

FY17 MAP Grant Survey: What is the impact on students?

Background:

The absence of a final state Fiscal Year 2017 (academic year 2016-17) appropriation to fund the Monetary Award Program (MAP) has caused unprecedented uncertainty among affected students and institutions. As a result, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has received questions from students, policy-makers, reporters, and from many institutions regarding how their colleagues around the state are handling this delay. To help ISAC respond to these questions and better describe the impact of the budget delay on students, a survey was sent to nearly 118,000 2016-17 first-term MAP-eligible students who had valid e-mail addresses. As of the first week of December 2016, (two weeks after distributing the survey) ISAC had received nearly 12,000 responses. Both dependent and independent students at each of the school sectors are represented in the responses, however, some response bias is most likely present; our survey experience suggests that those that did not receive a MAP award for first term, or received only a portion of an award, are probably more likely to respond, while those that are not currently in school (or dropped out) are probably less likely to respond.

Summary of Survey Findings:

- Regardless of the respondents' current status for first term of 2016-17 (in school with full, partial, no MAP grant, or unsure, in school out-of-state, or not in school) well over half (56%) indicated that the state's budget delay on MAP funding for first term of academic year 2016-17 has had an effect on their education goals.
- Forty-four percent of respondents reported they are in school and a *full* MAP grant was credited to their account for first term of 2016-17, 19 percent indicated they are in school and a first term MAP grant was *not* credited to their account for first term, and 10 percent of respondents reported they are in school and only a portion of a first term MAP grant was credited to their account for first term of 2016-17. Another 22 percent of respondents indicated they are in school but not sure about the status of any first term MAP grant for first term of 2016-17, five percent reported they are not currently in school, and the remaining one percent indicated they are in an out-of-state school.
- Of the 44 percent of respondents who reported they are currently in school and a full MAP grant was credited to their account for first term of 2016-17, 55 percent indicated the state's delay in funding MAP for academic year 2016-17 has had an effect on their education goals.

- Of the 19 percent of respondents who reported a first term MAP grant was not credited to their account for first term of 2016-17, about half (48%) indicated they worked more to cover expenses because of lack of MAP funding, 45 percent reported they took out student loans, or more student loans, to cover the lack of MAP funding, and 22 percent indicated they took fewer credits this term because they couldn't afford full tuition without MAP funding. Another seven percent indicated they transferred to a less expensive school in state or out of state because they could not afford tuition without MAP funding.
- Of the 10 percent of respondents who reported a portion of a first term MAP grant was credited to their account for first term of 2016-17, more than half (51%) indicated they worked more to cover expenses because of lack of MAP funding, 46 percent reported they took out student loans, or more student loans, to cover the lack of MAP funding, and about one-fourth (24%) indicated they took fewer credits this term because they couldn't afford full tuition without MAP funding. Another six percent indicated they transferred to a less expensive school in state or out-of-state because they could not afford tuition without MAP funding.
- Of the 22 percent of respondents who reported they are currently in school and are not sure about the status of any first term MAP grant for the first term of 2016-17, 53 percent indicated the state's budget delay on MAP funding for academic year 2016-17 has had an effect on their education goals.
- Of the five percent of respondents who reported they are not currently in school, 51 percent said they did not enroll this term because they couldn't afford it without MAP funding.
- More than 4,200 respondents provided a comment about the effect the delay in MAP funding for academic year 2016-17 has had on their educational goals. Students also noted *additional* impacts resulting from the delay in MAP funding. Comments reinforce findings that those in school who did not have a MAP grant credited to their account, or only had a portion of a MAP grant credited to their account, are struggling with additional loan debt, working more hours, cutting back on credit hours taken, and generally wondering if they will be able to continue their education second term if MAP funding is delayed even longer. Some have had to choose to sit out a semester. Even those that did have a full MAP grant credited to their account (or listed as pending) for the first term of 2016-17 have been impacted – they have experienced delay, confusion, and anxiety, as many are unsure if they will be required to pay back any shortfall in funding. These students indicate that if they do not receive a MAP grant for second term of 2016-17 they will have to take less credit hours, transfer, and/or take out more loans, but the majority said they simply will be unable to afford to continue their education. Already, the comments suggest impacts on completion, as many students talk of taking longer to graduate, stopping out to save additional money, or completely dropping out.

Below is a small representative sample of those comments by respondents' current school and MAP grant status from first term of 2016-17.

In school but a MAP grant was *not* credited to the student's account for first term of 2016-17:

"I have had extreme stress not being able to afford my tuition this semester and have even considered dropping out of college because of it."

