



Color Code:

Everyone: 

South Forty: 

North Side:Off Campus: 

Financial Aid/Work-study/tuition Stories

Financial Aid allowed me to go here. It sounds wrong but I am almost grateful my family is below the threshold to pay for this school, and that my parents have been planning for this + saving their whole lives. It seems like people whose families have more than mine but not enough to pay are actually worse off based on what people say. I lucked out. I often feel like I hit the lottery, because I did. ¼ million dollars education for free + then the last couple years for next nothing. I can graduate college and do whatever I believe in, I can try to help people instead of paying back debt.

My parents knew we wouldn't qualify for financial aid but we filled out the FAFSA and applied for aid anyway - at every college but Wash U. Since Wash U was the only college I applied to that isn't need blind, I knew that not applying for aid would help my chances of getting in. Every time I hear someone say a black student is only here because they are black, I think that I am only here because my parents can afford it.

My parents were supposed to contribute \$0 according to the FAFSA but the financial aid office said their calculations say that I should work and earn ~\$3000 over the summer, which would fill in the gap between the aid package and the total actual cost. I got an unpaid internship for the experience and was not able to get that more.

I don't understand my family's economic status. We have very low income but have too many assets to qualify for financial aid?! (How does this work?)

I have a full-ride for academic merit, but I feel so guilty because other people deserve it more.

I receive generous financial aid at this school but don't tell my friends.

Tuition may be an unfortunate level of sacrifice on my house.

The financial aid dept. took away financial aid I needed when I got a scholarship, even though I needed both to attend.

Getting a scholarship helped elevate my college experience.

I do work-study at an anthro lab to help pay my tuition!

I'm here on full scholarship.

Coming from a lower income family, WashU has been extremely generous in providing a college experience where I do not have to worry about financial constraints and I am free to pursue my passions in academics and sports.

I am paying for all of my college expenses with an ROTC scholarship. I am independant from my parents financially.

When I told my friends I got [a] need-based full tuition scholarship, they freaked out negatively. (jealousy)

I have 3 jobs, multiple scholarships, and many loans, and I still always feel low on money.

A friend of mine almost had to leave WashU because he almost lost his aid. It was hard for him to talk about it because most of his friends were not on financial aid.

Despite the fact that my family has a relatively stable financial situation, there's no way my education at WashU would be possible were it not for the generous scholarship I received. I'm extremely fortunate to be here, considering that my finances did not play to my advantage in the admissions process.

Every night after getting into WashU I would pray that I got a large enough scholarship because if I couldn't afford WashU, then I wouldn't be going to college.

If I wasn't on my scholarship, I would be very concerned about my money all the time. It directed my college process & I feel very lucky to not be burdened as much with that now.

I have been paying for my graduate education with loans and scholarship.

I wouldn't be at a private university without a generous scholarship, and WashU was the most generous.

I'm not on scholarship, but I've been surprised about how many merit scholarships there are, as opposed to need based scholarship.

I probably wouldn't have made it here if it weren't for financial aid.

Even though I'm black on full scholarship I have a mother who earns 6 figures.

WashU wouldn't even give my family a loan when I started school here, so my parents had to take out of their 401K. Now that my mom got laid off, though, they are fully helping me financially.

I had to pick between two schools, WashU, which had offered me the minimum financial aid, and a lower-tier liberal arts school with a full tuition scholarship. My dad tried so hard to convince me to go to the other school, and when I chose WashU, he told me I might have to change schools if we couldn't afford it anymore.

On financial aid scholarship. Work two part-time jobs for food and pocket money.

My scholarship grant has risen every year unknown to my friends.

I wish I could be sure I can afford my 4 years here.

I applied for every single scholarship I could. I didn't get a single one. I came to campus and I laughed out loud when I read on police beat that someone's \$200 sunglasses had been stolen. It seemed like lunacy. I have to watch how much I eat and how much it costs. I don't go out as much as I'd like to because I need to pinch pennies. But someone here is well off enough to drop \$200 on a pair of sunglasses? That's a textbook I could have purchased instead of skating through class without the required text.

My parents didn't want to pay for WashU when I could go to a state school for free, so I worked to win a scholarship that covers all of my expenses & now I make money in college. :)

If you asked my friends they'd all guess that I'm from a very affluent family given my background, my appearance and my actions. What they don't know is that I'm a Pell Grant student nervous about how long I can keep that up for, and what would happen.

