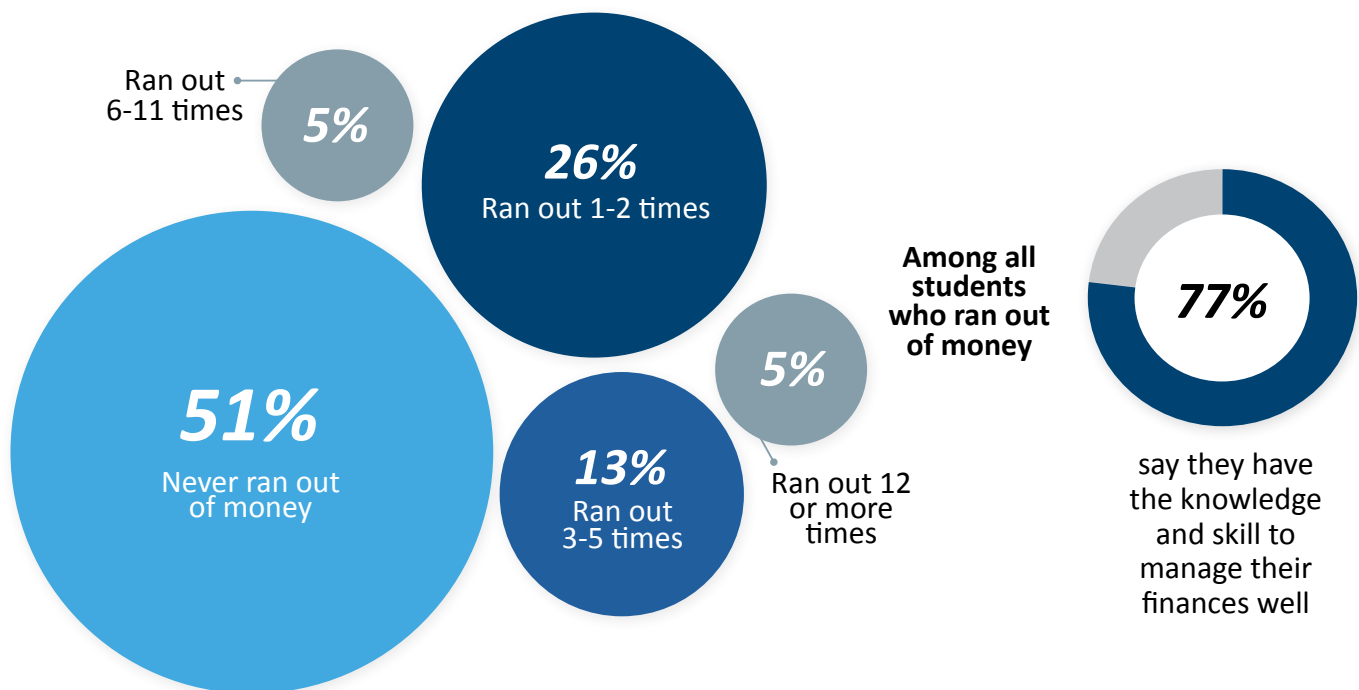


Financially challenged

Each year, almost half of community college students must rely on outside financial resources.

How often students ran out of money in the past 12 months



Source: Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE), [“Making Ends Meet: The Role of Community Colleges in Student Financial Health” \(2017\)](#).



Tuition, fees, books and supplies comprise only a portion of the cost of attending a community college. As a sector, public community colleges charge the lowest tuition and fees; However, students still face the challenges of paying for their living expenses, such as housing, transportation, child care and food, while attending college. According to a survey of community college students by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, 49 percent of respondents reported struggling with making ends meet, resorting to taking loans or asking friends, family or charitable organizations for financial help at least once or twice over the past year. As many as one in 10 students reported having to rely on outside resources six or more times. Access to readily available support, such as year-round Pell grants and emergency funding programs through the college, could greatly allay students’ financial insecurities during the year.

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