

June 2020

# **Impact of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic among International Students at Minnesota State University Mankato**

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# Executive Summary

A survey of international students at Minnesota State Mankato was conducted in June 2020 to assess the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic and understand the needs of this population. The survey was conducted by the lead researcher in consultation with and behalf of Remember Me Too, a student group supporting international students at this time, and Minnesota State University Mankato.

## FINANCIAL STRAIN

**47.5%**

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO CURRENTLY RELY ON THEIR FAMILIES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

However, over 80% of these students have experienced a reduction in the amount of support they receive from their families

ALSO THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC

Of those who didn't lose their jobs, over a quarter had the number of hours they work reduced

## ACCESS TO RESOURCES

A LACK OF FINANCES HAS LED TO A LOSS OF ACCESS TO RESOURCES AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. CURRENTLY, STUDENTS ARE FACING HOUSING INSECURITY, FOOD INSECURITY, AND SUFFERING LACK OF ACCESS TO OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES

**31.4%**

The percentage of respondents who will not or are unsure if they will have housing for the remainder of the summer

**39.6%**

The percentage of respondents who do not know where their next meal will come from

**57.3%**

The percentage of respondents who will not or are unsure if they will be able to pay their basic living expenses for the remainder of the summer

**33.0%**

The percentage of respondents who do not have access to reliable transportation when they need it

## STUDENT CONCERNS

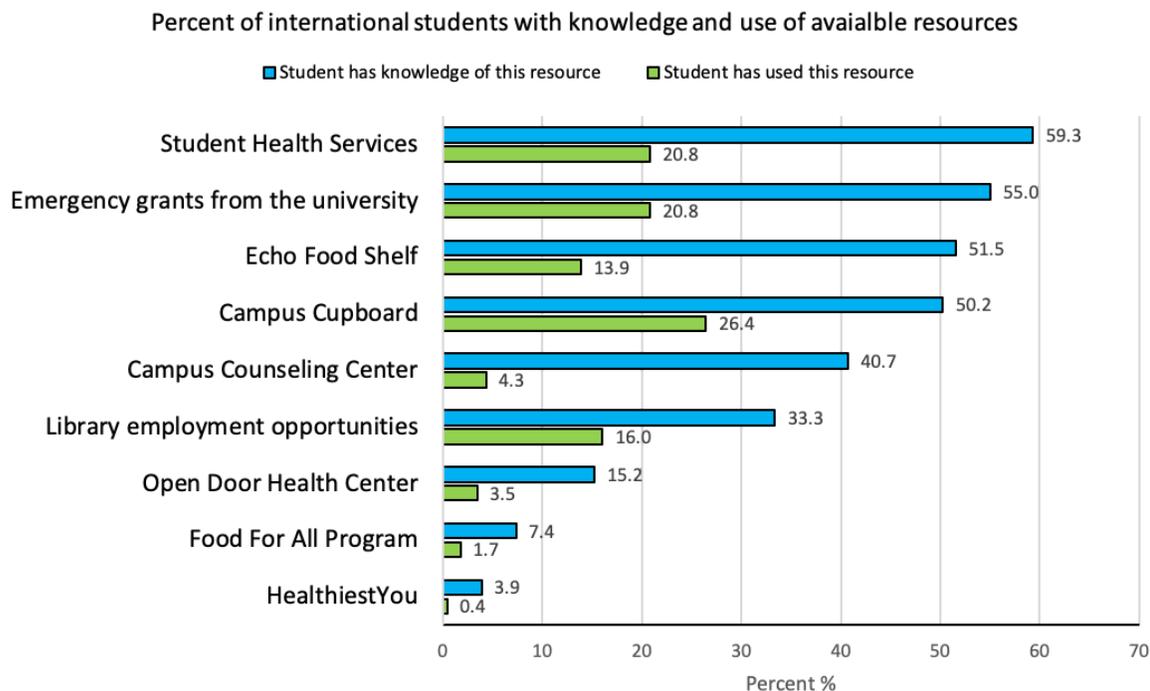
DESPITE A LACK OF ACCESS TO BASIC RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD, THESE ARE NOT AMONG THE MAIN CONCERNS OF RESPONDENTS. THEY IDENTIFY THEIR TOP THREE CONCERNS AS:

1) THE ABILITY TO PAY TUITION AND FEES, 2) EMPLOYMENT, AND 3) MAINTAINING THEIR VISA STATUS

It is important to note that most international students must register for classes in the fall to retain their visa status, but they cannot do this if they hold a balance over \$750 on their University account. Helping international students reduce University balances can help with two of their top concerns

# KNOWLEDGE OF RESOURCES

THERE ARE SOME RESOURCES TO ASSIST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RESOURCES IS LOW, WITH FEWER THAN 60% OF RESPONDENTS AWARE OF MANY OF THE MAIN HEALTH, FINANCIAL, OR FOOD ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THEM. THIS IN TURN HAS RESULTED IN LOW LEVELS OF USE OF THESE RESOURCES



## FALL COURSES

**86.6%**

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO WILL "DEFINITELY" OR "PROBABLY" REGISTER FOR COURSES IN THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

**61.0%**

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE ABILITY TO PAY FOR TUITION MIGHT IMPACT THEIR DECISION TO RETURN IN THE FALL

Though about two-thirds of respondents are comfortable taking classes online, they indicated mixed views on whether they prefer courses in person, for the sake of better learning, or online, due to health concerns.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO HAS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. EVENSO, THERE IS A NEED TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE SUPPORT THEY ARE GIVING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

About two-thirds responded that they "somewhat" or "strongly" agree with the statements: "I am likely to recommend attending Minnesota State Mankato to other potential international students" & "The Kearney International Center communicates effectively with International Students"

However, there is room for improvement, especially regarding the university's response to the pandemic. only 39.8% agree with the statement: "Minnesota State Mankato has provided me with adequate support during the novel coronavirus pandemic," and most respondents believe the University can do more to help international students.

**90.5%**

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO THINK THAT MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A needs analysis was conducted In June 2020 to assess the material conditions of, and current level of support needed, by Minnesota State Mankato's international student population. The survey was initiated by Remember Me Too (RMT), a group of students advocating for supporting international students during the pandemic. The survey was designed and analyzed by the lead researcher in consultation with RMT as well as Minnesota State Mankato.<sup>1</sup>

## Methods

International students from Minnesota State Mankato were invited to participate in an online survey assessing their current situation amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. Survey questions address finances, living situation, knowledge and use of resources, and other topics relevant to international students' experiences and well-being as a result of the novel coronavirus.

