

# SEARS 2021-22

# Student Expenses and Resources Survey

Data, Analysis, & Research Team  
California Student Aid Commission

# Purpose of SEARS

- CSAC has a statutory mandate to “Collect and disseminate information concerning the financial resources and needs of students...” [Education Code sec. 69514(b)].
- Establish CSAC’s Student Expense Budget (SEB)
- Develop report on student experiences paying for college
- Provide campus-level data to participating institutions

# Timeline – Completed Items

- Meet with segmental representatives (SEARS Advisory Committee)
- Reach out to student representatives for input on survey
- Invite private institutions to participate
- Send MOUs to participating segments and institutions

# Timeline – In Progress

- Submit project application to state IRB for human subjects approval
- Execute MOUs with participating segments and institutions
- Administer survey online to four-year students in fall 2021 and to community college students in spring 2022
- Analyze data and publish student expense budget, return data

# Changes to Survey

- Removed questions

- Food and housing insecurity
- Credit card balance
- Marital status
- Non-financial obstacles to success in college

- Added questions

- Internet access points
- Zip code and commute time
- Commuting costs to permanent residence
- Car payments

# Changes to Survey

- Edited questions

- Separated child from non-child dependents
- Changed hours and wages to close-ended responses
- Separated Internet costs from housing and utilities
- Wording changes for clarity

- Administration

- Surveying at all CCCs
- Surveying at least 25% of all undergraduate students at each institutions
- Emailing survey through Mailchimp