

**Minnesota Public
Colleges and Universities
#RealCollege Survey:
WEB APPENDICES**

Appendix A. Participating Colleges

Two-Year Colleges

Alexandria Technical & Community College (2019)
Anoka Technical College (2019)
Anoka-Ramsey Community College (2019)
Central Lakes College Brainerd (2019)
Central Lakes College Staples (2019)
Dakota County Technical College (2019)
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (2019)
Hennepin Technical College (2018)
Hibbing Community College (2019)
Inver Hills Community College (2018)
Itasca Community College (2019)
Mesabi Range College (2019)
Minneapolis Community and Technical College (2019)
Minnesota State College Southeast (2019)
Minnesota State Community and Technical College (2018 & 2019)
Normandale Community College (2018)
North Hennepin Community College (2018)
Northland Community and Technical College (2019)
Northwest Technical College (2019)
Rainy River Community College (2019)
Ridgewater College (2019)
Riverland Community College (2019)
Rochester Community & Technical College (2019)
Saint Paul College (2019)
St. Cloud Technical and Community College (2018 & 2019)

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Metropolitan State University (2018 & 2019)
Minnesota State University Moorhead (2019)
Southwest Minnesota State University (2019)

Appendix B. Survey Methodology

SURVEY ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

Together with administrators, the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice fielded this survey to all participating institutions. Each institution agreed to administer an online survey in the fall and offer ten \$100 prizes to their students in order to boost response rates. Institution staff sent a series of invitations and follow-up reminders to all enrolled students encouraging them to participate.

The Hope Center provided the email invitation language as well as hosted the survey as shown below. Upon opening the survey, students were presented with a consent form in compliance with Institutional Review Board standards. To actually take the survey, the student must have clicked continue as a record of consent and completed a minimum of the first page of the survey. Participants were asked to use only the provided invitation language to ensure consistency across institutions.

Subject: Real talk: We need your help

From: email address [someone students “know” at COLLEGE NAME]

[COLLEGE LETTERHEAD FOR EMAIL]

Dear [student first name],

Let’s get real. You’re the expert when it comes to what’s happening in college. So we need your help to make [COLLEGE NAME] the best it can be for you and your friends.

Share your real talk in the #RealCollege survey. We chose you simply because you attend [COLLEGE NAME]. In appreciation, you can win \$100 for completing the survey.

Click here to share your story. [SURVEY LINKED HERE]

Be honest— everything you say is confidential. If you have questions, send us a note at hopesrvy@temple.edu.

Thank you.

COLLEGE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

In 2019, 24 postsecondary institutions fielded the survey early in fall term, as students enduring basic needs insecurity are at greater risk for dropping out of school later in the year.¹ For more information about 2018 participation, please refer to our 2018 Minnesota report.²

Table B-1. Characteristics of Participating Institutions (weighted)

	Two-year Colleges	Four-Year Colleges	Overall
N (colleges)	25	3	28
N (survey respondents)	8,057	1,755	9,812
	%	%	%
Sector			
Public	100	100	100
Private, not for profit	0	0	0
Private, for profit	0	0	0
Region			
West	0	0	0
Midwest	100	100	100
South	0	0	0
Northeast	0	0	0
Urbanization			
City	38	38	38
Suburb	18	45	25
Town	44	18	38
Rural	0	0	0
Size			
Under 5,000	54	0	40
5,000–9,999	46	100	60
10,000–19,999	0	0	0
20,000 or more	0	0	0

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2019). Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error.

STUDENT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Who Answered the Survey?

Most students who were sent the #RealCollege survey did not answer it. Participating institutions sent survey invitations to an estimated 93,900 students and 9,812 students participated, yielding an estimated response rate of 10.5%.³

We surveyed all students rather than drawing a subsample due to legal and financial restrictions. The results may be biased—overstating or understating the problem—depending on who answered and who did not. As readers ponder this issue, consider that the survey was emailed to students, and thus they had to have electronic access to respond. The incentives provided were negligible and did not include help with their challenges. Finally, the survey was framed as being about college life, not about hunger or homelessness.

In these appendices and the corresponding report, we drew on data from the 2018 and 2019 #RealCollege surveys for our key measures: rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness. More detailed breakdowns were based solely on data from the 2019 #RealCollege survey. For more information about the 2018 survey, including breakdowns of responses, please refer to our 2018 Minnesota report.⁴

Table B-2. Characteristics of Survey Respondents

	Two-Year Colleges %	Four-Year Colleges %	Overall %
Gender Identity			
Female	59	64	60
Male	22	19	21
Non-binary/Third gender	1	1	1
Prefers to self-describe	1	<1	1
Prefers not to answer	1	<1	1
Missing	18	15	17
Transgender Identity			
Transgender	1	1	1
Non-transgender	80	83	81
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	15	17
Sexual Orientation			