Participants were recruited to the survey using the international student list serve provided by the Kearney International Center at Minnesota State Mankato. This email list contains 4,566 individuals, including all current international students as well former international students, and faculty, staff and others who have requested to be added to the email list. The email specifically recruited current and recently graduated international students and a screener question on the survey filtered out respondents who were not eligible for the survey.<sup>2</sup> Due to the immediate needs of this data, the survey was only in the field for one week, with a single remainder email sent to the list serve.

In all, a total of 251 respondents who met the survey criteria responded to the survey. In spring 2020 there were 1,254 international students. The survey response rate was 19%, which is considered robust for online surveys. Fifteen students were removed because they did not move beyond the first page of the survey, indicating a lack of engagement with the survey, for a final study population of 236 international students.

Frequency tables for all questions are available in Appendix A. Please note, not all respondents answered every question, so samples sizes vary for each question.

## Survey Population

As highlighted in Table 1, the percent of respondents in each class as of spring 2020 is generally similar to those in the University more broadly, with an underrepresentation of freshmen and

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<sup>1</sup> The report was written exclusively by the lead researcher and their interpretations may not reflect the values or beliefs of RMT or Minnesota State Mankato.

<sup>2</sup> Recently graduated students are included in the survey as RMT has identified that some students who graduated in spring 2020 became trapped in the US due to travel constraints associated with the pandemic and may still be in need of University support.

overrepresentation seniors. This suggests the study population can be considered generally representative of the international student population. However, with any survey there are issues of response bias. Those most interested and invested in these topics and those who check their email more frequently are more likely to have responded to this survey.

A majority of international students who completed this survey remain in the direct vicinity of the University, with 84.5 % in Mankato or North Mankato and an additional 6.8% in other Minnesota cities. The remaining 9 percent of the respondents are spending the summer in other US cities or internationally. About a quarter (22.6%) of those who are living in Mankato or North Mankato graduated in Spring 2020 or will graduate in summer 2020, indicating a need to continue supporting recently graduated students, as some of these students may not be able to leave the Mankato area due to circumstances surrounding the pandemic.

Class	Minn State Mankato		Study Population	
	N	%	N	%
Freshman	193	15	13	6
Sophomore	199	16	27	11
Junior	224	18	52	22
Senior <sup>3</sup>	391	31	102	43
Graduate	177	14	37	16
Other	70	5.6	-	-
Unsure	-	-	4	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,254</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>100</i>

## Financial Impact of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic

This pandemic has created many financial challenges for international students and their families. This financial strain is coming from many directions. About 77% of respondents' families have experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic. This is a particular hardship considering that about half (47.5%) of respondents indicate they are still relying on family support for living expenses and financial support. Among those currently relying on family support, over 80% indicate that their families have decreased the amount of financial support they are giving them. One respondent describes the extreme financial strain some students are facing as they lose financial support from their families:

I'm currently unemployed and I don't know if I'll be able to resume the on-campus job I had. I need to pay for my health insurance this fall and I don't have that much money... I worry about paying rent and other expenses because I'm almost running out of my savings. I can't ask for help from my parents because they are going through worse in [home city]. I really need help from the university. I applied for the emergency grant and got rejected. I really needed the money for my health insurance. The condition of [my home city] is so bad that I know for sure I can't be receiving money from home. And

<sup>3</sup> In the survey, students were asked their year in school as of the spring 2020 semester, with the ability to choose that they graduated at the end of spring 2020 or will graduate in summer 2020. All those who answered they graduated in spring or summer are counted here as seniors in the spring 2020 semester.

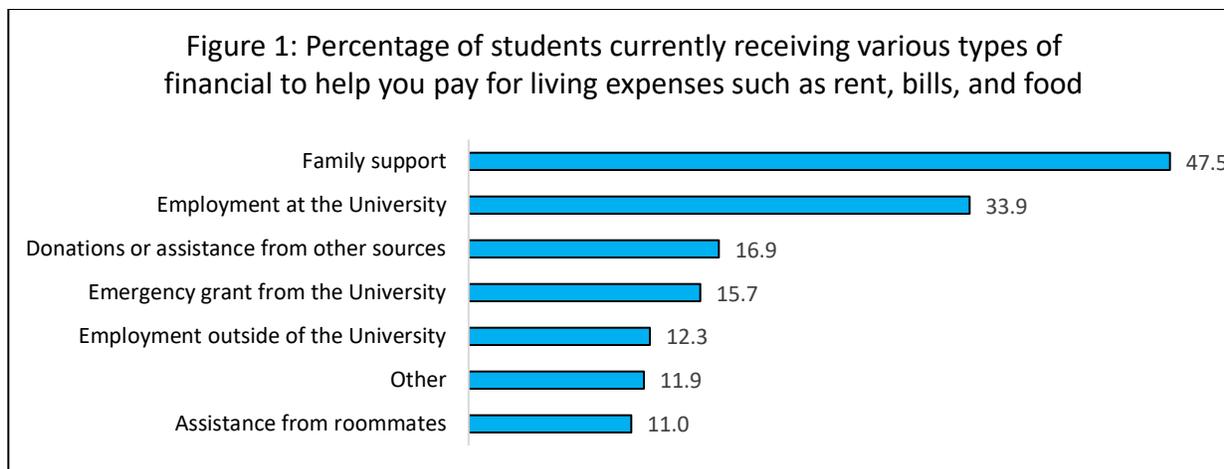
without paying for health insurance [I] don't have access to medical services for next year. I don't have money to pay for rent for July and August. Please help us.

There is a high level of unemployment and underemployment among international students responding to this survey. The way many students typically financially support themselves is through jobs. Due to visa restrictions, most international students are confined to jobs through the university, or business that contract with the university. At Minnesota State Mankato many of these jobs for undergraduates come by way of Sodexo, which provides food services on campus. For graduate students, many jobs come through graduate assistantships. Due to the pandemic many students lost their jobs. In total, 47.6% of respondents indicated losing their jobs as a result of the pandemic. Among those who did not lose their jobs, about 28% experienced a reduction in the hours they worked.

Initially, a large number of international students were furloughed by Sodexo. In an effort to assist these students, Minnesota State Mankato's library began a history project to document stories and experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic. They made an effort to hire students furloughed by Sodexo. While this effort was helpful and innovative, it only made a dent in the joblessness experienced by international students. Only 28.4% of respondents who lost their jobs due to the pandemic were offered jobs by the university. Among these, almost all indicated they were offered work on the library's project. Additionally, of those who were offered alternate employment by the University, over half (52.8%) receive fewer than 10 hours per week of work.