"Just relying on a federal grant. I really need it (MAP) because I can't afford everything on my own. I only attended school because I thought I was covered fully."

"Because of the MAP grant delay I was forced to both attend school full time and take on a part time job for nearly 30 hours a week. Although I was able to attend school full time during the 2016-17 school year, I fear that I may not be able to continue my pursuit for a postsecondary education for years to come due to the rising costs of education. Government based financial aid such as . . . the MAP grant allow me to pursue that postsecondary education and therefore directly impacts career choice."

"I have a remaining balance on my school account, and that is leading me into debt and forcing me to transfer to a different college."

"I had to take out a loan and get a job to cover my remaining balances for classes and I couldn't afford books this year, so I feel as I didn't do as good as I could or would of."

"I have had to pick up extra shifts at work and took out more student loans."

"I had to take 15 credit hours while working full time in order to pay my account balances. I want to get more involved on campus but I have to work to pay my tuition."

"I can't go to school next semester because I still owe the school money. So I'm not able to register. I'm being forced to basically withdraw from school."

"I may not be able to come back to school in the spring (2017) due to the fact that I still owe so much from the fall semester (2016)."

"I have no money and I'm incredibly worried about how I'm going to pay for next semester."

"I chose to not attend my first choice school because I wouldn't be able to afford it without MAP grants."

"I am also unable to register for my second term classes due to a balance on my account. I am hoping my MAP grant will come."

"I may not be able to attend school in the near future if I do not receive funding as I am independent and cannot pay the additional cost."

"I won't be able to receive my degree due to the lack of funds for my last semester of school therefore I will miss out on job opportunities and increase my debt."

"I had to take a full-time job to pay for the tuition and full cash advance out of my credit card just so my account isn't put on hold so I register for next semester."

"I'm trying my best to avoid taking out a loan and now I am working full time trying to save for an apartment and pay off my classes. I struggle with trying to get more hours at work to pay bills the more hours I take for work is less time for school. I even went as far as missing a day of class to get extra hours at work."

"Unable to register due to holds on my student account, from lack of funds."

"I will not be able to stay in college."

"I also had to leave my old school because I could not pay them. I had to sit a semester out . . . It has been a mess and I wish legislators understood how much this has messed up my future."

"I had to use my rent money or my classes would be dropped."

"I wanted to take two additional classes this semester to finish my degree and transfer, and now I have to take 2 in the spring and wait for my degree even longer."

"Graduation date was delayed because of the delay in MAP funding."

"I may have to drop credit hours from full time to part time to be able to afford my school this second semester. Which will end up putting me behind in graduation."

"It has been really hard on me and my family without receiving the MAP grant. I had to take out two extra loans to cover the costs."

"If the MAP grant isn't funded next semester I will need to take less credits or transfer out because I will not have enough to cover the payment."

"The delay in MAP funding has affected me greatly this school year. I was forced to take a full-time job and try to pay for school. I work from 4 am to 12:30 pm, and I have to go to school right after work. It's hard to study when you have no time."

"I chose to stay in state to go to college mainly due to the fact that I'll receive the MAP grant, but the state budget crisis is crippling many college students and not strictly due to the cost to pay which is enough to worry about on its own. But keeping up with this crisis is mentally and physically draining which has many students rethinking their decision about getting or finish getting the degree."

"I have been living pay check to pay check; I am spending a lot time reducing expenses, not for sake of saving up for something (e.g., retirement, car, vacation, payments on student-loan with their traditionally unnecessarily high interest rates, etc.), or any sort of investment. Instead, the things I am cutting out result in some added burden or decrease the quality of my day to day life. Could I work more? If I wanted to sleep less than my typical 5 hrs. Could I switch to a cheaper school? [Only] if I wanted to add an additional 2 years because upper level science are not transferable. Could I have planned for this? Should I have expected the awarded aid to not be given when I signed a lease and signed up for classes a year ago, or picked my college 3 years ago, etc...?"

“Without my awarded MAP Grants I will have to delay graduation, which I've worked so hard towards and will probably have to end up taking out extra student loans to cover the MAP grant portion only.”

“To whom it may concern: The MAP fund is and has been instrumental in not only my course of studies but also several other disadvantaged students to whom this added Illinois education incentive enables increased class load without increasing job related hours. This fund is not one that should be so readily overlooked but should instead be prioritized as it will undoubtedly increase the future economy of Illinois on a multitude of levels. Please invest in my education without hesitation as it will expedite my tax contributions as well as provide a platform for my future offspring to strive to surpass my achievements. After all, isn't that the base goal every parent and child hope for?”

