

QUIZ: What's Your Financial Style?

SEMINARY STUDENTS



Living smart means taking steps to manage your financial life. But do you?

Take this quiz to see how you engage financially and what you can do about it.

Circle your choice

- | | | | |
|--|-----|----|--------|
| 1. On most days, I feel confident about my financial life. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 2. I have a budget that guides my saving, spending, and giving. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 3. I know the amount of debt I currently have. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 4. I could handle a large unexpected expense (such as a car repair or emergency room visit) and still cover my daily expenses. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 5. I'm saving regularly for other savings goals such as a vacation, purchasing a vehicle, a child's education, etc. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 6. I have a good idea how much money I'll need to retire. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 7. I've created a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan to help my loved ones carry out my wishes. | Yes | No | Unsure |
| 8. I'm financially generous with my congregation and other charitable organizations. | Yes | No | Unsure |

What's Your Financial Style?

Drumroll...

Now, tally your responses. Remember, this quiz tests how you're engaging financially — not how much money you do or don't have. Accordingly, you get the most points if you're engaged, fewer points if you're not engaged, and even fewer points if you're unsure.

- **Yes** = 3 points
- **No** = 1 point
- **Unsure** = 0 points

Score _____

17-24 points

Wow, you sound *financially confident*, able to dig in, learn what you don't know, and address the financial issues in your life.

11-16 points

Okay, you seem *financially aware*, clear on what you have and haven't done, but not as engaged as you could be. Invest a bit more time to create stronger financial habits.

0-10 points

Hmm, you appear to be *financially disconnected*, not paying attention to the details. Invest more time to educate yourself about where you are financially and what you still need to do.

Insights and Tips

Each quiz question represents an important part of living well financially. Here, we offer information and a handy tip.

1. *On most days, I feel confident about my financial life.*

Nearly three out of four adults feel stressed about money at least some of the time. Life is full of things we can't control. But we can live confidently when we live with intention, creating good habits, and managing the unexpected. Identify one or two areas of your financial life you want to focus on this year — use these tips as a guide to what next steps you might need to take.

2. *I have a budget that guides my saving, spending, and giving.*

Just 32% of Americans prepare a detailed monthly budget. While budgeting can feel tedious, it ensures that your money is going where you want it to go. Simplify the process with a budgeting app like *Mint*.

3. *I know the amount of debt I currently have.*

Last year, the average U.S. household with debt owed \$134,642. While not all debt is bad — paying diligently on auto, student, and home loans can boost your credit score. It's important to tackle large credit card debt or student loan debt early so it doesn't interfere with your longer-term financial goals. Not sure where to start? Pay down the loan with the highest interest rate.

4. *I could handle a large unexpected expense (such as a car repair or emergency room visit) and still cover my daily expenses.*

Only 38% of Americans have enough saved to pay an unexpected expense — such as a \$1,000 ER visit or \$500 car repair. It's easier to plan ahead than dig yourself out of debt. Try to maintain \$1,000 in an emergency savings account to ease the stress of the unexpected. Don't have anything saved? Start small by setting aside \$20 per month.

5. *I'm saving regularly for other goals such as a vacation, purchasing a vehicle, or a child's education, etc.*

Only 51% of Americans with children under 18 are saving for college. While you're in seminary and likely taking on debt, saving can feel impossible. However, putting aside even a small percentage of your budget can help you be better prepared for large purchases and future goals.

6. *I have a good idea of how much money I'll need to retire.*

To be financially ready to retire by age 67, aim to have 10 times your final salary saved at retirement. Starting early is the best way to harness the power of compounding, but it's never too late. Make your retirement contribution a percent, not a flat dollar amount, so that as your paycheck increases, so do your savings.

7. *I've created a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan to help my loved ones carry out my wishes.*

Over two-thirds of adults don't have a health care advance directive or living will and 64% don't have a will. Taking these steps is a gift to your loved ones should you be physically unable to make decisions for yourself or pass away. Create a health care directive, a financial directive, and a will or estate plan — and make them legally binding.

8. *I'm financially generous with my congregation and other charitable organizations.*

At least one out of five American Christians gives nothing to church, para-church, or nonreligious charities. Lutherans, on average, give 1.7% of their household income. When your budget is tight, giving can often be the first thing to go. Try giving first rather than waiting to see what's left over. Even if you aren't able to tithe, start somewhere and grow.

Need a Helping Hand?

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

As your partner, Portico is here to help you engage financially, whatever your style.

- To increase your financial knowledge, watch one of Portico's financial webinars or videos listed on the myPortico Events page at PorticoBenefits.org/events.
- If you become a Portico plan member, you'll have access to health, flexible spending, retirement, disability, survivor plans, and wellness resources to help you strengthen your well-being. You'll also receive access to our Portico Financial Planners at no cost to you.
- Turn to Portico-provided financial resources. For additional help with your budgeting, saving, and debt management goals, contact Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) Financial Counseling at 800.528.2926 to schedule an appointment