

Money: worries and the feeling of financial preparedness during college years

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Abstract: Using survey methodology, we examine subjective measures of financial well-being of US students. We investigate how college students perceive money worries and the level of preparedness for handling finances upon graduation. We find that these subjective measures have a strong association with money worries and the perception of post-graduation preparedness to handle financial matters. Students with conservative attitudes towards money, high degree of financial knowledge, and high student loan expectations are more likely to worry about their finances. Students who worry more about money are less likely to feel prepared to handle finances post-graduation while students who expect high salaries and are more conservative in their attitudes towards money are more likely to feel prepared. Focusing on these less objective characteristics offers additional insight into what worries college students and what contributes to their financial well-being.

Keywords: Money Perceptions, Money Expectations, Money Worries, Expected salary, Expected Student Loans

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