In school and a portion of a MAP grant was credited (or listed as pending) to the student's account for first term of 2016-17:

“I am maxed on student loans. If the MAP grant is not released I will not be able to continue school. I will then owe more money now. This is ridiculous and unfair . . . It also caused my parents to take out student loans and they can't afford to pay them on 38,000 a year income with three children.”

“I am not able to pay all of my school tuition, which is affecting my spring enrollment.”

“I am struggling so much because I did not receive the MAP funding. All my classes are extremely hard and I am currently working 2 jobs. This has been the hardest semester on me.”

“I took a year off because of fear of funding, so now am farther behind.”

“It has been extremely difficult. I've had to take on two jobs to be able to pay for my tuition and fees. I truly wish that funding was provided. My academic performance has decreased because I've had to spend a lot more time working than time focusing on academics.”

“It has been very hard on me knowing that this funding could just disappear at some point even though it is dire to my education.”

“MAP funding helps 125,000 people each year and is greatly appreciated. I have 4 current friends who cannot attend the university because of very little money to spend for school. Education empowers us to become better and more knowledgeable to help ourselves and others. This is an excellent program and I want to complete my degree to serve my community.”

“My college is covering the grant, however my college has to reduce programs and funding to other departments to cover this for all students receiving MAP grants.”

“Not sure how long I will last in college because I can't afford any more loans & I don't know if I will get approved for anymore loans.”

“The MAP Grant really makes it possible for me to attend the school I want to be at and I have worked very hard in all of my classes and at my job so I can get the financial support I need to stay in school.”

Having the MAP Grant really takes a lot of stress and anxiety off me so that I can focus more fully on my classes and grades.”

“This added to an already heavy student loan debt . . . will take me several years and interest to pay back the money that should have been deposited. I am concerned about my credit rating and ability to buy a car when I graduate which I will need for the job I have lined up.”

“This was very frustrating. I constantly had a hold on my account which prevented me from viewing my schedule or my transcripts. I was also receiving late fees because I had a balance on my account. Even after the grant was released I was told I was only receiving a portion of it so I had to take out other loans because I am paying for school by myself and I also live on my own so I was unable to pay anything out of pocket due to rent and other utility bills. I was very disappointed with the financial assistance I received.”

“Well I don't know if I will be able to continue to go to school because even with all my loans maxed out I still owe money.”

I am *not* in school for first term of 2016-17:

“As a single adult returning to finish college, the admission cost is such that without grants I would not be able to do so. It is not feasible for me to take on another job if I wish to finish college successfully. And since I don't have a degree, I am already stuck making minimum wage at a dead end job. A college degree would definitely help out and provide a long term career I can retire from as well as receive a 401k from. Without help from the MAP Grant, I am destined to never better my career prospects and I will end up working well into my 80s or until I die because I will never be able to make ends meet if I retire.”

“Due to the financial strain, I am not attending school and am considering changing from my current school to another one. I am disabled and can no longer work and can no longer assist with paying for my education. Obtaining my degree is important to me but with these setbacks due to health and finances, I must take a break to reevaluate my plan of obtaining my degree, I will never quit nor give in. It just simply may take me longer to obtain my goal for defeat IS NEVER AN OPTION!”

“Due to the state's lack of MAP funding, I have had to delay my enrollment by another year. I have had to work additional jobs, to save up the money necessary to cover the difference. A lack of MAP grant funding forces people like myself to delay school, because we don't want to take out loans. Cutting MAP grant funding is cutting the futures of the next generation here in Illinois.”

“Had no way to pay for my school funds and dropped all my classes.”

“I did not enroll for fall term 2016 due to lack of funds, and no MAP funds, so I had to work more hours to save money and aim for either spring 2017 or fall 2017.”

“I did not enroll in class this term because I owe funds.”

“I had planned to go to [to school] for Fall of 2016, but due to uncertainty with the budget and less grants/funding, in addition to my inability to get a school loan due to lack of a co-signer I had to put

school off for a year. I also work at a local community college and lived in fear of getting laid off due to delayed funding through the state of Illinois. Now I plan on working two jobs and saving what I can and going to [a closer] . . . campus. They don't have the major I wanted but they have something close. I would get to live at home and keep my job even though I feel I am missing out on a major aspect of the college experience, of moving away and living on campus, I will get to attend a university. I hope that with hard work, determination, and any assistance I am deemed worthy of an education and can be the first person in my family to earn a Bachelor's degree."