Heterosexual or straight	67	70	67
Gay or Lesbian	2	3	2
Bisexual	8	8	8
Prefers to self-describe	2	2	2
Prefers not to answer	3	2	3
Missing	18	15	18
Racial or Ethnic Background			
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	2	4
Black	9	8	9
Hispanic or Latinx	5	4	5
Indigenous	2	1	2
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	1	1	1
Other Asian or Asian-American	3	6	4
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	<1	1	1
Southeast Asian	2	5	3
White	66	65	66
Other	1	2	2
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	16	18
Student is a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident			
Yes	80	79	80
No	1	5	2
Prefers not to answer	<1	1	<1
Missing	18	15	17
Highest Level of Parental Education			
No high school diploma	6	3	5
High school	14	11	14
Some college	36	32	35
Bachelor's degree or greater	22	36	25
Does not know	3	2	3
Prefers not to answer	<1	<1	<1
Missing	18	15	17
Age			
18 to 20	35	30	34
21 to 25	19	27	21
26 to 30	9	9	9

Older than 30	18	18	18
Prefers not to answer	<1	<1	<1
Missing	19	16	18
College Enrollment Status			
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	66	78	69
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	34	22	31
Missing	<1	0	<1
Level of Study			
Undergraduate	73	87	77
Graduate	14	11	14
Non-degree	12	2	10
Missing	<1	<1	<1
Years in College			
Less than 1	38	20	34
1 to 2	37	26	34
Three or more	24	55	32
Missing	<1	0	<1
Dependency Status			
Dependent	21	27	22
Independent	43	40	43
Does not know	17	17	17
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	15	18
Student Receives the Pell Grant			
Yes	44	37	42
No	43	51	45
Missing	13	12	12
Student Athlete			
Yes	3	5	3
No	78	80	79
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	15	17
Parenting Student			
Yes	20	13	18
No	68	76	70
Missing	12	11	12
Relationship Status			

Single	38	40	38
In a relationship	28	28	28
Married or domestic partnership	13	14	13
Divorced	2	1	2
Widowed	<1	<1	<1
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	15	17
Student Has Been in Foster Care			
Yes	5	3	4
No	76	81	78
Prefers not to answer	1	1	1
Missing	18	15	18
Student Served in the Military			
Yes	3	2	3
No	79	83	80
Prefers not to answer	<1	<1	<1
Missing	18	15	18
Employment Status			
Employed	31	33	31
Not Employed, Looking	3	2	3
Not Employed, Not looking	8	5	7
Missing	58	60	58
Student is a Returning Citizen			
Yes	5	3	5
No	79	83	80
Prefers not to answer	2	1	2
Missing	14	12	14
Disability or Medical Condition			
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	15	10	14
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	5	4	5
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)	13	13	13
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	36	31	35
Other	3	2	3
No disability or medical condition	36	45	38
Prefers not to answer	2	2	2

Missing	17	15	16
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Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Classifications of gender identity, racial and ethnic background, and disability or medical condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. Percentages of mutually exclusive groups may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error. Survey questions about employment status were randomly administered to a subset of respondents.

Appendix C. Three Survey Measures of Basic Needs Insecurity

FOOD SECURITY

To assess food *security* in 2018 and 2019, we used questions from the 18-item Household Food Security Survey Module (shown below) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is important to note that while we mainly discuss *insecurity*, the standard is to measure the level of *security*, referring to those with low or very low security as “food insecure.”

Food Security Module

Adult Stage 1

1. “In the last 30 days, I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
2. “In the last 30 days, the food that I bought just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
3. “In the last 30 days, I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)

If the respondent answers “often true” or “sometimes true” to any of the three questions in Adult Stage 1, then proceed to Adult Stage 2.

Adult Stage 2

4. “In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
5. [*If yes to question 4, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?” (Once, Twice, Three times, Four times, Five times, More than five times)
6. “In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
7. “In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
8. “In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

If the respondent answers “yes” to any of the questions in Adult Stage 2, then proceed to Adult Stage 3.

Adult Stage 3

9. “In the last 30 days, did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

10. [*If yes to question 9, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?” (Once, Twice, Three times, Four times, Five times, More than five times)

If the respondent has indicated that children under 18 are present in the household, then proceed to Child Stage 1.

Child Stage 1

11. “In the last 30 days, I relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed my children because I was running out of money to buy food.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
12. “In the last 30 days, I couldn’t feed my children a balanced meal, because I couldn’t afford that.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
13. “In the last 30 days, my child was not eating enough because I just couldn’t afford enough food.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)

If the respondent answers “often true” or “sometimes true” to any of the three questions in Child Stage 1, then proceed to Child Stage 2.

