edu or (979) 862-5624.

