



# National Student Financial Wellness Study

## Executive Summary

---

The University of Arizona participated in The National Student Financial Wellness Study (NSFWS), a national survey of college students which examined the financial attitudes, practices, and knowledge of students from all types of institutions of higher education across the United States. The survey was administered online during Fall 2014 to random samples of students to 52 participating institutions. The University of Arizona achieved a 14.9% response rate (N=817).

### Demographics

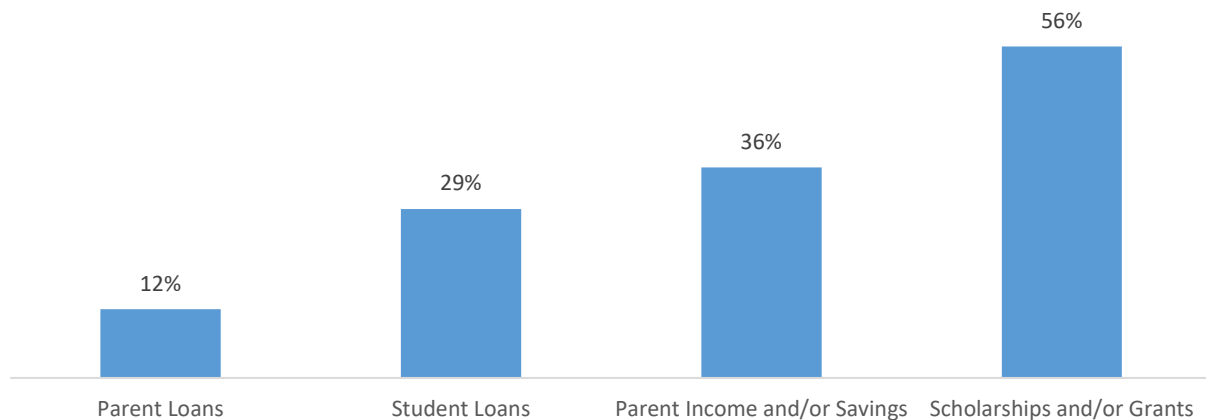
- 55% employed part-time, 37% not employed, 8% employed full-time
- About half of respondents (50%) have a mother and/or father with a Bachelor’s degree or higher
- 66% Female
- 60% White, 40% Minority
- 26% freshmen, 23% sophomores, 22% juniors, 17% seniors, 12% 5+ years
- 79% qualify for in-state tuition

### Personal Financial Management

- 88% pay their bills on time (always/frequently)
- 76% rely on family members for financial advice (agree/strongly agree)
- 85% are confident they can manage their finances (agree/strongly agree)
- 71% have never met with a financial aid counselor or advisor

### Financial Support

Sources for Paying College Expenses<sup>1</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup> Source define as paying for 50% or more of total college expenses

- 55% of students say scholarships and/or grants are the primary source of funding for tuition expenses
- More than one third indicated parents and/or family as the primary source of funding for housing (46%), food (38%), and transportation (33%)

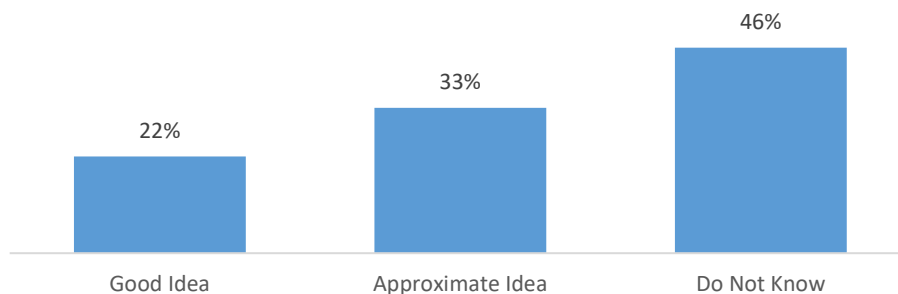
### Financial Socialization

- 80% say parent(s) or guardian(s) were comfortable talking about money with them
- 60% worked for pay while in high school
- More than three quarters of students never attended finance classes/workshops in high school (82%) or have attended one in college (83%)