As another means of support, students with on campus jobs directly through the University in the spring 2020 semester, were paid through the end of the semester. However, many summer on-campus jobs that student workers would have typically funneled into over the summer are not available due to the pandemic, which seems to have rendered more students currently unemployed, as is highlighted by that fact that only 34% of respondents currently have employment at the university as a means of financial support.

Efforts have also been made by the university to contract with off campus employers to find employment for international students. However, to the best of the lead researcher's knowledge as of writing this report, these jobs are currently only open to students who have qualified for what is known as "Severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances," a federal status that allows F-1 student visa holders to work in jobs off campus. This is a status held by very few international students, once a student applies it can take months to be approved, and even then, it is not easy to qualify for and receive this status. As such, it unfortunately cannot serve current needs in the international student population. This is highlighted by the fact that only 12.3% of respondents indicate that they currently have financial support from employment outside the University.



Even though there is a high level of joblessness and a reduction in support students are receiving from their families, these remain the main supports for international students at this time, with nearly half of students relying on family support and over a third (33.9%) relying on employment at the university (see Figure 1). A much smaller percentage are relying on donations or assistance from others (16.9%), emergency grant money (15.7%), employment outside the university (12.3%), assistance from roommates (11%) or other sources (11.9%). It is important to note that though almost 16% of respondents received emergency grants, these do not go to cover housing or bills—some immediate needs international students have at this time.<sup>4</sup>

### **Greatest Concerns among International Students**

The financial fallout of the coronavirus, combined with the threat of the virus itself, has created unique material circumstances and emergent needs for international students. One respondent highlights how the various issues they are facing seem to compound and leave them in need of University support:

“Because of being unemployed, I owe a lot of money to my landlord and Mankato Clinic. Also I am not sure if I will have a place to stay next month since I do not have any money to pay security deposit or rent to sign a lease. Health Insurance payment is due next month. I am not sure how will I pay. If I cannot pay I will be [out] of status. I have a fear that I will be deported because of having so many debts. Can the university help us with extending the deadline for tuition minimum payment and health insurance payment?”

<sup>4</sup> As of the writing of this report, communication with university administration indicates that international students who receive emergency grants are to use that money solely to pay off outstanding balances to the university and it cannot be used for other causes.

To better understand these needs and where efforts should be focused, respondents were asked to identify what they consider their number one, number two, and number three needs. Figure 2 below shows the percentage of students who identify each item as one of their top three areas of concerns. Also included in this figure is the percentage who identified an item as their number one concern.

Costs directly related to affording their education remain one of the top concerns for a majority of students. Sixty two percent indicate that the ability to pay tuition or fees associated with their schooling is a top concern and over a third (39%) note that this is their number one concern. This suggests that policies that allow fee reductions and/or deferments on payments will go a long way to support international students at this time. As one respondent wrote:

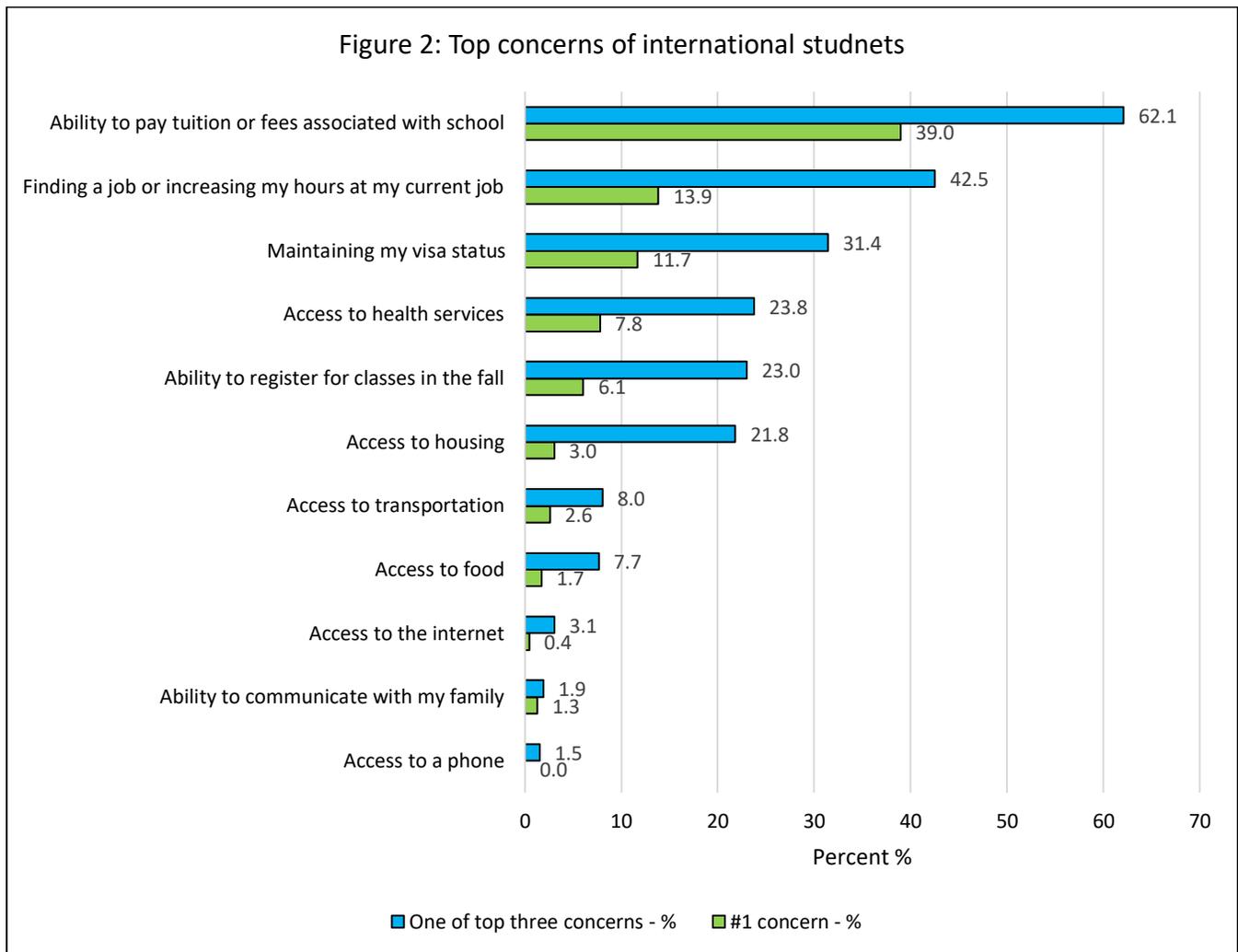
Issues of employment are also looming over international students, with 42.5% responding that finding a job or increasing hours at their current job is a top three concern for them at this time. This concern is followed by maintaining visa status as a top concern by about a third (31.4%) of respondents. Notably, there are some potential ways the University and/or Minnesota State Colleges and Universities can help with this issue, such as raising the fee caps associated with the ability to register for classes in the fall (which is also a top concern for 23% of respondents) and allowing further deferments or monthly payment options for the health insurance payments.