My friends complain about not receiving financial aid even though I know they don't "need" it... I am receiving substantial aid and I feel like a lot of my peers are unaware of their privilege.

I was on Pell Grants for two years and only three people here know it.

Social Life and Extra-Curriculars

My dad thought I would have the cheapest computer out of 60 kids on my freshman floor. I didn't believe him but he was right

Speaking specifically to my financial experiences with Greek Life, I have found that my sorority supports individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds and never excludes people that may have trouble attending or financing certain events.

I think that my friends don't use their money well, because they spend it on the most trivial things.

When my friends expect me to go out with them on trips & I have to turn them down

Everyone is joining/has joined clubs and extracurriculars, but I have to spend my time in work-study.

It's frustrating sometimes when friends don't understand that going out all the time isn't always monetarily feasible.

My friend bought a \$6,000 necklace - I sold \$500 meal points to buy winter clothes

Greek Life can be very expensive. Even paying dues is a struggle for me. Greek Life needs greater awareness of socio-economic diversity and should be accommodating to students with less financial means

Sometimes I have to call my parents to put money in my account when I am out with friends because I don't have enough money and it's stressful and not fun

Being from a family that couldn't support me like my peers did affected my academic/collegiate experience irreparably. Due to my financial situation, I couldn't join Greek Life, I couldn't eat out with my friends, and I couldn't take advantage of all the social opportunities I wanted to. Now, I have a much smaller community than I would have preferred.

My friends don't think twice about going to eat off campus. I can afford it, but realize this could be a struggle for some people

Sometimes I know that groups I am a part of are excluding people because of lack of financial accessibility, but I don't think that they fully care

Life goes on even if I'm the only one who can't afford dinner again this week or I can't go on that spring break trip with my friends or my time is taken up by my job that makes me money I don't even get to spend on myself

As a middle class family, I'm a lower-middle class WashU family. So I can't do as many things with my friends as I'd like to

Many people default to going out to eat or shopping as an exciting way to spend time together, but I can't do that and feel left out

My roommate gets his parents to ship him stuff all the time, which mine can't afford, but most of the time, no one brings up money stuff

My socioeconomic status lets me spend more time in extracurriculars than others

I noticed the difference in my socioeconomic status when it was raining and I didn't have Hunter boots

There are hidden costs in the sense that a lot of social interactions are predicated on paying for something - dinner, movie, entertainment, etc.

I feel guilty for being in Greek Life when not everyone can afford it

Everyone expects I have money to spend. I typically happen to, but I'm frustrated by the expectation. When almost the entire student body is affluent, that affects the way we learn to solve problems and work with others. I don't want to learn to solve my problems the 'rich kid' way

On the weekends people always want to go out but the cost of taxis and entrance fees are too much for me

Being in Greek Life is hard because I'm always pressured to support others by buying things I can't afford Wu/Fused added note: this is referring to the expectation to pay for benefit nights or other Greek Life philanthropy events)

I often feel uncomfortable socializing with my freshman floor. Most of the residents are wealthy and unaware/insensitive towards financial struggles

Going out to dinner isn't a daily or weekly event for everyone

I wish that more people in Greek Life knew more about the socioeconomic diversity that exists on this campus. As a Pell Grant, receiving student in Greek Life, I find it terrifying to talk about my family's financial situation.

Listening to people on my floor bond over vacations to Europe during Bear Beginnings. I spend the summer babysitting my nephew

I wish I could afford to go out every weekend like everyone else

When shopping with friends, I felt out of place because they could freely spend money on whatever they wanted and paid for it with their parents' credit cards but I had to pay for clothes by myself and had to watch how much money I could spend

Housing and Food

Socioeconomic plays into food choice and preference. I ate burgers for a long time because I was unfamiliar with a lot of the fancier options.

I was not able to live with the people I wanted to live with due to financial issues.

I dropped out of ResLife because they put me in the Lofts and it was too expensive.

Food is too much \$

In my apartment, we don't use the dishwasher, use space-heaters instead of the heat, and fans instead of AC.

Socioeconomic differences complicate housing...

Once I was at Schnuck's and my card declined on the groceries. I was super embarrassed and everyone was looking at me like "course this black college girl can't pay". Turns out my dad forgot to deposit my allowance. Lol, jokes on you.