"I had to find a job after I graduated high school, because I couldn't afford to start in the fall of 2016. I'll hopefully start in January if I make enough money."

"I had to take a year off because I couldn't afford school anymore. So I'm working 3 jobs to pay back my school to get my transcripts. I can't afford to go to any university without the MAP grant. I cried myself to sleep because I had to see everyone leave for school."

"I have to pay out of pocket and owe the school money because I can't pay it off."

"I took on a full-time position and had to drop out because I was still not making enough money to cover my expenses."

"I was the first person in my family to attend university, but had to withdraw from my classes due to MAP funds not being dispersed . . . Now I'm just another person of color without a degree, and cannot achieve the goal of being the first person in my family with a college degree."

In school and a full MAP grant was credited (or listed as pending) to the student's account for first term of 2016-17:

"A delay in the MAP funding may result in me taking the semester off and working full time to raise the money. I may have to get two full time jobs. The MAP grant helps me a great deal."

"Although my school funded it for the first term, I spent a lot of time worrying about how my education would be affected because I didn't have enough loans to cover my tuition."

"Although my school has covered the money before obtaining funding, it is extremely difficult to have to worry about if my tuition will be covered. . . . I take very challenging classes that take much effort and time to study. I should not have to worry if the financial aid that was promised to me before coming to school is actually going to come. My main focus is getting my education and it is strenuous to have to also worry about if I have enough funds to continue schooling."

"As a college student, paying for college is a struggle. It's hard enough when I am trying to get an education and also trying to live on my own without worrying about funding for school. Though loans can suffice for what the MAP grant doesn't cover, a student can only take out so many loans before he or she can no longer apply for anymore loans. The MAP grants not only help pay for school, but also leave room to apply for loans ONLY when needed, so that the student can cover each semester. Many students have already dropped out of college because the MAP grants have been cut. I have two-three more years left in school and it would be a shame if I couldn't finish school because I didn't have enough money to cover my last few semesters."

“As an education major, there are many classes and prerequisites to accomplish. There is no time to slack. But by having the MAP budget delay also delays my graduation and completion. Coming from a low income family doesn't give me enough time to save up and pay for my education. I am the oldest of 4 and my younger siblings also have an education to accomplish.”

“As funding has been a constant issue, I have had to watch so many friends struggle to stay in school, teachers losing their jobs and an overall atmosphere of uncertainty as I try to begin my life as a successful and educated adult. Not ensuring funding is in place for higher education is one of the most abysmal and critical failures of our state's responsibility to its citizens. Without this funding, I am struggling to maintain a clear plan and pathway to staying in school and graduating successfully. Previous generations were afforded the opportunity to attend college in a feasible and attainable way, so I am furious and extremely disappointed that people like myself (the future of this state and the country) are having to face insurmountable odds before even entering the already insufferable job market.”

“As I proceed through my goals to graduate with my Bachelors and Master's degree I am constantly worried that I will not be awarded the MAP grant. If I do not get the grant it is more money that I will have to take a loan and I am already getting close to my maximum loan disbursement. The extra anxiety of wondering about funding every year does not help when working through financial hard times.”

“At first, I almost chose a cheaper college because I wouldn't have been able to afford the one I'm going to now. Then, they said they would front the money for the MAP grant, but if I have to pay back the MAP grant if they don't receive funding for it, I'd have to take out more private loans and acquire more debt.”

“Basically, I'm in a poor family and grants are the only reason I'm able to attend a University so if there can't be some partisan workmanship for students on both sides of the aisle it'll throw a wrench into my plans and that of thousands of other students like me.”

“Because I received the payment for this first term I was able to pay for my first semester. But it has caused me much stress about future payments. Without the MAP grant it would be much more difficult to pay for my education and would be forced to take on much debt if I continued.”

“Because the MAP grant appears to be in limbo, I'm not sure if I'll be able to attend school in the spring 2017 semester, and thus, I am unsure if I will ever be able to complete school. I am unable to obtain the additional loans necessary to cover the potentially missing MAP grant funds. My parents also do not have the credit rating necessary to co-sign a loan with me.”

“Certain classes are not being offered due to the lack of a budget and delaying my progress in my degree program. I am fortunate to attend a university that can credit their students but when they no longer can, I will not be able to attend school.”

“For a while, my school was not going to credit the MAP grant to my account and a hold was placed on it. I was not able to register for classes on time because of this.”

