

What are students learning at The University of Iowa?



Student Experience in the Research University (SERU)

Student Employment and Financial Concerns

Student Experience in the Research University

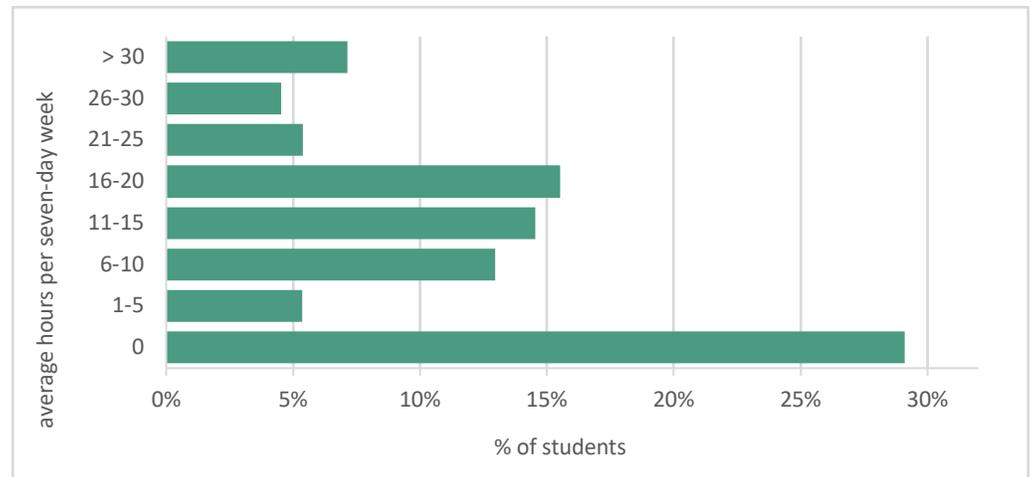
Student learning in higher education is complex and multidimensional, leading to academic, social, and personal development. To gain a better understanding of student experiences at UI, we administered the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey to all degree-seeking undergraduates during Spring 2018.

Nearly 20% of students responded, and the profile of respondents was broadly representative of the undergraduate population in terms of academic characteristics, college, race/ethnicity, and year of study. This brief report provides an overview of student responses to questions about their hours of paid employment and their financial concerns.

For more information about SERU, visit uiowa.edu/seru

This *SERU Brief* provides an overview of responses to SERU survey questions on student employment and financial concerns. SERU asks students to report their number of hours of paid employment in a typical seven-day week. Figure One shows that just over 30% report zero hours of paid employment per week, and slightly more (33%) report 16 or more hours of paid employment in a typical week.

Figure One: Percent of students at each range of hours worked



SERU asks students to report both on-campus and off-campus employment, making it possible to see the distribution of students working on and off campus and also their average hours per week worked in each setting.

Percentage	Employment Type	Average hours of paid employment per week for ...	Hours
69%	Report weekly paid employment	Students who work on campus	14
43%	Work on campus	Students who work off campus	19
35%	Work off campus	Students who work both on and off campus	28
9%	Work both on and off campus		

Students who report working more than 20 hours per week report levels of satisfaction and engagement with academic **experiences in class** that are similar to those of other students, including:

- frequency of asking questions in class
- frequency of contributing to class discussions
- frequency of communicating with instructor outside of class
- satisfaction with access to faculty
- satisfaction with faculty instruction

However, these students report **different experiences outside of class** that may affect them academically. They report less time studying, they are less likely to seek help from an instructor or tutor when needed, and less likely to work with classmates on understanding course materials. These students also report encountering obstacles to success that other students are much less likely to report:

Approximately ...	Students who work more than 20 hours per week ...
1 in 2	Report obstacles to academic success due to job responsibilities
1 in 3	Report obstacles to academic success due to family responsibilities
1 in 4	Report not knowing other students they can study with

Across all students, just under half report being concerned or very concerned about paying for college (Figure Two). About 40% report that they often or very often cut back on spending, and one-third report that they occasionally or more often cut back on meals due to financial reasons (Figures Three).

Figure Two: Financial Concerns - Paying for College

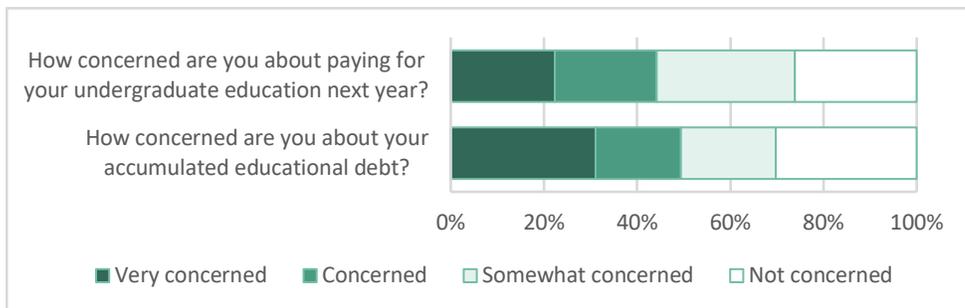
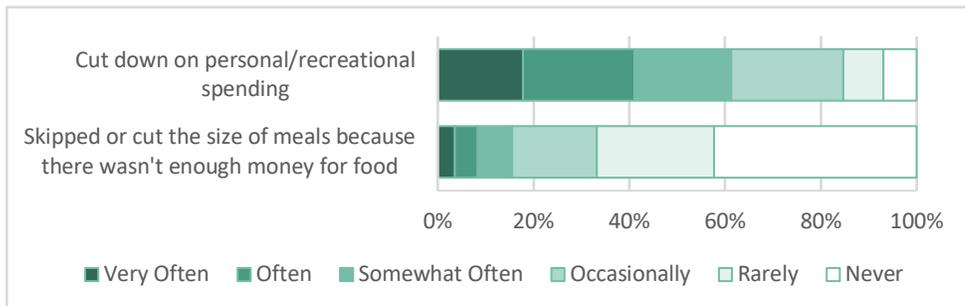


Figure 3: During this past year, how often have you ...



To take a closer look at SERU data related to student employment and financial concerns, contact seru@uiowa.edu.

Sample invitation to complete the SERU survey:



**Student Voices
Make a Difference**

The University of Iowa has over 24,000 undergraduates, in more than 100 different fields of study, and we want to know what each of you thinks.

Tell us by taking a survey that lets us hear from all of you – about your classes, your major, life as a student here, and your overall experience at UI. When we hear from you, *everybody* benefits.

Digging Deeper

This *Brief* provides a snapshot of responses to just a few SERU questions. Other sections of SERU address a wide range of topics, including:

- how students use their time, in and out of class
- perceptions of majors
- future plans
- perceptions of their learning and development
- climate for diversity
- community involvement
- reflections on their most meaningful learning experience at UI

The full survey is online at uiowa.edu/seru

To view student responses to other SERU questions, or to explore responses by college, major, class level, or other demographic variables, contact seru@uiowa.edu