Lived in an off-campus studio apartment and was bullied by grown-ass adults, which was more stressful than coursework. No in WU housing, and my super-rich Dad doesn't want to pay, so I'm taking out loans.

I've become much more aware of small expenses (individual food, bills, etc).. it's made me more cautious and calculating as a person. I think being more responsible for my own finances is a good thing.

Food is definitely overpriced on campus. And all students are required to have meal plans which obligates everybody.

I come from a low income family. I work two jobs to pay for my housing, meal plan, and sorority dues. I can tell that people judge me because I work in food service.

I haven't paid my electric bill this semester.

Everyone here is so wealthy, it seems, and I find it so strange that people just assume that you throw away dorm decorations, coffee makers, lamps, TVs, etc. every year only to buy new ones in the fall. It's so wasteful, and it makes me self-conscious when I invite friends over, as I feel they're judging my shabby, "cheap" decor.

Although my family is incredibly well off relative to national income brackets, coming here made me feel "disadvantaged". I didn't attend private school, textbooks were a financial burden, and going out to dinner or going shopping isn't something I can do every week. My housing feels like a fiscal burden on my family. I also don't have the international travel experiences I hear about

from so many of my friends, because huge vacations simply aren't in my family budget. It's bizarre to feel alienated for being rich, but not rich enough.

I am fairly well-off, but I feel like if I weren't I wouldn't even be able to eat on campus because it's so expensive. Recently I tried to sell meal points to a friend who lives off campus, but WashU prohibits selling or giving meal points to anyone without an on-campus meal plan, just so they can make more money.

Campus Climate

I've spent my academic career since 6th Grade at wealthy private schools, so Wash U isn't a big change in that regard. What has changed is that Wash U is slightly more socio-economically diverse. For this reason I am much more likely to not discuss my families wealth or show it off, especially in going out with friends socially. It seems everyone here earns all of their spending money but me.

I have found WUSTL SFS to be fair, in my opinion, but there certainly is a vast (and clear) disconnect/disparity between students' disposable incomes on campus. As someone from the lower middle class, I was raised to know my limits, to understand the value of money. Personally, I'm not uncomfortable or ashamed of the fact that I have less spending money than my friends; I understand I'm just here for school.

When shopping with friends, I felt out of place because they could freely spend money on whatever they wanted and paid for it with their parents' credit cards but I had to pay for clothes by myself and had to watch how much money I could spend

I've noticed that in parking garages the majority of cars are luxury vehicles

Some kids don't understand how much they have

I was surprised by the lack of diversity (many people come from private schools)

"privileged" comes to mind when I think of WashU Socioeconomics

Most students at WashU see socioeconomics in black & white: have and have not, rich and poor, etc. parents rise on economic status, but that "American Dream: experience is usually ignored in conversations

Freshman year, I knew multiple people who ordered cartons or bottled water instead of drinking tap water...

Freshman year, I lived in a suite with 6 people in it. Out of the 6, 3 of us were on financial aid and 3 were not. Everyone was extremely open about their financial situation, and seemed to

feel comfortable with the discussion. However, as the year went on one of my suitemate clearly became uncomfortable with the conversation and the Wash U culture. She never seemed to be able to figure out where she fit, and it seemed that she did not feel that she fit in. In the last few weeks of 2nd semester she told us she was transferring. She said she did not feel connected or a part of the community.

Those who don't fit the upper-class norm often go unnoticed.

Being an international student that is receiving financial aid, it is interesting to see the lack of funding that goes to international students in need and an even further lack of diversity socio-economically within the international students. I relate better to Americans since very few international students are on international aid.

Throughout my experience at WashU there's been moments where there's been a very easy way for my friends to save money (use this coupon, buy the bronze meal plan and then buy meal points off other students or use bear bucks, etc.) and although they're aware of this, they don't do it. They say "oh, it doesn't matter" or "It's just my parents' money." Why don't they care?! It's money. My parents' money is my money and vice versa, I value it.

Just because I have an iphone doesn't mean I can pay for all your meals.

When I came here I realized everyone is rich.

It's weird being at a school where people don't have to worry about money or budgeting.

I think that we definitely need more socioeconomic diversity at this school.

We need to be need blind.

Sometimes I feel frustrated when people do not have to use their own money to pay for events when I have to pay my way.

Crazy how everyone at WashU seems wealthy, especially with jacket brands

I feel people here don't understand low-income people.