Access to health services are also a top concern for about a quarter (23.8%) of respondents. This is not surprising given the context of a global pandemic, though it is likely intensified by the fact that summer hours at the on-campus health facility are limited. Further, with 33% of respondents indicating they do not have reliable access to transportation, going to the local hospitals or clinics could be a challenge.

Housing insecurity is an emergency need that warrants immediate intervention. Access to housing is currently a concern for 21.8% of respondents and 44.5% of respondents indicate it might impact their decision to return to school in the fall.

Access to transportation and food are also concerns for students. Only a small percentage (8% and 7.7%, respectively) indicate these are a *top* concern. Notably, however, about 40% of respondents do not know where their next meal will come from and 33% do not have access to reliable transportation. The University should be concerned that so many students who are facing food insecurity are more concerned about school related expenses and visa issues. These are both issues which the University has some control over and where they can make changes to impact international students' current burdens. We might also cautiously take the lower rankings of food and transportation concerns as a sign that some current initiatives are working and must be continued. As this survey was launched, Remember Me Too has been distributing food and working with Campus Cupboard food shelf to maintain extended hours and food donations. They have also

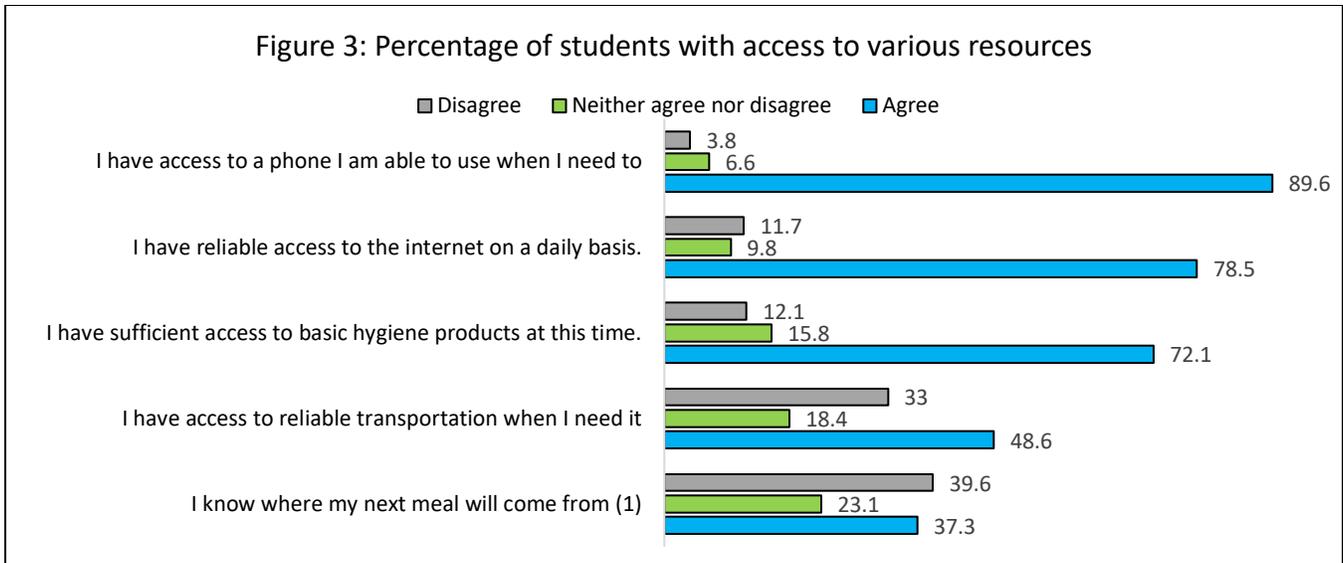
been collecting and disseminating bicycle donations to international students. These efforts should be maintained to keep these needs low.



The above concerns and students' experiences with these issues will be discussed in more detail in the remainder of this report.

### **Access to Basic Necessities**

As a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic discussed above, one of the greatest challenges students are having now is a lack of access to basic necessities. Fewer than 10% indicated that they do *not* have concerns about their basic needs such as the ability to afford food, rent, or tuition.



### Transportation

One third of respondents do not have access to reliable transportation. It is reasonable to assume these students, as well as some of those who indicate access to reliable transportation, may utilize public transportation. Though this is a viable option for some, 65.6% of respondents strongly with the statement “I worry about using public transportation because of the novel coronavirus”, and another 17.7% somewhat agreed with the statement. As one respondent explains:

“I’m super worried about public transportation. Buses gets overfilled [every day] in the morning And in the winter time. We can simply walk, but it’ll get harder when the weather starts getting colder or it starts snowing.”

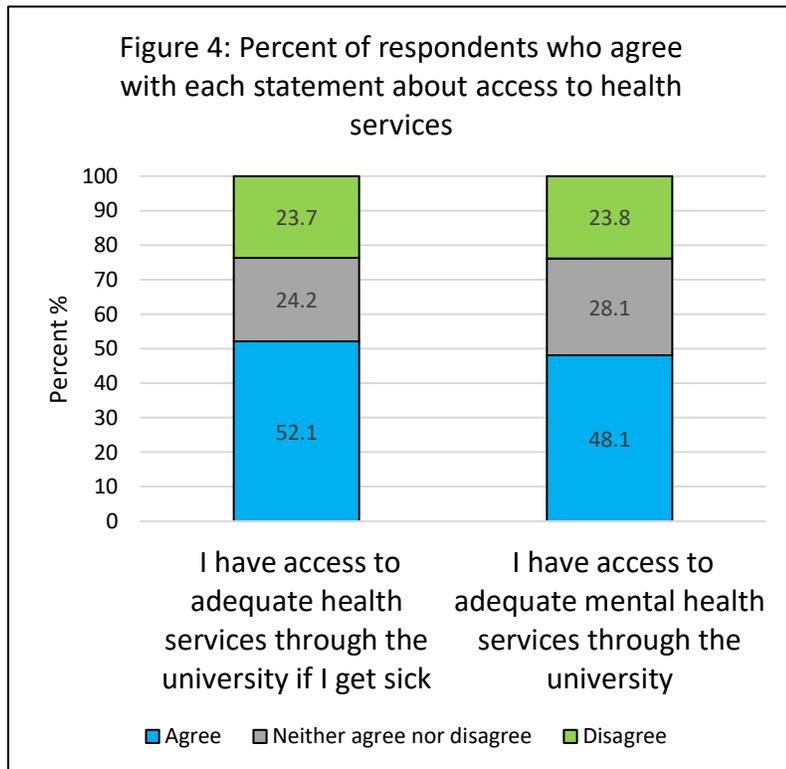
Only 6.5% indicated no concerns with the safety of public transportation at this time. As discussed previously, some of this need is being met by a community bicycle donation initiative led by Remember Me Too in partnership with the nonprofit group Zonta International of Mankato, and the Newman Center. This is a viable solution for able-bodied and healthy students, provided enough donations are secured from the community. However, it underscores the need to have services for students central to the University to provide more equitable and ease of access. This is particularly important for students who may fall ill to Covid-19 or experience other health issues.

