

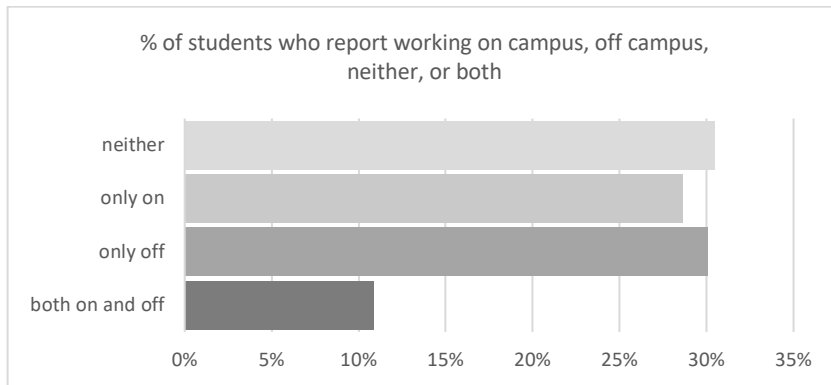
Student Experience in the Research University (SERU)

Student Employment and Financial Concerns

The undergraduate SERU survey was administered during April and May 2022. The overall campus response rate was 16%; the profile of respondents closely mirrors the profile of the undergraduate population as a whole in terms of college of enrollment, year of study, and race/ethnicity; the response rate for male students was about half the response rate for female students.

This *SERU Brief* provides a sample of responses to SERU survey questions on student employment and financial concerns. Just over 30% reported no paid employment. Nearly 40% reported working on campus: 29% who worked only on campus, plus 11% who worked both on and off campus. The profile is similar for students who worked off campus: 30% reported working only off campus, plus 11% who worked both on and off campus (Figure One).

Figure One: Distribution of students who report having paid employment



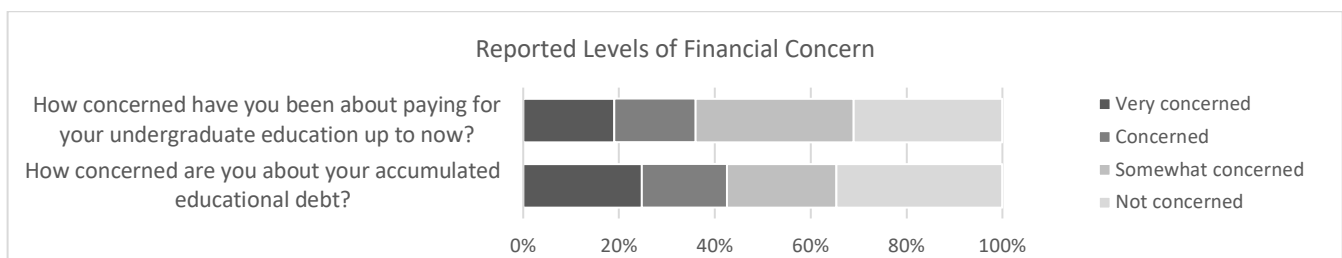
Among students who report working (70% of survey respondents), the average number of hours worked per work varied depending on whether students worked on campus, off campus, or both:

Average hours of paid employment per week for ...

<i>Students who reported working on campus (only)</i>	12
<i>Students who reported working off campus (only)</i>	16
<i>Students who reported working both on and off campus</i>	24

Across all students, more than one-third reported being concerned or very concerned about paying for college; over 40% reported being concerned or very concerned about educational debt (Figure Two).

Figure Two: Financial concerns



Student financial concerns are also illustrated by concerns about housing, food, and overall financial circumstances (Figures Three and Four)

Figure Three: Housing and Financial Concerns

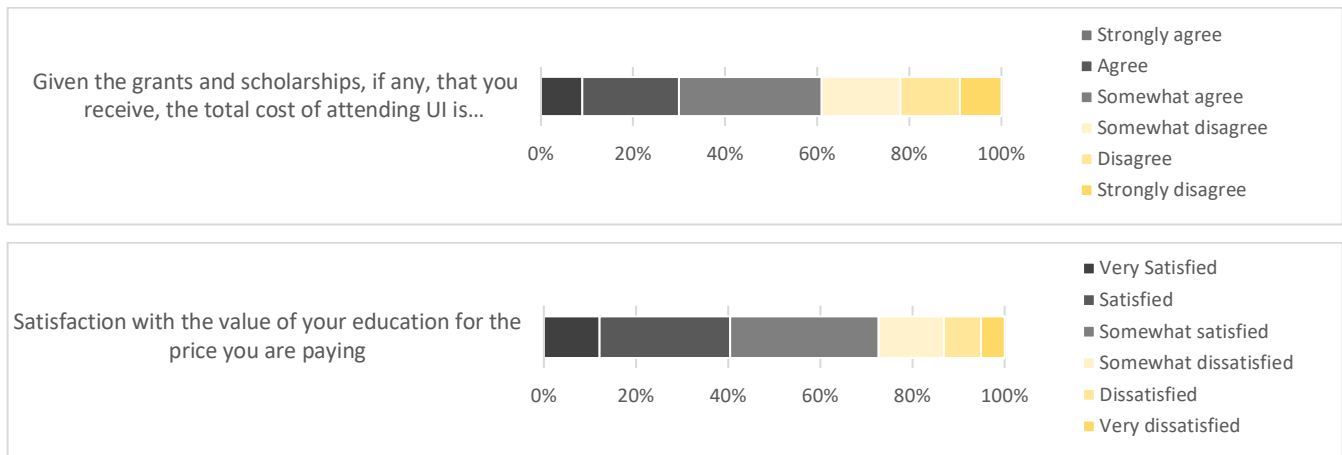
Approximately ...	Indicated ...
3 in 5	Often worrying about debt and financial circumstances
2 in 5	Worrying about not have enough money to cover the cost of housing
1 in 2	Moving farther away from campus to a more affordable area.
1 in 2	Not being able to pay bills on time

Figure Four: Food Security Concerns

Approximately ...	Reported ...
1 in 3	They couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.
1 in 3	The food they bought didn't last and they didn't have money to get more.
1 in 4	They cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food.

Just over 60% agreed to some extent that the cost of attending the university is manageable; nearly 75% expressed satisfaction with the value of their education for the price they are paying.

Figure Five: Perception of cost and value



Digging Deeper

This *Brief* provides a snapshot of responses to just a few SERU questions. Other 2022 *SERU Briefs* address:

- Student satisfaction and interaction with faculty
- Trends in undergraduate SERU responses, 2016-2022

Other sections of SERU address a wide range of additional topics, including:

- Educational experiences
- Evaluation of major programs
- Future plans and aspirations
- Campus climate for diversity

To view student responses to other SERU questions, or to learn how you can access SERU data to explore responses by college, class level, or other demographic variables, contact seru@uiowa.edu

Sample invitation to complete the *SERU* survey:



Student Voices Make a Difference

The University of Iowa has over 21,000 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.