Everybody says they know how lacking in socioeconomic diversity Wash U is, but nobody does anything about it.

I come from a middle class family and I feel normal here.

It's embarrassing for me to see the lack of socioeconomic diversity at Wash U. Coming from a big city, it's extremely clear that Wash U is not fully representative.

Not being as wealthy as everyone else has made me try harder, like I had something to prove.

My suitemates got mad at me when we talked about private schools. My family is well-off, but I didn't go to private school, and they were angry that I thought expensive schools were unfair.

The most dangerous aspect of the socio economic difference is that people higher on the socioeconomic background take things too often for granted. No, you can't use my car because I pay a lot for insurance. No, 50 bucks is a lot. And no, I can't fly to the west coast for a 3-day weekend.

I think the most striking thing about socioeconomic status here at Wash U is that it's almost assumed that you can afford things--like I remember a professor in the B-School asking the class who had a certain luxury car brand and being surprised when almost a third of the class owned one or had friends who do.

As an administrator I often speak with students who are interested in activities that they cannot afford to participate in. Service trips, Goldman Fellows, even the ability to fundraise for events like Relay for Life preclude lower SES students, and often funding to support them is limited and requires and requires students to "out" themselves as financially needy. Students struggle to manage their academics and other responsibilities for which they are here, but for some students they are barred from engagement or distracted from studies to manage their financial situation and the stigma it brings.

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I feel uncomfortable that the average family income at Wash U is four times higher than my family's.

We need more socioeconomic diversity to make the university more representative of the real world, but we also need to recognize the value of wealthy students at the university.

When people ask me if I want to buy something/eat somewhere/etc., and I say I can't because I'm broke, I really mean it.

Many times I hear people say, "If you go to Wash U, you should be able to pay for x, y, and z." As a student who completely supports myself financially, these statements are offensive and isolating. My parents don't support me, and I don't have money for those things, so please don't make assumptions.

It's isolating at times when classmates are confused when I don't go home for most holidays--neither I nor my parents have the money for this!

I never felt poor until I came to Wash U.

It's sometimes hard to explain that you're in a scholarship program and communicate your financial need without feeling looked-down-upon.

My friends and I don't talk about money a lot.

It feels like there is a much stronger culture of spending than I am used to.

People here will complain about being poor and in the same sentence mention a trip to Europe.

Someone told me I got into this school just because my parents could pay for it.

I am sometimes self-conscious about my socioeconomic background here, even though I never used to be.

I try not to talk about money or flaunt wealth because I know it makes people feel bad... it makes me feel bad too.

Sometimes it sucks to see how little you have in comparison.

We could be admitting a lot more kids from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Wash U is not socioeconomically diverse -> Greek life has even less socioeconomic diversity.

Knowing that not everyone here is filthy rich makes me feel included.

One time a guy bought dough-to-door for my entire freshman floor hoping it would make a girl like him, so that was pretty cool but also what the hell.

I'm the only one in my friend group with parents who don't have college degrees.

I feel out of place just knowing that so many people here don't have to worry about money. I feel uncomfortable talking about it with anyone.

It's usually not always hard to tell others' socioeconomic statuses.

Sometimes I become acutely aware of my privilege around my friends of lower SES.

I'm very comfortable on campus.

A lot of people @ Wash U expect you to have \$.

We could be admitting a lot more kids from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Wash U is not socioeconomically diverse -> Greek life has even less socioeconomic diversity

I could feel the vibe of socioeconomic pretentiousness at Wash U every time I leave the university

I never felt I was lacking in \$ until people at WUSTL pointed out what was missing

My friend's mom lost her job, and she needs to work to pay her rent and food. She is loved and supported but I am worried about her. I don't think it's possible to be at Wash U without extra money.

I feel that the lack of socioeconomic diversity at WashU inhibits the ethnic/racial diversity.

When I was a freshman during orientation, everyone who went to a private school stood up. About half the room stood up. The fact that at least half the kids in my class had the resources for private school astounds me.

Self-Reflection/Background

I guess I want to own that I'm really financially secure. As I've grown in college, I had a journey of acceptance. I was really guilty for a while - how could I be an advocate if I've never experienced financial strength? As I've grown in college, I've realized I can use my voice for change. I'm not talking for people but rather talking WITH people. (I'm not saying this for pity - "Oh she feels guilty for being rich.") However, it is important for me to acknowledge my feelings.

