



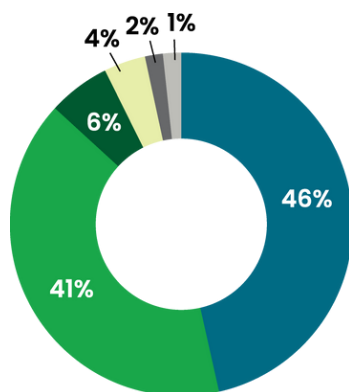
The lack of resources and support allow seemingly insignificant factors to derail the completion of career & technical education programs

6 in 10 Tennessee community college students experiencing poverty do not continue after the first year. Numerous compounding factors, such as incidental life expenses and inefficient enrollment processes, can undermine program completion.

Most common incidental financial barriers

Pilot conducted in East Tennessee (2022)

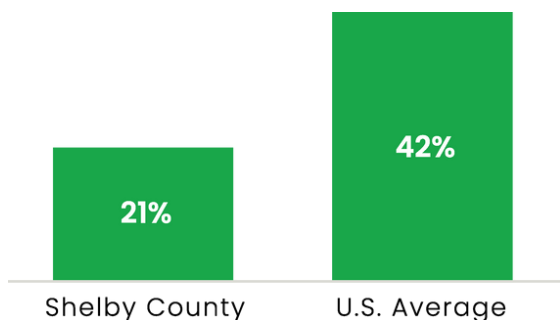
- Transportation
- Groceries
- Computer/Tech
- Books/Fees
- Supplies/Tools
- Rent/Utilities



Transportation, groceries, and technology are the most common incidental financial barriers for community college students observed during a pilot in East Tennessee

Six-year community college graduation rates

2015 cohort



Only 4 in 10 students experiencing poverty **continue community college after the first year**



1 in 4 students lost TN Reconnect funding because they did not maintain a program requirement, and of those students 60 percent did not continue their program



The second most common reason students lost TN Reconnect eligibility is they were **unaware of the requirement** to refile an annual application



Half as many students from the 2015 cohort graduated from the local community college as compared to the national average



Only 2 in 10 community college students from the 2015 cohort in Shelby County **graduated within six years**, compared to 3 in 10 for Davidson County and 4 in 10 for Knox County



“Students find out on a Thursday afternoon that they need to turn in additional tax documents by 5:00 pm the following day, leaving no time to request documents from the IRS or locate tax information before they are purged from the roster.”