Child Stage 2

14. “In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your children’s meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
15. “In the last 30 days, did your children ever skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
16. [*If yes to question 15, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how often did this happen?” (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or more times)
17. “In the last 30 days, were your children ever hungry but you just couldn’t afford more food?” (Yes/No)
18. “In the last 30 days, did any of your children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

To calculate a raw score for food security, we counted the number of questions to which a student answered affirmatively.

- a. “Often true” and “sometimes true” were counted as affirmative answers.
- b. Answers of “Three times” or more were counted as a “yes.” We translated the raw score into food security levels as follows:

Food security level	Raw Score	
	18-item (children present)	18-item (no children present)
High	0	0
Marginal	1-2	1-2
Low	3-7	3-5
Very Low	8-18	6-10

HOUSING INSECURITY

To assess housing insecurity, we used a series of survey questions adapted from the national Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Adult Well-Being Module to measure students’ access to and ability to pay for safe and reliable housing.⁵ In 2018 and 2019, we asked students the following questions:

Housing Insecurity Module

1. “In the past 12 months, was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?” (Yes/No)
2. “In the past 12 months, have you been unable to pay or underpaid your rent or mortgage?” (Yes/No)
3. “In the past 12 months, have you received a summons to appear in housing court?” (Yes/No)
4. “In the past 12 months, have you not paid the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill?” (Yes/No)
5. “In the past 12 months, did you have an account default or go into collections?” (Yes/No)
6. “In the past 12 months, have you moved in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?” (Yes/No)
7. “In the past 12 months, have you lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment?” (Yes/No)
8. “In the past 12 months, did you leave your household because you felt unsafe?” (Yes/No)
9. “In the past 12 months, how many times have you moved?” (None, Once, Twice, 3 times, 4 times, 5 times, 6 times, 7 times, 8 times, 9 times, 10 or more times)

Students were considered housing insecure if they answered “yes” to any of the first eight questions or said they moved at least *three* times (question #9).

HOMELESSNESS

To measure homelessness, we asked a series of survey questions that align with the definition of homelessness dictated by the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Please refer to pp. 31–32 in Crutchfield and Maguire (2017) for further discussion of this measure.⁶

In 2018 and 2019, students were considered homeless if they answered affirmatively to question #1 OR any part of question #2 (parts e through m) in the Homelessness Module (below).

Homelessness Module

1. “In the past 12 months, have you ever been homeless?”
2. “In the past 12 months, have you slept in any of the following places? Please check all that apply.”
 - a. Campus or university housing
 - b. Sorority/fraternity house
 - c. In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment (alone or with roommates or friends)
 - d. In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment with my family (parent, guardian, or relative)
 - e. At a shelter
 - f. In a camper or RV
 - g. Temporarily staying with a relative, friend, or couch surfing until I find other housing
 - h. Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not on vacation or business travel)
 - i. In transitional housing or independent living program
 - j. At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse
 - k. At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)
 - l. Outdoor location (such as street, sidewalk, or alley; bus or train stop; campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed; under bridge or overpass; or other)
 - m. In a closed area/space with a roof not meant for human habitation (such as abandoned building; car, truck, or van; encampment or tent; unconverted garage, attic, or basement; etc.)

Appendix D. Tables on Data Used in Figures

Table D-1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents (Figure 1)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
High	3,317	48	813	52	4,130	48
Marginal	966	14	253	16	1,219	14
Low	1,098	16	213	14	1,311	15
Very low	1,583	23	292	19	1,875	22

Source: 2018 & 2019 #RealCollege surveys

Notes: According to the USDA, students at either low or very low food security are considered “food insecure.” For more details on the food security module used in this report, see Appendix C. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error.

Table D-2. Food Security Among Survey Respondents (Figure 2)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	1,788	42	558	39	2,346	42
I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.	1,683	40	481	34	2,164	38
The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have the money to buy more.	1,348	32	364	26	1,712	30
I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food.	1,369	33	349	25	1,718	31
I ate less than I felt I should because there wasn't enough money for food.	1,296	31	338	24	1,634	29
I was hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food.	1,080	26	283	20	1,363	24
I cut the size of meals or skipped because there wasn't enough money for food. (3 or more times)	996	24	251	18	1,247	22

I lost weight because there wasn't enough money for food.	613	15	147	10	760	14
I did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food.	385	9	82	6	467	8
I did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food. (3 or more times)	231	6	46	3	277	5

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on the food security module used in this report, see Appendix C.