My mom is leaving her job in January, She's a single parent & my father isn't in the picture at all. I'm terrified for my future. I have to be strong for her. I have many more in my savings account than she does right now.

I went to a middle school where to sit at a certain lunch table you had to wear a tiffany necklace. I grew up on the higher end of the socio-economic spectrum, but relative to those I went to middle school with, I was on the lower end. This really skewed perceptions of wealth for me as a kid. College has been a time to make friendships with all types of people from various economic statuses. It's been the best thing about college. I'm still figuring out how much we should be aware of these issues from a young age.

Despite being pretty well off, I wish people knew that even though my parents can pay full tuition, we don't live ostentatious lives. My mom & dad save a ton and I'm not spoiled with luxury all the time. It's just that my parents place an emphasis on education where they could otherwise send me to a state school. Not all people who pay to go here and have money are self-involved, spoiled, entitled POS'S. We don't need a target on our back because we have \$.

People here don't understand the difference between having money and spending money.

My family is not low income, but we struggle with finances. My mom had a business, it went under, my family basically has negative credit. I couldn't get any loans, I would have needed to divorce my parents to get any loans or need-based aid, which I needed. My dad still made a middle class salary, but it all goes to paying off debt. I managed to get a merit scholarship. // My parents recently managed to declare bankruptcy. So we're doing better, but even though I have an enormous scholarship I can't afford a lot of things. I'm in Architecture and I have to buy lots of things. I can't afford some computer programs that I need. For modeling supplies I often have to call home and ask for more money, and I feel terrible when my parents say that they can't give me anymore, I feel like a burden. // Last year I couldn't register for classes until 2 days late because the payment for my payment plan was late. My scholarship covers tuition, but my family has to pay for housing. My parents have to pay late cause they don't get paid till Thursday, and the payment requests go out earlier in the week. // After I was offered my scholarship I needed to go to Wash U. It was the only place I could afford to go to. I also wanted to go here. Two days before we had to confirm our enrollment in Wash U. I got a call from somebody in SAM FOX asking if I was going to come to Wash U. I said I wanted to but I couldn't afford the \$500 necessary for the confirmation. She pulled some strings and got me a free confirmation that I wouldn't have qualified for because my parents income is too high, but all of it disappears instantly. // I'd love to go out more, but I can't afford it.

I have close friends who are seriously struggling financially and I wish I knew how to help.

Sometimes I wonder how my socioeconomic status really influenced my admissions decision.

As a black person, out of 15 of my aunts and uncles, only two are comfortable in the middle class.

My parents bought me a condo here in St. Louis to live in. Meanwhile, one of my best friends is in danger of homelessness.

I applied to 9 non-safety schools. 8 were need-blind. 1 (Wash U) was not. The other 8 didn't let me in.

Found out that the cost of living is pretty steep compared to what I had originally thought, but it is still pretty on par for what it is back home in Israel.

My grandma gave me a \$500 check three months ago and I still have not cashed it.

I grew up going to schools surrounded by people less well off than me. As a consequence, I would often pretend to be worse off than I actually was to fit in.

My parents are paying for my schooling. I feel way comfortable here, and most of my friends are in my same financial situation.

My dad came from nothing. He arrived in the states with just a fish knife. So the money my family has came out of hard work... and struggle.

I feel privileged in my socioeconomic status, as I am paying full tuition, but I think it is valuable and interesting to listen to other perspectives.

My parents hired someone to consult me on my college application essays. I feel like admission to Wash U can be bought.

I went to a high school that cost \$40,000/yr. I received ACT tutoring and barely got into WashU. My parents now pay for my off-campus housing. I spend ~\$500/month on food. My rent is \$625. I have worked a few different jobs: construction, cafes, etc. but spend much more than I have made. Yikes.

I come from upper SES and it's the part of my identity I try to hide the most. I hate feeling better-off than someone else.

Can be stressed at times or feel added pressure to do well in school knowing my mom is sacrificing a lot of her financial security and future to support me.

When I lived on the Loop, a man would continuously ask me for money every time I saw him. It gave me a great deal of perspective as to my privilege.

Sometimes I feel bad for talking about all of the vacations my family has been on because people think it's a waste of money.

I throw away/waste so much food because I know my parents will completely cover my grocery expenses.

I got extensive ACT tutoring in high school, and if my parents didn't pay for it, I probably wouldn't be at Wash U.

