

Financial Challenges in the First Year: Practical Implications on Our Work

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The Transition to

Campus

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First Year Finances Lump sum upfront Day to day spending



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Financial Stress





At Ohio State...

68.6%

Stressed about finances in general



Worry about paying monthly bills

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Not confident they'll be able to pay off any debt accumulated as a student



The amount of money I owe causes me a large or extreme amount of stress







Impact of Financial Strain on Students



First Year Students say they are frequently worried about their financial situation



of students say they frequently worry about debt

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of students are Concerned/Very Concerned about their ability to pay for next years education expenses (SERU)



students described their finances as "traumatic" or "very difficult"





Which impacts academics...

Over 25% said they did not purchase required academic materials because they didn't want to take out extra loans

80% of students who self-reported being "financially stressed" say concerns frequently impacted academic performance and/or investigated dropping out.

As levels of student concern about education finances increased, cumulative GPA decreased





Which may impact retention...

Impact of Financial Strain on Student Retention



said finances caused them not to participate in an activity

> said they frequently investigated withdrawing from college due to cost

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said they frequently investigated working more hours to pay for expenses





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How do I know if a student has financial stress?





"I like my studies, but I'm thinking of changing majors to get a better paying job"

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"I don't always attend that class"

"I didn't buy the required textbooks for the class"







such a great deal on

- "With my work schedule, it's hard to get my school work done"
 - "Can I use my student loan money to buy a car?"
- "I know I can't really afford it, but I just couldn't pass up on "







- "I am considering dropping out for a term to pay some bills"
- "I want to take some time to graduate; maybe I won't take so many classes this semester"
- "I need to withdraw from courses so I can put in more hours at work"







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Implications



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Peer Coaches are extensively trained through Scarlet and Gray's Leadership and Peer Coach Development Programs

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Scarlet & Gray Financial offers free and confidential 1:1 peer financial coaching services to enrolled undergraduate, graduate and professional students.







Questions?

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