

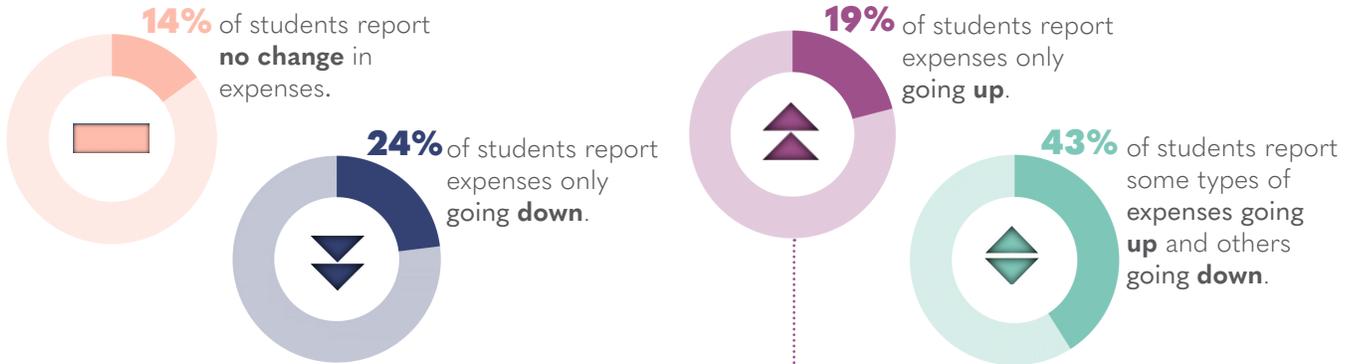


# The Impact of COVID-19 on California's College Students

Four Key Takeaways From a January 2021 Survey

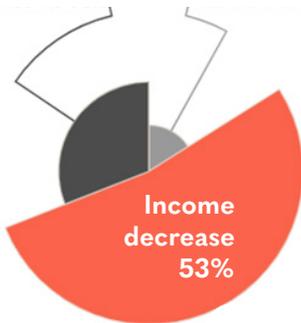
Nearly all students' budgets have changed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vast majority of students report that their monthly costs have changed since the beginning of the pandemic, though changes were not uniform:



Over half of students say their incomes have declined during the pandemic:

No change in income 31%    Income increase 16%



Six in ten students reporting only expense increases also report income declines.



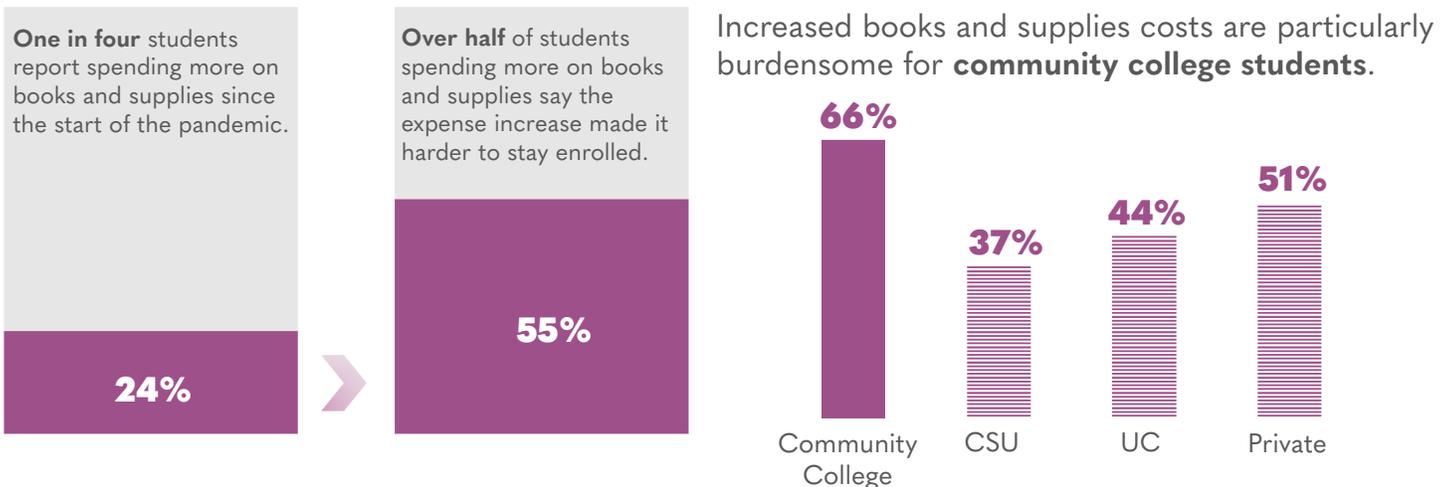
“The pandemic left me paying for more things and having less money to actually afford staying enrolled.”