### Access to health services

<sup>5</sup> Original wording of this statement was “I worry about where my next meal will come from.” The wording was changed, and responses reversed coded here for ease of interpretation and reporting.

Just over half (52.1%) of respondents agree that they have adequate access to health services through the university, leaving about half disagreeing (23.7%) or unsure (24.2%) that the University provides adequate health services (see Figure 4). Similar levels of satisfaction are found in attitudes toward access to mental health services through the University.

Reasons for dissatisfaction may be varied. While some of it is likely tied to issues such as limited



summer hours for the on-campus clinic and limited availability for counseling appointments, some of it may be due to a lack of knowledge about existing health services. For example, only 59.3% of respondents indicate they are aware of Student Health Services, fewer than half (40.7%) are aware of the Campus Counseling Center, and only 3.9% have knowledge of e-health services through HealthiestYou. Outreach and increased accessibility of existing resources may go a long way to meet this need.

An additional health related need is that of health insurance. It is of a particular concern as students may

be more likely to need health coverage during the current pandemic. Further, insurance is also required for F-1 visa holders, the visa status held by most international students. If students cannot make this payment, they risk defaulting on their visa status.

Over half of respondents (53.4%) indicate that the ability to pay for health insurance could impact whether they return to Minnesota State Mankato in the fall 2020 semester (see Figure 4). We also know this is a particular concern of many students because, when asked at the end of the survey if they had anything to add, the high cost of and looming payment deadline of their health insurance was frequently noted.

Typically, in July a payment of about \$1,800 is required for international students to retain their health insurance. However, as of the day this report was released, the University had plans to announce the payment could be made in two installments—\$901 in August and \$900 in December. This new policy came into effect after the release of this survey, so students' reactions to it is unknown. Hopefully this will ease some strain for some of these students though given the extreme

nature of the financial strain among international students, it is likely to help some, but not all, students.

Housing, food, and other basic necessities  
About 22% of respondents listed access to housing as one of their top three concerns at this time. This highlights the issue of housing insecurity that international students are facing as a result of their current financial situation. Twenty-two respondents (10.6%) will definitely or probably not have housing in July and August 2020 and another 20.8% remain unsure if they will (see Figure 5). Forty-three respondents (24.3%) will definitely or probably not have the ability to afford living expenses over the summer, with 33 percent unsure if they will be able to afford these expenses.

In addition to housing insecurity, international students are facing high levels of food insecurity. As discussed above, about 40% of students are not confident where their next meal will come from (see Figure 3). Since the pandemic began, 26.4% of respondents have used Campus Cupboard food shelf and 13.9% have used Echo Food shelf (see Figure 6). Notably, about half of the respondents indicate they are unaware of the existence of these food shelves (see Figure 6). As such, these levels of use highlight the prevalence of need in this area.

## Resources for International Students

There are a number of resources on campus and in Mankato that address some of the above needs. Resources that are likely to be of service to international students at this time, most of which are highlighted by the University on their Emergency Resources webpage,<sup>6</sup> were identified.<sup>7,8</sup> See Table 2 for a list of these resources and the services they provide.

<sup>6</sup> <https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/campus-services/student-affairs/student-emergency-resources/>

<sup>7</sup> HealthiestYou is not a service advertised on the University website but is a service of the health insurance purchased by international students. It is included due to the potential for it to be particularly helpful to students seeing medical help at this time.

<sup>8</sup> As this survey was being conducted, Remember Me Too also worked to secure bicycles as described above. Due to the timing of this initiative the survey does not measure knowledge of this resources.