“Having to worry if I will have the financial assistance I need to continue my education is stressful. Not knowing if I will receive this grant doesn't allow me to be stable. I have to question if I can still attend [school] or if I need to transfer somewhere much more inexpensive.”

"I am a first generation college student and my family cannot afford my expenses. The delay brings a lot of anxiety and stress to my parents."

"I am a person who likes a plan. I cannot fully plan for my future without knowing whether I can pay for it or not. I don't think it's fair we are taught to work hard in school so that we can go to college. We are taught how to manage time, and classes yet the state can't manage a budget for the sake of an entire state. It's not just school's that are effected. I have been a resident for 19 years because I was born here and now a lot of us are considering residing somewhere else. Going to school somewhere else. This is not ideal because to be closer to home is a choice for my mother and her health. Right now I feel like we are approaching a slippery slope and I don't want to see the terrible outcome."

"I am a senior and I am afraid I won't be able to graduate if the MAP is not available."

"I am constantly worried about whether or not I will continue to receive the grant. Without the grant being paid for by my university, I would have been unable to continue school during this current year."

"I am not sure if I will be able to attend my university for the next school year because without the grant the cost will be too much for my family and I. The grant was a huge incentive to stay in Illinois for my schooling."

"I am uneasy every time I hear about the funds not being approved because this grant is my future and without it things would look very different for me."

"I am worried that after three successful years at [school], I won't be able to return for my final year to finish my degree."

"I cannot afford to pay for my schooling without the MAP funding. I am so close to being done with school and can't afford not to go now."

"I cannot afford to pay for school out of pocket. The MAP grant was supposed to pay for the rest of my tuition for this year and if I don't get it I will not be able to pay the difference. I have wanted nothing more than to attend [this university] and got here only by working hard and paying for [community college] out of pocket. Please disburse MAP funding so I can continue my education and finish my bachelor's degree in Manufacturing Engineering. I speak for all of the younger generation when I say that we have to work extremely hard to have a successful career, so please don't take that away from me."

"I depend on the money from the MAP grant to attend college and the delay would prevent me from registering for classes and thus graduating on time."

"I financially CANNOT attend the same school next year without the MAP grant."

"I had planned to graduate in the Fall 2017 semester, but my MAP grant was not available until 1 week before the Fall 2016 semester so I had to go from taking 15 credit hrs to 9 hrs because I didn't have enough money to attend school full time without the MAP grant. The 2 classes that I had to drop were not available any more once I found out I would indeed be receiving the MAP grant for 2016-2017 so now I have to wait until next year to take those classes which means I will not graduate until Spring"

2018. I'm extremely disappointed that I will not meet the goal I set for myself and was so looking forward to."

"I have been so afraid that my school will finally stop funding my MAP grant since they have not been paid yet. Luckily, my school has been fronting the MAP grant funds to students but in my next two, and final semesters, I do not know if this will continue. Because of the problems with the MAP grants I have dropped my plans of a minor in order to graduate a semester earlier than planned in case I have to pay more for college in the future (if the MAP grant is no longer funded)."

"I honestly don't know if I will be able to remain in school to finish my bachelor's degree."

"I pay for my schooling all by myself. I am currently working 40+ hours a week while taking 17 credit hours. I am a student athlete as well. MAP funding is essential for me to afford school."

"I was very late on paying my tuition because the MAP grant is a life saver and I count on it every semester since college is ridiculously expensive and it is hard to make ends meet."

"I was very stressed out being a junior and thought I wouldn't be able to afford to finish out my senior year and get my degree. Luckily my president promised to pay for our MAP grants at the school for the first semester and that is all I had left was one semester. I feel bad for the kids who are almost done and might not be able to finish."

"I will have to drop out of school if I don't get the MAP grant for 2017-2018."

"I won't be able to graduate this May if I don't get the MAP grant."

"I work in the Financial Aid office as a student worker, and though some students at my school may not realize the lack of MAP funding has had on our university, I have been able to see this in my office. Our university has had to make major budget cuts and had to pull from our reserves for funding because of the lack of state appropriations. Though I received the amount of money in my student account that a MAP would have provided, I know that, in many ways, this funding being allocated for the MAP grant from our university in this way meant they had to make other sacrifices. Many faculty and staff lost jobs on our campus, and this was because they had to make the cuts where they "could." Our university recognizes that our population of students needs financial aid, both state and federal. Unfortunately, they had to sacrifice some of our educational opportunities in order to do this."

