Students at Durham Tech indicate that managing financial concerns is perhaps the most common problem for students. Faculty, staff, and advisors can help students by developing a common understanding of the resources available on and off campus to help students.

**What do you know about financial resources for students?**
The following statements are true or false. Take a minute to test your current knowledge of the services available to students.

1. The best way you can help a student with financial concerns is to help the student determine strategies to decrease monthly expenses.
2. The application process for financial aid takes at least six weeks to complete.
3. The beginning pay rate for student work-study is currently $7.00 per hour.
4. Durham Tech’s Dreamkeeper Emergency Loan Program currently has close to one million in funding available for student assistance.
5. The Single Parent Program pays childcare expenses for eligible participants.
6. The Consumer Credit Counseling Service provides food stamps to people in serious debt.
7. A student may qualify for financial aid if he or she is enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program at Durham Tech.
8. The goal of the Dreamkeeper’s program is to help students who need money.
9. Students receiving Pell who wish to take a full time load may take any curriculum (credit) course to bring the minimum load to twelve hours.
10. Durham County’s Social Services Department has programs to help eligible people pay for medical expenses.
11. There is a free, on-campus workshop offered to students in the fall and spring semesters on the topic of managing financial concerns.
12. Students receiving Pell must pay back the Pell award if they withdraw from a course early in the semester.
13. If a student completes her classes for two semesters after getting a Dreamkeepers loan, she doesn’t have to pay any of the money back.
14. Most scholarship awards are based on financial need in addition to academic merit.
15. Vocational Rehabilitation Services’ primary goal is to help students with disabilities find financial resources to complete college and get meaningful employment.
16. The Single Parent Program helps single parent students with general financial needs.
17. Urban Ministries may provide emergency assistance to individuals when Social Services is unable to provide these services.
18. Anyone who qualifies for Pell can also participate in work-study.
19. A student who does not have a bachelor’s degree can continue to qualify for Pell and take courses until he completes a bachelor’s degree.
20. Applications for scholarships are available to students in the Financial Aid Office.
What are the financial support resources available to students?
Although there are many resources, these listed below are the ones most frequently used by Durham Tech Students. For information about other potential resources, please contact the Counseling Office.

**Financial Aid:** White Building, room 56 686-3660  
Financial Aid for curriculum students including Pell Grant, work-study and other various sources of assistance. Free Applications for Federal Student Aid are available online through Durham Tech’s website and at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Scholarships:** White Building, room 56 686-3660  
Coordinated through the Durham Tech Foundation. Applications available in Financial Aid. Applications normally available a couple of weeks into each semester.

**Student Success Workshops:** White Building, room 23 686-3652  
Free workshops are given each semester to help students develop basic budget skills and determine various resources for managing financial concerns.

**Single Parent Program:** White Building, room 83 686-3475  
Potential financial assistance (childcare, books, transportation) is offered to qualified single parents. Applications available during the semester prior to funding.

**Veteran’s Affairs:** White Building, room 56 686-3389  
Assistance for qualified veterans. Questions regarding the GI Bill or other military related assistance.

**Counseling:** White Building, room 23 686-3652  
The Counseling Office provides crisis counseling for students with personal or academic concerns. Counselors seek to connect students with appropriate resources as indicated by the need.

**Dreamkeepers Emergency Loan Program:** White Building, room 83 686-3475  
Assistance for students in danger of dropping out due to emergency financial concerns.

**Consumer Credit Counseling Service:** 115 Market Street, Suite 300, Durham 688-3381  
Free credit counseling for qualified individuals. Provides alternatives for paying large credit debts and works with creditors for persons with difficult credit. Also provides assistance with first time home purchases to people with low incomes.

**Durham County Social Services:** 300 N. Duke Street, Durham 560-8800  
Administers programs of income assistance, provides food stamps, determines eligibility for payment of medical services. Services provided free of charge for most assistance.

**Urban Ministries:** 305 East Main Street, Durham 683-2647  
Offers emergency assistance (financial, counseling, referral) to families, disabled adults, and senior citizens in crisis.

**Triangle United Way’s Resource Line** 211  
Whenever you need information about a resource in Durham, Orange or Wake Counties, this telephone line is a great resource. Simply call and describe the type of assistance you need.
Curious about the Answers?
Here are the answers to the initial quiz. How did you fare?

1. **False.** Helping a student determine strategies to decrease monthly expenses is only one option. You can also suggest ways to increase income or do a combination of both.

2. **False.** Although it could take six weeks to complete if the application is very complicated, now with the online application, the process is happening much faster. Encourage students to apply online whenever possible. There are computers in the Financial Aid Office for those people who do not have a computer.

3. **True.** The beginning pay rate for student work-study is currently $7.00 per hour. It goes up for a student in the second year.

4. **False.** We wish, but no, Durham Tech’s Dreamkeeper Emergency Loan Program currently has close to $30,000 in funding available for student assistance this year.

5. **True.** The Single Parent Program pays childcare expenses for eligible participants. This is one of the primary ways that this program helps single parents.

6. **False.** The Consumer Credit Counseling Service provides credit counseling to people in serious debt. Social Services administers the food stamp program.

7. **False.** Not all certificate programs qualify for financial aid. It’s important to make sure that the student checks on this issue. In general, though, all diploma and degree program students are eligible for financial aid if they meet other eligibility requirements.

8. **False.** The goal of the Dreamkeeper’s program is to keep students in college who would otherwise drop out due to sudden financial emergencies.

9. **False.** Students receiving Pell who wish to take a full time load must take curriculum (credit) courses which are in their plan of study.

10. **True.** Durham County’s Social Services Department has programs to help eligible people pay for medical expenses. They help determine who is eligible for Medicaid and may have assistance through the United Way for medical expenses not covered by Medicaid.

11. **True.** A Student Success Workshop is offered to students in the fall and spring semesters on the topic of managing financial concerns. Students who are participating in the mentoring programs often attend as part of their requirements for this program.

12. **False.** Not necessarily. However, this is a tricky situation. When a student requests to withdraw from a course, it’s best that he or she check with Financial Aid to determine the potential impact of this withdrawal.

13. **True.** If a student completes her classes for two semesters after getting a Dreamkeepers loan, she doesn’t have to pay any of the money back. The goal is retention.

14. **True.** Most scholarship awards are based on financial need in addition to academic merit.

15. **False.** Students often have a misconception about Vocational Rehabilitation Services. VR’s primary goal is to help get meaningful employment, not to go to college.

16. **False.** The Single Parent Program helps single parent students with specific financial needs such as childcare and transportation, but not general financial needs.

17. **True.** Urban Ministries may provide emergency assistance to individuals when Social Services is unable to provide these services. They are an excellent resource.

18. **False.** Although you must qualify for Pell to qualify for work-study, there are other factors which determine work-study placement such as available positions, funds, grades, etc.

19. **False.** There are other factors that determine how long a student can receive Pell such as satisfactory performance, grades, completion rates, and some rules regarding the length of time on a program.

20. **True.** Applications for scholarships are available to students in the Financial Aid Office.