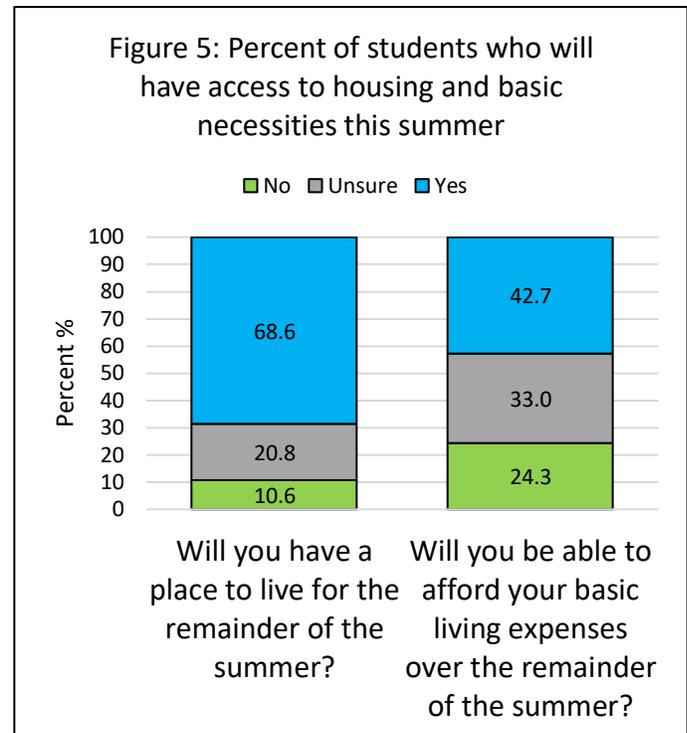


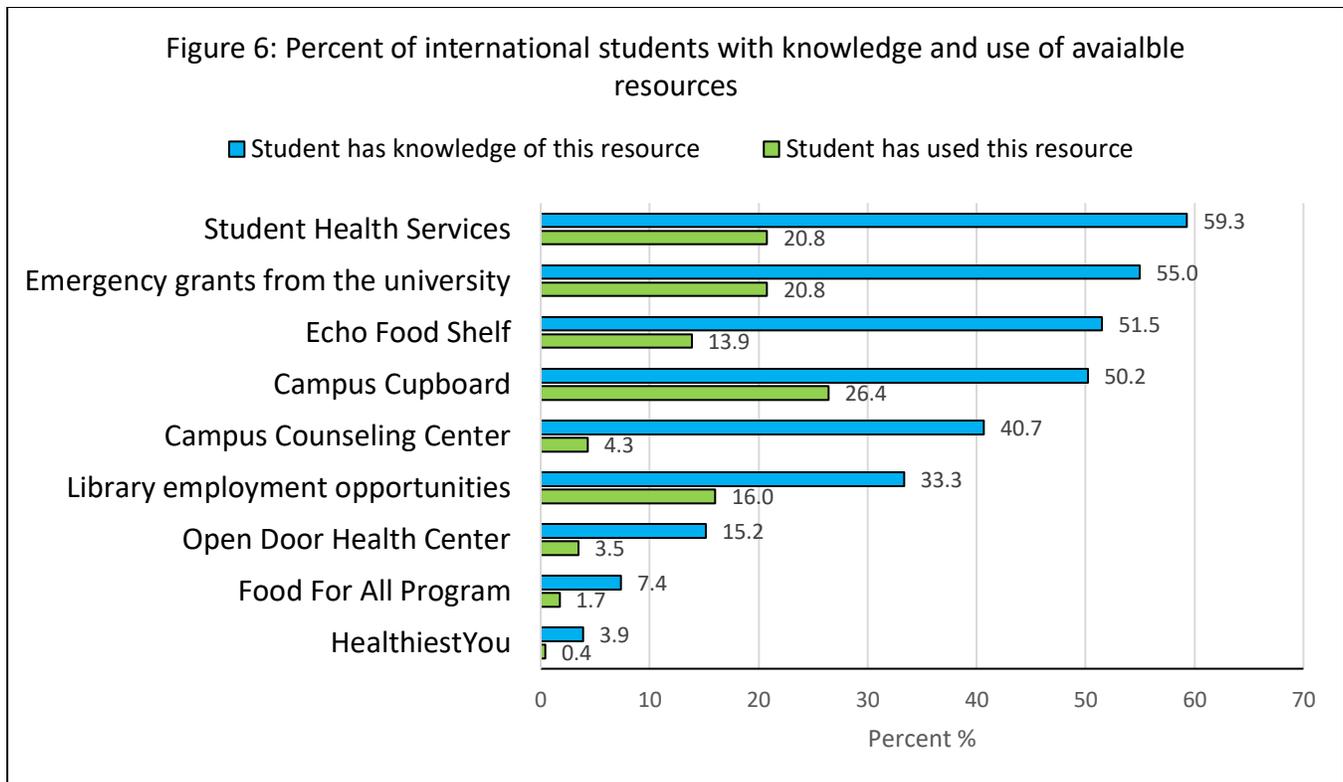
Table 2: Available Resources for international students			
Minnesota State Mankato Resources		Mankato Area Resources	
<i>Resource</i>	<i>Service Provided</i>	<i>Resource</i>	<i>Service Provided</i>
Student Health Services	Physical health services	Echo Food Shelf	Food/ groceries
Campus Counseling Center	Mental health services	Campus Cupboard	Food/ groceries
Emergency Grants	Assistance with paying off balances to the University <sup>9</sup>	Food for All Program	Food/ groceries
Library Employment Opportunities	Short-term/limited employment	Open Door Health Center	Physical health services
HealthiestYou	E-health services		

Respondents were asked first which resources they were aware of and, second, which resources they have utilized since the beginning of the pandemic in March (see Figure 6). Overall there is a general lack of knowledge of these resources among respondents, which translates into low levels of resource use. Fewer than half of respondents reported any knowledge of the Campus Counseling Center (40.7%), Library employment opportunities (33.3%), Open Door Health Center (15.2%), Food for All program (7.4%), or HealthiestYou (3.9%). There is more knowledge of Student Health Services (59.3%), Emergency Grants from the University (55%), Echo Food Shelf (51.5%), and Campus Cupboard (50.2%), though knowledge of these resources is lower than ideal given the expressed needs of these students.

A lack of knowledge of various resources is reflected by a lack of utilization. The most used resources are Student Health Services and Emergency Grants, each with 20.8% of respondents indicating they have used these resources since March. Importantly, not all students who apply for emergency grants or are accepted and some of respondents indicated their applications for emergency grants have been turned down. The use of this resource would likely be higher if there were more grants available or the criteria for which the grants can be utilized was expanded.

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<sup>9</sup> Emergency grants are available to both domestic and international students. The types of financial assistance they provide differs for each population. At the time of writing this report, to the best of the lead researcher's knowledge, domestic students may receive help directly with specific bills that can be paid to a third party (e.g. a mechanic's bill or rent payment), while international students receive direct payments exclusively intended to settle account balance with the University.



### Relationship with Minnesota State Mankato

Most respondents who have not graduated indicate they will “definitely” (63.7%) or “most likely” (22.9%) continue their education at Minnesota State Mankato in the fall 2020 semester. Under 3% do not plan to continue, while 10.6% are unsure. The issues most likely to impact whether students continue in the fall semester include ability to pay for tuition (61%), student health insurance (53.4%), and/or rent (44.5%) (see Table 3). Also impacting many students are concerns of paying for school supplies (29.7%), food (22.9%), and basic necessities other than food and rent (20.3%). Safety concerns associated with the novel coronavirus pandemic was the most cited “other” reason students indicated as having the potential to impact their decision to return in the fall. Only 8.5% of respondents felt that none of these issues would impact their decision to attend school in the fall.