– Student enrolled in community college in Spring 2020

Food expenses are most likely to have gone up, and transportation expenses are most likely to have gone down.

Increases in non-tuition expenses can be a challenge for continuing enrollment.

Among different expense types, students most frequently identify increased **books and supplies** costs as creating a hardship for continued enrollment.

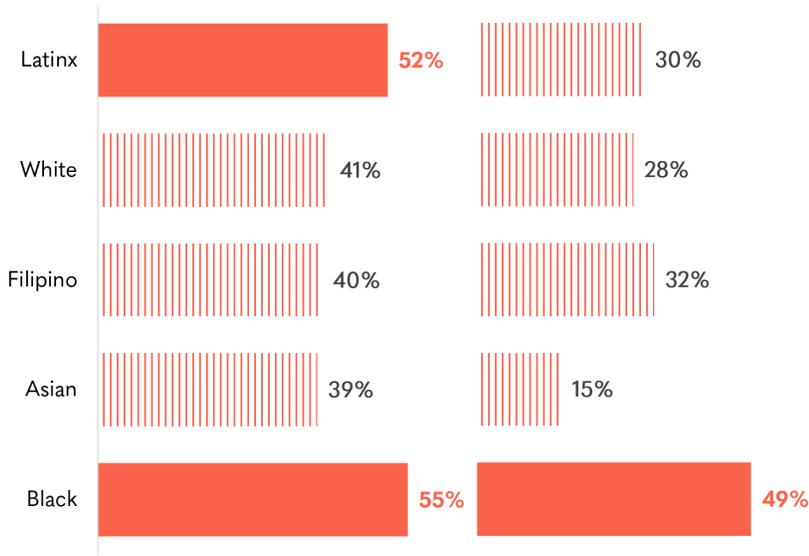


# The pandemic's financial strain is disproportionately impacting Black and Latinx students.

As a result of the pandemic's impact on income and expenses:

**Over half of Black and Latinx students report increased indicators of food insecurity.\***

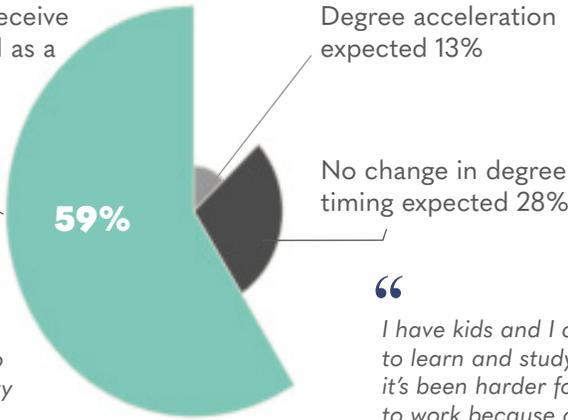
**Half of Black students report having missed a rent, mortgage, or utility payment.**



# As a result of the pandemic, a majority of students now expect their degree to take longer.

Key reasons for delayed attainment include added financial strain, concern about online college quality, lacking sufficient devices or internet to productively participate in online classes, lack of personal space to study, and new time constraints.

Six in ten students expect to receive their degree later than planned as a result of the pandemic.



“  
I have to pay for college all on my own and with the loss of my job, I have decided to take a break while I focus on financial stability and then regain my main focus on schooling.  
– Student enrolled in community college in Spring 2020

“  
I have kids and I can't concentrate at my home to learn and study on my own... Also, financially it's been harder for supplies and not being able to work because of the pandemic.  
– Student enrolled in CSU in Spring 2020

TICAS analysis of a January 2021 online survey of California college students, designed by TICAS and administered by Hart Research Associates, with support from the Michelson 20MM Foundation. Data include 875 respondents across all sectors in the state. Respondents were all enrolled in March 2020 and had not yet completed their program in Spring 2020 or Summer 2020.

Shares of students reporting that increased books and supplies costs created hardship for continued enrollment exclude students who indicated the question did not apply to them.

\*Students were asked, "As a result of the pandemic's impact on your income or your expenses, have you experienced increased food insecurity (e.g., skipping meals, reducing how much you eat at meals, being afraid food will run out before you are able to purchase more)?" Students self-reported race and ethnicity, with those identifying as "Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin" categorized here as "Latinx" and not captured in other racial groups. Graphs by race/ethnicity exclude groups with less than 20 respondents.