Table D-3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents (Figure 3)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Any item	3,427	49	675	43	4,102	48
Had a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay	802	19	264	18	1,066	19
Did not pay full amount of rent or mortgage	826	19	221	15	1,047	18
Did not pay full utilities (gas, oil, or electricity bill)	839	20	179	13	1,018	18
Had an account default or go into collections	682	16	152	11	834	15
Moved in with other people, even for a little while, due to financial problems	663	16	190	13	853	15
Lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment	360	8	108	8	468	8
Left household because felt unsafe	281	7	74	5	355	6
Moved three or more times	159	4	56	4	215	4
Received a summons to appear in housing court	42	1	10	1	52	1

Source: 2018 & 2019 #RealCollege surveys

Notes: In the above table, the top row, “Any item,” represents the rate of housing insecurity for all Minnesota survey respondents in 2018 and 2019. All other percentages represent 2019 rates. For more details on the housing insecurity module used in this report, see Appendix C.

Table D-4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents (Figure 4)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Any item	1,299	18	238	15	1,537	18
Self-identified homeless	196	5	26	2	222	4
Locations stayed overnight:						
Temporarily staying with relative, friend or couch surfing until I find other housing	490	12	119	8	609	11
In a camper or RV	188	4	64	5	252	5
Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not vacation or business travel)	92	2	23	2	115	2
In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation (such as abandoned building; car, truck, or van; encampment or tent; unconverted garage, attic, or basement; etc.)	102	2	21	1	123	2
At outdoor location (such as street, sidewalk or alley; bus or train stop; campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed; under bridge or overpass)	73	2	16	1	89	2
At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)	78	2	12	1	90	2
In transitional housing or independent living program	59	1	6	<1	65	1
At a shelter	41	1	7	1	48	1

At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse	45	1	2	<1	47	1
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Source: 2018 & 2019 #RealCollege surveys

Notes: In the above table, the top row, “Any item,” represents the rate of housing insecurity for all Minnesota survey respondents in 2018 and 2019. All other percentages represent 2019 rates. For more details on the homelessness module used in this report, see Appendix C.

Table D-5. Intersections of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents (Figure 5)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No needs (“Secure”)	2,806	40	727	46	3,533	41
Food insecure, housing insecure, or homeless (“Insecure”)	4,246	60	860	54	5,106	59
Food and housing insecure	2,104	30	369	23	2,473	29
Housing insecure and homeless	984	14	171	11	1,155	13
Food insecure and homeless	792	11	127	8	919	11

Source: 2018 & 2019 #RealCollege surveys

Notes: For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-6. Variation in Institutional Rates of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents by Sector (Figure 6)

		Number of					
		Institutions	Mean	SD	P25	P50	P75
Two-Year Institutions	Food insecurity rate	25	39	6	33	40	41
	Housing insecurity rate	25	48	10	43	50	55
	Homelessness rate	25	18	4	16	19	20
Four-Year Institutions	Food insecurity rate	3	32	9	23	30	42
	Housing insecurity rate	3	40	15	31	33	58
	Homelessness rate	3	15	1	14	16	16

Source: 2018 & 2019 #RealCollege surveys

Notes: For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-7. Demographic Disparities in Rates Basic Need Insecurities (Tables 1 & 3)

	Two-Year College				Four-Year College				Overall			
	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)
All survey respondents	7,046	38	49	18	1,586	32	43	15	8,632	37	48	18
Gender Identity												
Female	2,796	39	50	18	1,018	33	43	13	3,814	37	48	17
Male	1,043	35	40	20	301	21	31	18	1,344	32	38	19
Non-binary/Third gender	66	55	76	41	20	40	30	15	86	51	65	35
Prefer to self-describe	30	40	60	33	.	.	.	.	35	40	57	31
Prefers not to answer	30	60	57	30	.	.	.	.	34	59	56	29
Missing	367	38	40	14	99	35	41	12	466	38	40	14
Transgender Identity												
Transgender	54	54	69	24	18	44	50	39	72	51	64	28
Non-transgender	3,807	38	47	19	1,312	30	40	14	5,119	36	45	18
Prefers not to answer	39	62	60	26	.	.	.	.	47	60	58	21
Missing	367	38	40	15	100	36	42	12	467	37	41	14