Sometimes I feel that people think I don't value money just because I come from an affluent area, while in reality I've worked hard for pretty much all the money I spend here.

We pay for the homes of my grandparents because they cannot afford to buy food and pay for housing.

My financial experience - not going to lie it has been interesting. I live in a middle-class family, however money is kind of tight. Not a lot of vacations or going out for special things, however it has made me far grateful for what I have.

I feel bad that I want to support myself but I can't get a job on campus because I am not in work study. I don't fall under "[illegible]"

Some people have been blessed with never having to worry about money for basic needs on a day to day basis. I spent my life working 16-hour days with my father to make ends meet. Some people here can't even begin to comprehend that struggle and worry.

I feel in the majority... but it sometimes embarrasses me

Both my parents are teachers and that's why they value my being here, but that doesn't make being here easy.

I feel guilty that my parents have to pay full tuition

I don't like talking about how much money my family makes because it's almost always *more* than my friends' families have, and I never know how to respond to that.

Even though my parents say I shouldn't, I feel bad spending money on things I don't need. I don't want to burden them any more than I already am.

I hate saying I'm from the place I'm from because people assume I'm super rich and obnoxious

Whenever I have told someone about my socioeconomic status (high), they assume that all of my accomplishments, including getting into Wash U, were mainly because I had money, not that I worked my ass off to get here.

I come from a fairly wealthy family but I'm planning on pursuing a career in an industry that's known for very low salaries. Though I'm trying to prepare myself for this reality, I'm worried about my ability to handle my finances after graduation.

I come from a wealthy background which makes it a little hard to connect with my friends who are from less wealthy ones.

I used to think I was pretty "bougie" before I came to Wash U, but the bougieness is on a different level here!

I WISH WUSTL WAS MORE FINANCIALLY INCLUSIVE

I'm not sure where I am financially. My parents pressured me to get a job, but I don't know if it's enough. I assume we're fine, but sometimes I'm not sure. 2 of my roommates come from poor families and are here on full scholarships. I'm happy they're here, but I sometimes feel bad for my parents.

Campus life improves when we have a racially and socioeconomically diverse student body.

Going to Wash U doesn't mean you are rich. A lot of us had to overcome financial adversity to get here.

Coming from a high school that was less socioeconomic diverse than Wash U (more affluent), I tried to gain a lot from the students here. Students here come from all walks of life and it's incredible to hear those stories and recognize how being raised sheltered has kept me from noticing any true economic diversity.

(Dictated): "Lots of people at Wash U are really wealthy, unfortunately, many don't realize just how wealthy they are. As a result, people often talk about experiences i.e. ski trips to Aspen that are unrelatable for those with less money... I wish people could connect their financial resources to making these experiences possible."

My friends assume our other friends are at the same socioeconomic level.

I come from a wealthy area, and while I was not the least bit the wealthiest, I never realized how much better off than a lot of people I was. I now feel weird trying to make friends and that coming off as a wealth dick seems difficult even when I'm not.

Money was never, and still really isn't, something I had to consider. Thus, the concept of socioeconomic diversity is one that has never had a large influence on my life or lifestyle.

I hate being just another rich kid.

I'm from a relatively affluent background with some relatives who used to be extremely wealthy. Yet, thanks to where I grew up, I [illegible? – grew up in the ??] with people from all socioeconomic background. What matters is who you're as a person. Not [illegible]

I come from a background where there was little diversity / wealthy town. So it's been an amazing experience coming to a campus where they welcome all backgrounds and push everyone to make it an active thought everyday!

I am in the 1% and quite frankly there's a real stigma about it that makes me feel uncomfortable and embarrassed.

My parents are financially well off, but I was raised with the expectation that I had to work for all my belongings. As a kid I had to work for money to buy clothes, (that weren't hand-me-downs) electronics, etc. If I ever went out with friends I would not buy snacks or movie tickets or clothes because I didn't have an allowance like my other friends. Here at Wash U I experience the exact same thing. There are so many people who never have to work for what they own or who expect that I don't have to because of my parents.

SES can stop people from participating.

Some nights, my family didn't have the money to have dinner.

Socioeconomics change the playing field of life.

I try to be mad that my parents make me pay for myself.. but most of the time I am thankful because now I know what having money means and how blessed I am to have parents that are well off.