### Student Loans

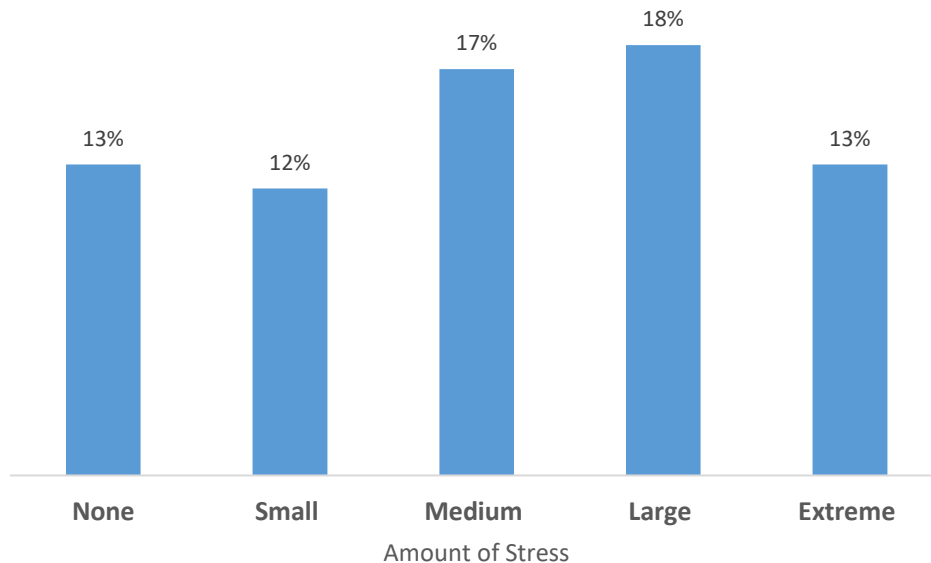
- 57% of students now have or have had a student loan to pay for college
- Of those who indicate having loans:
  - 76% have federal loans
  - 67% have borrowed less than \$20,000
  - 56% expect to graduate with less than \$30,000 in student loan debt while 18% expect \$30,000-\$50,000 in debt.
  - Nearly half of student loan borrowers (46%) do not know how much their monthly repayment will be after graduation

Do you know what your student loan monthly repayment will be after graduation?



- The majority of student loan borrowers thought (somewhat/yes) student loan counseling helped them understand the general terms of their loans (89%), understand different repayment options (86%), and helped them decide how much money to borrow (57%).

## Stress Caused by Student Loan Debt



### Financial Related Stress

- 73% of students feel stressed about their personal finances (agree/strong agree)
- More than half of students (60%) worry about having enough money to pay for school (agree/strong agree)
- 78% believe the cost of college is a good investment for their financial future (agree/strong agree)
- About one third of students report that the amount of money owed sometimes or frequently causes them **CONSIDER**:
  - Taking a break from college (36%)
  - Dropping out of college (29%)
- While other students report that the amount of money owed has **CAUSED** them to:
  - Neglect academic studies (35%)
  - Reduce class load (25%)
  - Take a break from college (13%)
  - Transfer to a different institution (13%)
  - Drop out of college (5%)
- About half of students indicate that the amount of student loan debt they expect to graduate with influences (some/a lot) decisions about the following:
  - Pursuing a graduate degree (63%)
  - Post-college career selection (61%)
  - Assuming additional consumer debt in the future (60%)
  - Pursuing a professional degree (55%)
  - Current major (40%)

### Cost of College

- 72% of students indicated that the cost of college influenced their decision to attend UA
- 74% of students reported that the cost of college influenced (some/ a lot) their decision to

attend UA **AFTER** considering any available financial aid, a 12% increase from **BEFORE** considering any available financial aid.

- About half of students (49%) are willing to accumulate \$1-\$29,000 in debt to complete their current degree

### Academic Plans

- More than half (59%) of students expect to complete their current degree in 4-years
- Primary reasons for taking extra time to complete degrees were changing majors (25%) and taking fewer classes in order to work more (14%)

## Academic Plans by Importance