Sexual Orientation												
Heterosexual or straight	3,175	36	46	18	1,102	29	37	12	4,277	34	44	16
Gay or Lesbian	110	47	57	25	42	48	57	45	152	47	57	30
Bisexual	364	45	59	24	124	37	52	24	488	43	57	24
Self-describe	117	56	62	29	37	35	57	14	154	51	61	25
Prefers not to answer	125	36	47	22	32	34	47	6	157	36	47	18
Missing	376	38	40	15	101	35	40	13	477	37	40	14
Racial or Ethnic Background												
American Indian or Alaskan Native	205	57	68	30	37	41	46	11	242	54	64	27
Black	433	55	60	24	128	48	61	16	561	53	60	22
Hispanic or Latinx	256	51	60	26	56	43	63	23	312	49	60	25
Indigenous	95	69	75	44	10	40	70	30	105	67	74	43
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	39	49	59	18	19	47	53	11	58	48	57	16
Other Asian or Asian American	139	45	53	14	100	48	43	12	239	46	49	13
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	23	52	74	17	11	45	45	27	34	50	65	21
Southeast Asian	96	42	50	8	74	51	58	15	170	46	54	11
White	3,131	35	45	19	1,034	25	35	14	4,165	32	43	17
Other	71	41	62	24	38	47	53	13	109	43	59	20
Prefers not to answer	49	47	63	31	18	39	33	44	67	45	55	34
Missing	375	38	40	15	106	34	40	12	481	37	40	15
Student is a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident												
Yes	3,809	38	47	19	1,257	29	40	14	5,066	36	46	18
No	69	46	55	35	72	42	44	19	141	44	50	27
Prefers not to answer	22	57	74	32	.	.	.	.	30	55	68	27
Missing	367	37	40	15	101	36	40	12	468	37	40	14
Highest Level of Parental Education												
No high school diploma	293	53	61	25	55	49	51	15	348	52	60	23

High school	687	44	52	17	177	38	41	15	864	43	50	16
Some college	1,738	39	48	20	504	32	45	16	2,242	37	48	19
Bachelor's degree or greater	1,026	28	40	17	563	23	34	13	1,589	27	38	16
Does not know	139	40	42	18	34	41	56	15	173	40	45	17
Prefers not to answer	20	38	57	0	.	.	.	.	26	41	56	0
Missing	364	38	40	14	99	35	38	11	463	37	40	14
Age												
18 to 20	1,677	32	32	18	481	21	20	15	2,158	29	30	17
21 to 25	887	45	56	23	421	37	46	15	1,308	42	53	20
26 to 30	430	46	65	21	141	40	67	16	571	45	65	19
Over 30	850	41	61	17	282	29	51	11	1,132	38	58	16
Prefers not to answer	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	20	30	10
Missing	414	37	40	14	112	35	40	11	526	37	40	13

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number of survey respondents for our measures of food insecurity and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. Classifications of racial or ethnic background and gender identity are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-8. Disparities in Basic Needs by Student Life Experiences (Tables 2 & 4)

	Two-Year College				Four-Year College				Overall			
	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)
All survey respondents	7,046	38	49	18	1,586	32	43	15	8,632	37	48	18
College Enrollment Status												
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	2,804	38	45	18	1,116	31	38	15	3,920	36	43	17
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	1,455	38	51	19	322	29	49	12	1,777	36	51	18
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Level of Study												
Undergraduate	3,134	39	48	18	1,249	32	40	14	4,383	37	46	17
Graduate	616	39	46	21	163	18	40	13	779	35	45	19
Non-degree	503	33	42	20	25	29	40	8	528	33	41	19
Missing	14	43	36	14	.	.	.	.	15	43	40	13
Years in College												
Less than 1	1,597	37	42	20	282	17	15	11	1,879	34	38	19
1 to 2	1,587	38	48	18	363	30	33	17	1,950	37	45	18
Three or more	1,076	39	53	17	793	35	52	14	1,869	38	53	16
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dependency Status												
Dependent	985	32	36	19	424	27	31	13	1,409	30	34	17
Independent	2,071	44	59	20	634	34	50	14	2,705	41	57	19
Does not know	804	31	33	18	270	27	30	16	1,074	30	32	17
Prefers not to answer	34	49	49	18	10	30	40	30	44	44	47	20
Missing	373	38	41	14	100	35	39	12	473	38	40	14
Student Receives the Pell Grant												
Yes	1,975	48	59	22	547	40	49	16	2,522	46	57	20
No	1,907	29	36	16	756	24	34	12	2,663	28	35	15
Missing	385	33	41	16	135	29	41	21	520	32	41	17
Student Athlete												
Yes	136	39	36	24	72	15	19	10	208	31	30	19
No	3,736	38	48	19	1,260	31	41	15	4,996	36	46	18
Prefers not to answer	27	50	61	30	.	.	.	.	35	56	64	26

