

APLUS: Wave1 Summary



Arizona Pathways to Life Success for University Students (APLUS) project is a landmark longitudinal research study of the formation of students' financial attitudes and behaviors and the impact of these attitudes and behaviors on current and future life success.

Wave 1 focused on the students' available resources: family background, parental roles, and financial socialization while growing up at home and during the first-year in college; their current understanding of personal finance (e.g., financial knowledge, attitude, behaviors); and multiple dimensions of well-being (e.g., academic, psychological, physical).

The APLUS sample includes 2,098 first-year students enrolled at the University of Arizona in spring 2008.

Gender		
Male	797	38.1%
Female	1297	61.9%
Missing	4	

Residence Status		
In-state	1446	69.0%
Out-of-state	602	28.7%
International	47	2.2%
Missing	3	

Ethnicity		
African American/Black	71	3.5%
Asian/Asian American/ Pacific Islander	189	9.4%
Hispanic/Latino	311	15.4%
Native American/other	38	1.9%
White	1411	69.9%
Other/Missing	78	

GPA Range		
< 2.00	116	5.6
2.00 - 2.50	196	9.6
> 2.50 - 3.00	341	16.6
>3.00 - 3.50	624	30.4
>3.50	777	37.8
Missing	44	

THE APLUS SAMPLE AT A GLANCE:

The majority of the APLUS students were female.

In-state residents comprised the majority of students.

The majority of students self-identified as White.

The mean GPA for the students was 3.12, with 15.2% of the students' GPAs falling below 2.5.

COMPARED TO THE FULL 2007 FIRST YEAR COHORT

The APLUS sample includes:

- more females (61.9% vs. 54.3%)
- more Arizona residents (69% vs. 63%).
- more minority students (33.4% vs. 30.1%).

The reported average GPA of the APLUS sample was higher than the projected average of the full cohort (3.12 vs. 2.79).

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

85.7% completed the 15 minute survey online

14.3% completed a paper/pencil version of the survey

More males, Hispanic, Black and Native American students, and those who reported lower GPAs completed the paper survey. *The paper survey played a unique role in recruiting those who tend not to respond to an online survey.*

Current Life Style: How do they allocate their resources?

Where does their money go?	
Housing	37.0%
Food	16.0%
Books	9.0%
Vehicles	8.0%
Entertainment	7.0%
Transportation Home	6.0%
Clothing/Personal Care	6.0%
Telecommunication	4.0%
Hobbies	4.0%
Health	3.0%

Where does their time go?	
Schoolwork	41.0%
Socializing	31.0%
Employment	12.0%
Exercising	12.0%
Personal Finance	4.0%

Current Level of Financial Literacy: Rating 1 to 5 (higher values indicate higher literacy levels)
(Bolded figures indicate significant differences between full sample and high risk subsample, i.e., used Payday Loans)

Financial Knowledge			Financial Behaviors:		
	Full Sample	High Risk Subsample		Full Sample	High Risk Subsample
Subjective	3.1	3.1	Budgeting	3.6	3.3
Comparative	3.5	3.2	Paying	3.9	3.4
Objective	3.3	3.3	Borrowing	4.6	3.5
			Saving	2.9	2.8

Students' Current Well-Being Rating 1 to 5 (higher values indicate higher levels of well-being)
(Bolded figures indicate significant differences between full sample and high risk subsample, i.e., used Payday Loans)

	Overall Well-Being	Life Satisfaction	Physical Health	Academics	Finances	Relationships w / Parents	Relationships w / Friends
Full Sample	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.2	4.2	4.2
High Risk Subsample	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.2	2.6	3.9	4.0

Academic Plans (Comparison between full sample and high risk subsample, i.e., used Payday Loans)

How likely is it that you will...	Full Sample			High Risk Subsample		
	Return to UA	Obtain BA/BS	Graduate Degree	Return to UA	Obtain BA/BS	Graduate Degree
Very Unlikely	2.5	.3	2.1	2.0	0.0	1.0
Unlikely	2.6	1.1	6.3	7.9	7.9	8.9
Neutral	8.7	7.7	25.7	34.7	32.7	39.6
Likely	12.4	13.3	29.0	19.8	19.8	22.8
Very Likely	73.8	77.6	36.9	35.6	39.6	27.7

Debts Outstanding

	Full Sample	High Risk Subsample
Credit Cards	\$169	\$471
Educational Loans	\$2,046	\$5,699
Other Debt	\$512	\$1,587
Total Debt Outstanding	\$2,727	\$7,731