At times I've definitely felt the reality of my financial situation – born in recognizing that many of my friends do not have to worry about maintaining a job and that some do not have as many opportunities that I do. Mostly, my experience has been the prior, as often I feel like many of my friends don't really consider money to be an obstacle or something to worry about.

Sometimes I feel as though kids at Wash U do not understand how privileged they are compared to many people in the country. People must recognize how lucky they are and how easy they have it.

Upper middle class / wealthy background à similar to a lot of people at Wash U, I feel like... à meet more diverse group of people here

Being raised in an upper middle class family, I've had plenty of opportunities made available as a result of my socio-economic status. For this I am grateful.

Because I am from upper-middle class and don't rely on financial aid, as well as get financial support from my parents, I feel like it has been hard for some of my friends whose families don't have as much money to be in the Wash U environment with people in my situation. It has made me much more aware of my privilege but I also realize I don't know how to talk about it.

We need to view economic diversity as equal to other types of diversity (i.e. race, gender, which are both very important)

Opportunity

Just because my family pays for college does not mean we are wealthy

I consistently forget to make sure I am being respectful when making plans that includes those with financial issues

I feel completely comfortable at Wash U, and that probably has something to do with the fact that I am a white, upper class female à (Is this a problem? Yes!)

Discussing socioeconomic diversity has opened up my understanding of the world for good and bad!

My school tuition is the single largest expense my dad has (but I'm very lucky that he can pay for it)

I'm fairly privileged. Important to recognize, nothing to be ashamed of – a lot of people would want to be in my position.

People assume I'm wealthy because I'm in a fraternity, and it's total bullshit. I'm far from it.

Even though both of my parents are doctors our family still struggles to make payments for Wash U's tuition and I am worried / feel guilty that they might not have enough money to retire.

I feel very lucky to not have to worry too much about paying for my tuition.

People don't realize that families with kids in college struggle to make ends meet, even if both parents are employed.

I am pretty well off and sometimes struggle to understand and appreciate those who are not as well off

I have always felt extremely lucky because I come from a working-class family, but have been awarded generous scholarships to attend one of America's best private high schools, and now one of the best universities. Now I feel like I'm in SES limbo. Surrounded by wealth and opportunity, but then going home to a much more humble reality.

I feel guilty that I've never had to worry about tuition.

I want people to know that just because my parents own a Mercedes doesn't mean I'm a rich brat.

Only one working parent and 4 younger siblings makes me work harder and more afraid of failure

My family completely has the means to pay full tuition, but I am on almost a full scholarship. It makes me feel bad when I hear other's stories, but I'm not gonna tell my parents to pay more money either.

I've never had to worry about money. Ever. And it makes me feel guilty.

Many may not know this about me, but my family comes from poor rural India. If you remember the caste system, we come from one of the lowest caste systems.

As much as I love Wash U, I find it jarring that we are one of the least socioeconomically diverse universities in the country.

I had the amazing opportunity to attend an all-girls private school. My parents paid for me to be there. Without that education I would not be who I am nor at Wash U. I actually really struggle with articulating myself on this topic. What I'm trying to say with my story is that everyone deserves the chance at an amazing education and support system. Wash U, give others that chance.

We just received \$5 million in life insurance, but I would never tell anyone that...

My friends and I have similar socioeconomic situations, and we have never felt awkward about it.

I often feel guilty about my Wash U education because i feel like my parents are buying my life prospects. If ability to pay didn't determine who goes here, maybe I'd feel differently.

Academics:

Going abroad was such an amazing thing I was able to do but unlike everyone else in the program, I worried about money the entire time.

Socioeconomic diversity is necessary for the health of the academic community.

I'm worried I'm wasting my family's money. There's added pressure to do exceptionally well b/c tuition is a burden for my single parent.

Having to work impacts my time to study.

I am fortunate enough not to need to keep careful track of how much I spend on architecture supplies but it must be hundreds, if not over a thousand. I also don't commit part of my working time to a job. I do fairly well in my Sam Fox classes but I assume much of this is because I have the time and money needed to put into my work.

I'm so worried about \$\$ that I haven't even bought my own books yet. I've been borrowing them.

My lower socioeconomic status drive me to succeed.

I feel like a lot of summer programs are pitched to students without considering financial aid.

I wish I'd known what an expensive venture Sam Fox was.

I don't have to worry about paying for required performances/outings for classes. Some of them are >\$30.

Needing to stay in & study to save my scholarship from being revoked