Missing	368	38	41	14	98	35	39	12	466	37	40	14
Parenting Student												
Yes	943	51	65	16	202	35	53	11	1,145	48	63	15
No	3,233	34	42	20	1,209	29	38	15	4,442	33	41	18
Missing	91	70	41	13	27	62	41	4	118	68	41	11
Relationship Status												
Single	1,790	38	44	22	638	30	36	16	2,428	36	42	20
In a relationship	1,348	39	47	19	442	35	45	16	1,790	38	46	18
Married or domestic partnership	611	35	55	11	220	23	42	5	831	32	51	10
Divorced	83	52	78	20	21	38	62	10	104	49	75	18
Widowed	10	10	40	10	.	.	.	.	14	7	29	7
Prefers not to answer	60	45	61	28	12	25	58	33	72	42	60	29
Missing	365	37	40	14	101	34	39	12	466	36	39	14
Student Has Been in Foster Care												
Yes	215	59	72	34	42	48	76	24	257	57	73	33
No	3,641	37	46	18	1,287	30	39	14	4,928	35	44	17
Prefers not to answer	36	59	70	28	.	.	.	.	44	56	67	27
Missing	375	37	40	15	101	36	39	12	476	37	39	14
Student Served in the Military												
Yes	133	40	56	20	27	26	30	4	160	38	52	17
No	3,747	38	47	19	1,308	30	40	15	5,055	36	45	18
Prefers not to answer	15	63	63	33	.	.	.	.	18	63	63	28
Missing	372	38	41	15	100	33	38	11	472	37	40	14
Employment Status												
Employed	1,427	38	49	18	503	32	42	17	1,930	37	47	18
Not Employed, Looking	157	40	48	19	31	39	39	13	188	40	46	18
Not Employed, Not looking	347	27	31	14	83	20	31	7	430	26	31	13
Missing	2,336	39	48	19	821	31	40	13	3,157	37	46	18
Student is a Returning Citizen												
Yes	233	56	76	37	54	41	54	13	287	53	72	33
No	3,777	36	45	17	1,318	30	39	14	5,095	35	44	16
Prefers not to answer	79	51	68	33	22	41	64	27	101	49	67	32
Missing	178	51	40	16	44	40	36	14	222	49	39	15

Disability or Medical Condition												
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	732	47	55	25	159	42	51	20	891	46	54	24
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	245	46	56	25	71	45	55	17	316	46	56	23
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)	627	48	60	25	198	42	53	21	825	47	58	24
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	1,726	46	58	25	488	38	50	18	2,214	45	56	23
Other	134	45	63	24	29	38	55	24	163	44	62	24
No disability or medical condition	1,695	30	38	14	716	25	33	11	2,411	29	37	13
Prefers not to answer	83	27	41	22	33	19	39	6	116	24	41	17
Missing	315	41	41	15	85	37	38	11	400	40	40	14

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number of survey respondents for our measures of food insecurity and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Classifications of disability or medical condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. Survey questions about employment status were randomly administered to a subset of respondents. Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-9. Employment Behavior by Basic Need Insecurity Status (Figure 7)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Experienced Food Insecurity—No						
Not employed, not looking for work	250	21	66	15	316	19
Not employed, looking for work	91	8	19	4	110	7
Working 1 to 20 hours	380	31	197	46	577	35
Working 21 to 30 hours	230	19	43	10	273	17
Working more than 30 hours	258	21	101	24	359	22
Experienced Food Insecurity—Yes						
Not employed, not looking for work	93	13	17	9	110	12
Not employed, looking for work	61	9	12	6	73	8
Working 1 to 20 hours	235	34	77	41	312	35
Working 21 to 30 hours	133	19	34	18	167	19
Working more than 30 hours	175	25	46	25	221	25
Experienced Housing Insecurity—No						
Not employed, not looking for work	241	23	57	15	298	21
Not employed, looking for work	82	8	19	5	101	7
Working 1 to 20 hours	338	32	177	48	515	36
Working 21 to 30 hours	202	19	36	10	238	17
Working more than 30 hours	193	18	79	21	272	19
Experienced Housing Insecurity—Yes						
Not employed, not looking for work	106	12	26	10	132	12
Not employed, looking for work	75	9	12	5	87	8
Working 1 to 20 hours	282	32	99	40	381	34
Working 21 to 30 hours	167	19	41	16	208	19
Working more than 30 hours	244	28	71	29	315	28
Experienced Homelessness—No						
Not employed, not looking for work	298	19	77	15	375	18
Not employed, looking for work	127	8	27	5	154	7
Working 1 to 20 hours	493	31	228	44	721	34
Working 21 to 30 hours	306	19	64	12	370	18
Working more than 30 hours	365	23	126	24	491	23
Experienced Homelessness—Yes						
Not employed, not looking for work	49	14	6	6	55	13

Not employed, looking for work	30	9	4	4	34	8
Working 1 to 20 hours	128	37	48	51	176	40
Working 21 to 30 hours	63	18	13	14	76	17
Working more than 30 hours	72	21	24	25	96	22

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Survey questions about work status and number of hours worked were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-10. Self-Reported Grades by Basic Need Insecurity Status (Figure 8)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Experienced Food Insecurity—No						
A	1,157	48	584	62	1,741	52
B	992	41	307	32	1,299	39
C	244	10	52	5	296	9
D or F	26	1	5	1	31	1
Experienced Food Insecurity—Yes						
A	527	37	182	44	709	38
B	688	48	177	43	865	47
C	204	14	47	11	251	14
D or F	19	1	7	2	26	1
Experienced Housing Insecurity—No						
A	984	47	518	63	1,502	51
B	857	41	258	31	1,115	38
C	229	11	47	6	276	9
D or F	28	1	2	<1	30	1
Experienced Housing Insecurity—Yes						
A	717	40	252	46	969	41
B	844	47	235	43	1,079	46
C	228	13	53	10	281	12
D or F	18	1	10	2	28	1
Experienced Homelessness—No						
A	1,414	44	686	58	2,100	48
B	1,388	44	412	35	1,800	41