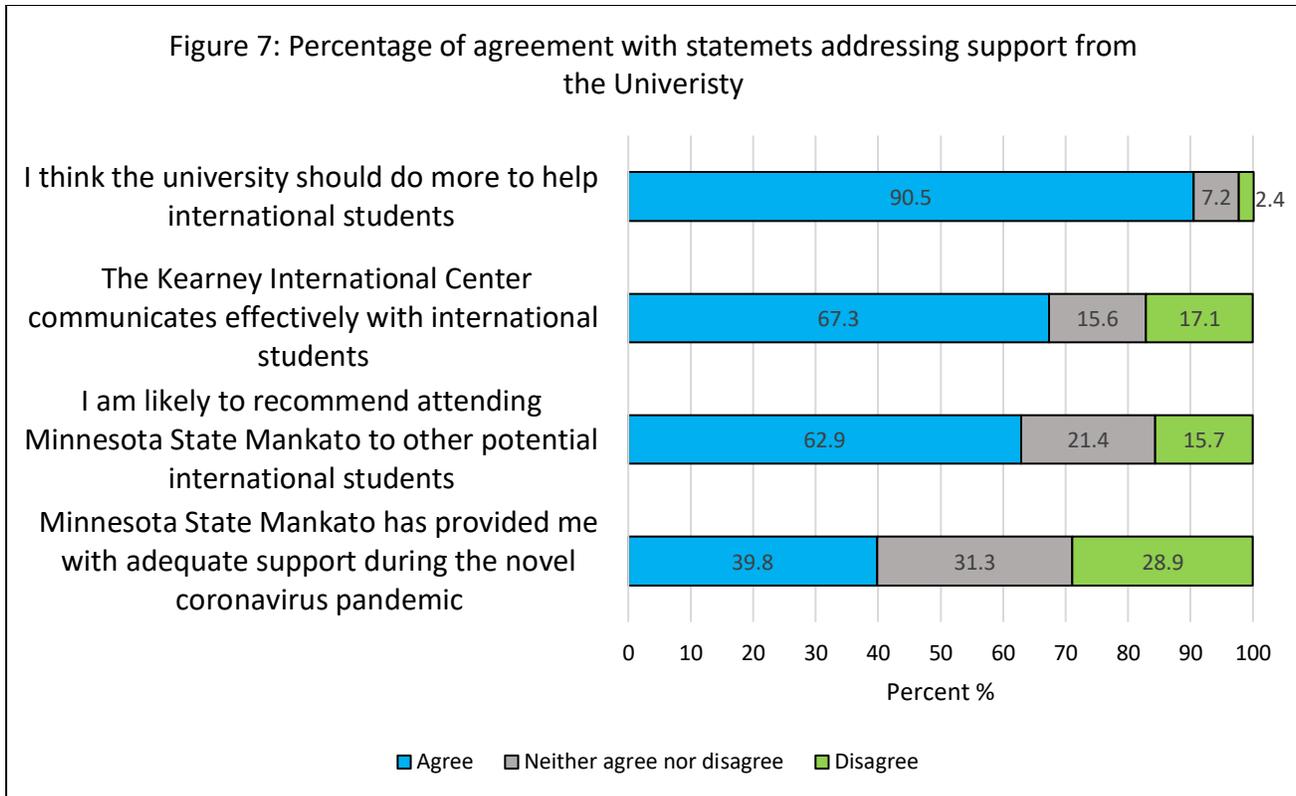
One hurdle students may face, regardless of desire to continue in the fall, is having a balance on their University account, which could prevent them from registering for fall classes. About half of respondents either strongly agree (33.8%) or somewhat agree (15.4%) that an existing balance on their University account may prevent them from registering for fall classes.

Typically, students with balances over \$100 are prevented from registering for classes. In response to the pandemic, all students have had the cap on money owed to the university raised to \$750. While this is helpful, the cap does not appear to be high enough. The findings of this survey indicate that Minnesota State Mankato risks losing up to half of its international population due these balances. Importantly, a failure to register for fall classes will also render international students with F-1 visas in default of their current visa status.

A current concern of the university is how the mode of class dissemination will impact students. Some international students may be able to continue their education online from home countries, though most international students will presumably remain on campus. Results of this survey indicate that there are strong opinions both in support of and in opposition to moving courses online. Most students either strongly agree (41%) or somewhat agree (23.4%) that they are comfortable taking courses online. In open ended responses on the survey several students also mentioned the mode of dissemination as an important concern for them, though opinions were varied. Some students indicated a desire to have classes in person and others preferred online courses to promote physical distancing in light of the current pandemic.

	%
Ability to pay tuition	61.0
Ability to pay for student health insurance	53.4
Ability to pay for rent	44.5
Ability to pay for school supplies such as textbooks	29.7
Ability to pay for food	22.9
Ability to pay for basic necessities other than food and rent	20.3
None of the above are concerns	8.5
Other	5.9
	<i>N</i> 236

A majority of respondents think positively of Minnesota State Mankato at this time (see Figure 7). About two-thirds of respondents agree or strongly agree with the statements that The Kearny International Center communicates effectively with students (67.3%) and that they are likely to recommend Minnesota State Mankato to other potential international students (62.9%). This is encouraging and indicates that international students have trust in the University. It is important to note, however, that about one third of respondents either disagreed or were ambivalent about these statements. This indicates room for improvement and, based on other respondents, it seems that improving in how the University responds to students at this time is where this growth can happen. Almost all respondents (90.5%) think that Minnesota State Mankato should do more to help international students and 28.9% do not feel that the University has adequately supported them during the current pandemic.



The current positive level of support that international students express for Minnesota State Mankato, combined with simultaneous feelings the University is not adequately supporting them at this time, suggests this is a crucial time for Minnesota State Mankato to address the concerns of international students and provide additional support to international students who are uniquely dependent on the University during the current global crisis of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

[END OF REPORT]

# APPENDIX A: FREQUENCY TABLES FOR ALL SURVEY QUESTIONS

<b>In what city are you currently living?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Mankato	172	83.5
North Mankato	2	1.0
Other MN city/town	14	6.8
Other US city	7	3.4
Internationally	8	3.9
Other, Unknown	3	1.5
<i>N</i>	206	100

<b>Which of the following best describes what your current academic year will be in the fall 2020 semester?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Freshman	13	5.5
Sophomore	27	11.5
Junior	52	22.1
Senior	74	31.5
Graduate Student	37	15.7
I graduated in spring 2020	21	8.9
I will graduate in summer 2020	7	3
Unsure	4	1.7
<i>N</i>	235	100

<b>Will you be likely to continue your education at Minnesota State Mankato in the fall 2020 semester?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes, I will definitely continue in the fall	114	63.7
Yes, I will most likely continue in the fall	41	22.9
I am not sure if I will continue in the fall	19	10.6
No, I will most likely not continue in the fall	3	1.7
No, I will definitely not continue in the fall	2	1.1
<i>N</i>	179	100

<b>Which of the following might impact your decision to continue your education at Minnesota State Mankato in the fall 2020 semester? Please check all that apply.</b>		
	Frequency	%
Ability to pay tuition	144	61.0
Ability to pay for student health insurance	126	53.4
Ability to pay for rent	105	44.5
Ability to pay for school supplies such as textbooks	70	29.7
Ability to pay for food	54	22.9
Ability to pay for basic necessities other than food and rent	48	20.3
None of the above are concerns for me at this time	20	8.5
Other	14	5.9
<i>N</i>	236	236

<b>Has your family experienced any financial hardship due to the novel coronavirus pandemic?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes	173	77.2
No	33	14.7
Unsure	18	8
<i>N</i>	224	100