"I would indefinitely drop out of college, if the delay continues or gets worst in 2017."

"If I am not able to receive MAP funding then I will not be able to attend my university and I will most likely have to take a break from school in order to save money up to pay for it."

"If I cannot get MAP grant, I have to get loan to pay for my school tuition. Moreover, I need to work more to pay the debt. As a result, I cannot be a full time student and it would take me longer to finish my bachelor degree."

"If I had one thing to say about the effect the MAP funding has done for my academic year of 2016-17, it would be the ability to afford my education and continue my studies."

"It has allowed me to have a college education. With the price of schooling today, that Grant has helped significantly. It is very important for me to have this grant again in the following years."

"It has made me consider not signing up for classes because of money situation. I depend heavily on the MAP grant."

"It has made me nervous about if I can attend school without this grant or not. It is a large portion of my tuition and it is a deciding factor on whether or not I can attend school or not."

"It hasn't had, but if we don't get it this year 2016-2017 second term and 2017-2018 it will affect me because, I don't have money to pay for my college and will end up not going to college. There will be more students like me who will end up dropping. And then a simple economics theory will come into effect. If people drop out of college then they won't find jobs and if no jobs, then the state won't get any money in taxes because the students will not be able to find jobs. I understand that there are loans that we can take but the IL MAP GRANT is a gift that doesn't need to be repaid."

"It's hard to plan a full time schedule when I don't know how much funding I have. Without funding I cannot attend school."

"It's stressful wondering if I will be able to attend school the next Semester every single year. Working 40 hours a week as a full time student to pay for school is near impossible as well, with the amount of work college requires, time management is key."

"It's the reason why I can go to school without it I wouldn't go and I'm so lucky to receive it!"

"My college was not sure if they were going to receive the MAP funding this academic year. For the fall semester of 2016, we were told that we were not going to receive the MAP. MAP helps cover at least one class for me, so I could not afford to take that class that semester. When my college announced that they will give out MAP grants, despite them not being funded by the state, the class I needed was full. Now, I am behind in my academic goals."

"My family is not within a financially comfortable position so upon hearing of the delays and such there has been talk of a pause on my and my sister's education within our household."

"My school has expressed that they are probably not going to be able to continue supplying the MAP Grant. I will not be able to afford school without this MAP Grant and thus not be able to go to school."

"No effect this year thank goodness but had my school not funded the grant, I would have cancelled attending college at all. I cannot afford it without the MAP grant."

"Not knowing if I was going to get my MAP grant was stressful and potentially was the deciding factor on me being able to continue my education or not."

"Spring 2017 will be my final semester of college and I will be getting my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. If I do not receive the MAP grant and my school decides to not apply it thinking they will get reimbursed I will not be able to finish my degree. Nurses are a necessity in our country. If the map grant is not applied that is one less nurse to help fill the gaps since there is a nursing shortage."

“The delay is terrifying, not knowing if I'll be able to attend school next semester or not as it is contingent on the availability of the MAP grant.”

“There has been uncertainty on whether or not funding will be available which has caused me a lot of stress, thankfully, my school has provided MAP grants for the first semester. However, I'm unsure if they will be able to do that again. And I am a student who relies heavily on financial assistance from the state and government. And with this delay, I have been uncertain about whether or not I will be able to fully afford my college tuition and fees. I am scheduled to graduate next semester, and with the delay of funds, I [may] have to postpone my degree because I won't have enough money to cover my classes. I'm currently working two jobs to make ends meet, and every bit of financial assistance counts. I have also had to pick up an overnight job because of the uncertainty of funding. Hopefully, this nightmare ends soon.”

“Too hard to pay for college without this help. Already have maxed out student loans and private loans (that I'm currently paying on) because the lack of money to help cover the rest of my education.”

“Uncertainty of being able to continue school, if the MAP is not funded I will be in extreme debt to my University and will be forced to drop out. If MAP is not approved next year, I will have to drop out.”

“When the MAP grant was first rumored to be taken away I questioned whether I would have to pick up a 3rd job to pay for college.”

“Without MAP grant funding, I would not be able to attend college. I am two semesters away from graduation, and without MAP funding for the spring semester for 2017, I am unsure that I will be able to attend. I am very much so dependent on MAP funding.”

“Without the MAP grant or with the uncertainty of receiving the MAP grant, I was very hesitant on continuing my post-secondary education. I am a first generation college student who comes from a low-income family - yet I am in the top half of my class and in the . . . Honors College.”

RPPA, 12/13/2016