C	351	11	76	6	427	10
D or F	37	1	8	1	45	1
Experienced Homelessness—Yes						
A	288	40	84	44	372	41
B	310	43	81	42	391	43
C	106	15	24	12	130	14
D or F	9	1	4	2	13	1

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-11. Use of Public Assistance According to Basic Need Security Among Survey Respondents (Figure 9)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Food Insecure						
Any assistance	885	58	201	47	1,086	55
Medicaid or public health insurance	498	32	109	26	607	31
Tax refunds (including EITC)	338	22	87	20	425	22
SNAP (food stamps)	296	19	39	9	335	17
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	169	11	22	5	191	10
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	157	10	25	6	182	9
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	142	9	25	6	167	9
Transportation assistance	73	5	12	3	85	4
Veterans benefits (Veteran's Administration benefits for a servicemen's, widow's, or survivor's pension, service disability or the GI bill)	36	2	11	3	47	2
SSDI (social security disability income)	50	3	14	3	64	3

Child care assistance	92	6	11	3	103	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	45	3	7	2	52	3
Unemployment compensation or insurance	41	3	3	1	44	2
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	59	4	5	1	64	3
Other assistance	37	2	8	2	45	2
Housing Insecure						
Any assistance	1,095	57	257	46	1,352	54
Medicaid or public health insurance	622	32	137	24	759	30
Tax refunds (including EITC)	461	24	124	22	585	23
SNAP (food stamps)	359	19	41	7	400	16
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	196	10	24	4	220	9
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	188	10	24	4	212	9
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	165	9	30	5	195	8
Transportation assistance	74	4	16	3	90	4
Veterans benefits (Veteran's Administration benefits for a servicemen's, widow's, or survivor's pension, service disability or the GI bill)	52	3	11	2	63	3
SSDI (social security disability income)	49	3	16	3	65	3
Child care assistance	106	5	11	2	117	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	48	2	9	2	57	2
Unemployment compensation or insurance	52	3	6	1	58	2
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	67	3	5	1	72	3
Other assistance	49	3	7	1	56	2
Homeless						
Any assistance	421	55	93	47	514	53
Medicaid or public health insurance	232	30	39	20	271	28
Tax refunds (including EITC)	164	21	50	25	214	22
SNAP (food stamps)	148	19	11	6	159	16

WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	60	8	5	3	65	7
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	52	7	9	5	61	6
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	69	9	7	4	76	8
Transportation assistance	38	5	2	1	40	4
Veterans benefits (Veteran's Administration benefits for a servicemen's, widow's, or survivor's pension, service disability or the GI bill)	24	3	6	3	30	3
SSDI (social security disability income)	27	4	6	3	33	3
Child care assistance	44	6	2	1	46	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	14	2	1	1	15	2
Unemployment compensation or insurance	16	2	2	1	18	2
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADCFC)	36	5	2	1	38	4
Other assistance	23	3	4	2	27	3
Secure						
Any assistance	498	30	167	25	665	29
Medicaid or public health insurance	226	14	54	8	280	12
Tax refunds (including EITC)	220	13	93	14	313	14
SNAP (food stamps)	63	4	7	1	70	3
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	46	3	6	1	52	2
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	23	1	3	<1	26	1
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	29	2	3	<1	32	1
Transportation assistance	21	1	4	1	25	1
Veterans benefits (Veteran's Administration benefits for a	46	3	22	3	68	3

servicemen's, widow's, or survivor's pension, service disability or the GI bill)						
SSDI (social security disability income)	28	2	9	1	37	2
Child care assistance	24	1	4	1	28	1
SSI (supplemental security income)	19	1	8	1	27	1
Unemployment compensation or insurance	23	1	7	1	30	1
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADCFC)	5	<1	2	<1	7	<1
Other assistance	17	1	6	1	23	1

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-12. Use of Campus Supports According to Basic Need Security Among Survey Respondents (Figure 10)

	Two-Year College		Four-Year College		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Food Insecure						
Any campus support	248	33	80	39	328	35
Food from a campus food pantry	146	20	42	21	188	20
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	56	8	39	19	95	10
Free food from another campus resource not listed	83	11	26	13	109	11
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	37	5	11	5	48	5
Emergency financial aid	44	6	11	5	55	6
Food from a campus garden	28	4	6	3	34	4
Emergency housing	13	2	2	1	15	2
Help finding affordable housing	27	4	9	4	36	4
Housing Insecure						
Any campus support	266	29	90	31	356	30
Food from a campus food pantry	145	16	44	15	189	16
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	76	8	44	15	120	10
Free food from another campus resource not listed	78	9	33	11	111	9

Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	42	5	10	3	52	4
Emergency financial aid	43	5	12	4	55	5
Food from a campus garden	29	3	5	2	34	3
Emergency housing	15	2	2	1	17	1
Help finding affordable housing	28	3	8	3	36	3
Homeless						
Any campus support	140	39	46	41	186	40
Food from a campus food pantry	85	24	24	21	109	23
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	48	13	23	21	71	15
Free food from another campus resource not listed	39	11	17	15	56	12
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	19	5	5	4	24	5
Emergency financial aid	24	7	8	7	32	7
Food from a campus garden	18	5	3	3	21	4
Emergency housing	8	2	2	2	10	2
Help finding affordable housing	16	4	7	6	23	5
Secure						
Any campus support	113	15	69	19	182	16
Food from a campus food pantry	66	8	28	8	94	8
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	31	4	38	11	69	6
Free food from another campus resource not listed	27	3	20	6	47	4
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	1	<1	2	1	3	<1
Emergency financial aid	12	2	3	1	15	1
Food from a campus garden	6	1	3	1	9	1
Emergency housing	2	<1	1	<1	3	<1
Help finding affordable housing	5	1	2	1	7	1

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Survey questions about campus supports were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Appendix E. Other Survey Questions Used in the Hope Center's #RealCollege Survey

1. What is your gender? (Mark Yes or No for each item)
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Non-binary/third gender
 - d. Prefer to self-describe
 - e. Prefer not to answer
2. Do you identify as transgender?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer
3. What is your sexual orientation?
 - a. Heterosexual or straight
 - b. Gay or lesbian
 - c. Bisexual
 - d. Prefer to self-describe
 - e. Prefer not to answer
4. In what year were you born? (answers by dropdown)
5. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer
6. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Military Reserves, or National Guard?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I prefer not to answer
7. How do you usually describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Select “Yes” to all that apply if you identify with multiple groups)
 - a. White or Caucasian
 - b. African American or Black
 - c. Hispanic or Latinx/Latina/Latino or Chicanx/Chicana/Chicano
 - d. American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - e. Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American
 - f. Southeast Asian
 - g. Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
 - h. Other Asian or Asian-American

- i. Other (please specify)
 - j. Prefer not to answer
8. What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents/guardians?
- a. Eighth grade or lower
 - b. Between 9th and 12th grade (but no high school diploma)
 - c. High school diploma
 - d. GED
 - e. Some college (but no college degree)
 - f. College certificate or diploma
 - g. Associate's degree
 - h. Bachelor's degree
 - i. Graduate degree
 - j. I don't know
 - k. Prefer not to answer
9. In the last year, did a parent or guardian claim you as a "dependent" for tax purposes?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. Prefer not to answer
10. How would you describe your current relationship status?
- a. Single
 - b. In a relationship
 - c. Married or domestic partnership
 - d. Divorced
 - e. Widowed
 - f. Prefer not to answer
11. Have you ever been in foster care?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer
12. Are you the parent or guardian to any biological, adopted, step, or foster children who live in your household?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
13. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? (Felony and misdemeanor convictions only. Don't include violations or traffic infractions)
- a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. Prefer not to answer
14. Do you have any of the following disabilities or medical conditions?
- a. Cognitive, learning, or neurological disorders/disabilities (dyslexia, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy, etc.)
 - b. Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)
 - c. Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)
 - d. Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, PTSD, etc.)
 - e. Other: (fill in)
15. Are you a student-athlete on a team sponsored by your institution's athletics department?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to answer

¹ Although assessments of basic needs insecurity made early in the fall semester are likely to capture more students, these assessments may also understate students' basic needs. In fact, [Bruening et al. \(2018\)](#) surveyed the same population at the beginning and at the end of a semester and found that rates of food insecurity were higher at the end of the semester (35%) than at the beginning (28%).

² The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. (2019). *2018 #RealCollege Survey Report: Participating Colleges in Minnesota*.

³ For most participating institutions, the estimated number of survey invitations is based on the total number of students at institutions, age 18 or above, in the fall of 2017, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

⁴ The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. (2019). *2018 #RealCollege Survey Report: Participating Colleges in Minnesota*.

⁵ See https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about/sipp-content-information.html#par_textimage_5

⁶ Crutchfield, R. M. & Maguire, J. (2017). *Researching basic needs in higher education: Qualitative and quantitative instruments to explore a holistic understanding of food and housing insecurity*. Long Beach, California: Basic Needs Initiative, Office of the Chancellor, California State University.