<b>Have you experienced a reduction in the amount of financial support you receive from your family as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes	188	83.2
No	38	16.8
<i>N</i>	226	100

Thinking about classes in the fall, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

<b>I am comfortable taking classes online.</b>		
	Frequency	%
Strongly agree	84	41
Somewhat agree	48	23.4
Neither agree nor disagree	29	14.1
Somewhat disagree	22	10.7
Strongly disagree	22	10.7
<i>N</i>	205	100

<b>I have a balance on my account that may prevent me from registering for fall classes.</b>		
	Frequency	%
Strongly agree	68	33.8
Somewhat agree	31	15.4
Neither agree nor disagree	38	18.9
Somewhat disagree	24	11.9
Strongly disagree	40	19.9
<i>N</i>	201	100

<b>Please indicate what types of financial support you <u>currently</u> have to help you pay for living expenses such as rent, bills, and food.</b>		
	<i>N</i>	%
Employment at the university	80	33.9
Employment outside of the university	29	12.3
Family support	112	47.5
Assistance from roommates	26	11.0
Emergency grant money received through the university	37	15.7
Donations or assistance from other sources	40	16.9
Other	28	11.9
<i>N</i>	231	

<b>Did you lose your job as a result the current novel coronavirus pandemic?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes	109	47.6
No	93	40.6
Unsure	27	11.8
<i>N</i>	229	100

Among those who answered NO or UNSURE if they lost their job as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic:

<b>Did you experience a reduction in hours at your job as a result the current novel coronavirus pandemic?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes	31	27.9
No	66	59.5
Unsure	14	12.6
<i>N</i>	111	100

Among those who answered YES, they lost their job as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic:

<b>Were you offered alternative employment from MSU?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Yes	38	28.4
No	77	57.5
Unsure	19	14.2
<i>N</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>100</i>

Among those who answered YES, they lost their job as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic & YES, they were offered alternative employment by the university:

<b>How many hours are you currently allowed to work in this position, in a typical week?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Less than 10 hours	19	52.8
10-14 hours	6	16.7
15-19 hours	8	22.2
35 hours or more	3	8.3
<i>N</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Do you currently have a place to live this month (June)?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Definitely yes	126	61.8
Probably yes	58	28.4
Unsure	15	7.4
Probably not	3	1.5
Definitely not	2	1
<i>N</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Will you be able to afford your basic living expenses for this month (June)?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Definitely yes	49	22
Probably yes	80	35.9
Unsure	51	22.9
Probably not	33	14.8
Definitely not	10	4.5
<i>N</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Will you have a place to live for the remainder of the summer (July &amp; August)?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Definitely yes	80	38.6
Probably yes	62	30
Unsure	43	20.8
Probably not	15	7.2
Definitely not	7	3.4
<i>N</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Will you be able to afford your basic living expenses over the remainder of the summer (July &amp; August)?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Definitely yes	27	13.1
Probably yes	61	29.6
Unsure	68	33
Probably not	39	18.9
Definitely not	11	5.3
<i>N</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements</b>					
	<i>Strongly agree (%)</i>	<i>Somewhat agree (%)</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree (%)</i>	<i>Somewhat disagree (%)</i>	<i>Strongly disagree (%)</i>
I worry about where my next meal will come from	13.2 %	26.4 %	23.1 %	18.4 %	18.9 %
I have sufficient access to basic hygiene products at this time	32.1	40	15.8	8.8	3.3
I have reliable access to the internet on a daily basis	45.8	32.7	9.8	9.8	1.9
I worry about using public transportation because of the novel coronavirus	65.6	17.7	10.2	2.8	3.7
I have access to reliable transportation when I need it	21.2	27.4	18.4	21.2	11.8
I have access to a phone I am able to use when I need to	66.5	23.1	6.6	3.3	0.5
I am able to communicate with my family as much as I would like	48.4	36.6	7	4.7	3.3
I feel homesick	45.3	22.4	16.4	6.5	9.3

*N ranges from 212- 215*

<b>Which of the following resources are you aware of?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Emergency grants from the university	127	55.0
Campus Cupboard	116	50.2
Echo Food Shelf	119	51.5
Food For All Program	17	7.4
Student Health Services	137	59.3
Open Door Health Center	35	15.2
Campus Counseling Center	94	40.7
HealthiestYou	9	3.9
Employment opportunities through the library	77	33.3
<i>N</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>100</i>

<b>Which of the following resources have you used since March, when the novel coronavirus pandemic began?</b>		
	Frequency	%
Emergency grants from the university	48	20.8
Campus Cupboard	61	26.4
Echo Food Shelf	32	13.9
Food For All Program	4	1.7
Student Health Services	48	20.8
Open Door Health Center	8	3.5
Campus Counseling Center	10	4.3
HealthiestYou	1	0.4
Employment opportunities through the library	37	16.0
<i>N</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<b>Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements</b>					
	<i>Strongly agree (%)</i>	<i>Somewhat agree (%)</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree (%)</i>	<i>Somewhat disagree (%)</i>	<i>Strongly disagree (%)</i>
I am likely to recommend attending Minnesota State Mankato to other potential international students	34.8 %	28.1 %	21.4 %	7.6 %	8.1 %
The Kearney International Center communicates effectively with international students	36	31.3	15.6	10.9	6.2
I have access to adequate health services through the university if I get sick	18	34.1	24.2	10.9	12.8
I have access to adequate mental health services through the university	18.6	29.5	28.1	14.3	9.5
Minnesota State Mankato has provided me with adequate support during the novel coronavirus pandemic	12.3	27.5	31.3	16.1	12.8
I think the university should do more to help international students	76.6	13.9	7.2	1.9	0.5

*N ranges from 209-211*

<b>Below is a list of things you may be worried about. Please indicate which are the three most important concerns you have at this time.</b>					
	<i>#1 concern</i>	<i>#2 Concern</i>	<i>#3 Concern</i>	<i>One of top three concerns - Frequency</i>	<i>One of top three concerns - %</i>
Ability to pay tuition or fees associated with school	90	47	25	162	62.1 %
Finding a job or increasing my hours at my current job	32	33	46	111	42.5
Maintaining my visa status	27	24	31	82	31.4
Access to health services	18	24	20	62	23.8
Ability to register for classes in the fall	14	30	16	60	23.0
Access to housing	7	24	26	57	21.8
Access to transportation	6	4	11	21	8.0
Access to food	4	7	9	20	7.7
Access to the internet	1	2	5	8	3.1
Ability to communicate with my family	3	1	1	5	1.9
Access to a phone	0	3	1	4	1.5

*N=231*