



institution Name	Survey Type	Grade Level	Number of Respondents (N)
Enrolled Students	Postsecondary Survey	Undergraduate	249

Response Rates by Institution

Surveys Administered	775
Postsecondary Surveys Received	249
Institution Response Rate (%)*	32.1%

*Tables below include data only for those students who provided consent.

Results (Percentages) by Section and Survey Questionⁱ

Section I: Demographics

1. What is your gender?

	(%)
Male	28.9%
Female	70.7%
Other	0.4%
No Response	0.0%

2. What is your race?

	(%)
White	92.0%
Black or African American	4.4%
Asian	0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Two or more races	2.0%
Other	0.0%
No Response	0.8%

3. What is your ethnicity?

	(%)
Hispanic or Latino	2.8%
Not Hispanic or Latino	87.6%
Other	0.4%
No Response	9.2%



4. What is the main language you speak at home?

	(%)
English	99.2%
Spanish	0.4%
Other	0.4%
No Response	0.0%

5. What is the highest level of education obtained by your parent(s)/guardian(s)?

	Parent(s)/Guardian(s) (%)
Some high school	2.4%
High school diploma/GED	27.3%
Some college (less than a 2- or 4-year degree, e.g., certificate or career/tech. cert.)	27.3%
2-year college degree (Associate's)	10.0%
4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	20.1%
Master's degree	11.2%
Ph.D. or higher	0.8%
Don't know	1.2%
No Response	0.0%

*Table above includes all possible responses so total may exceed 100%.

6. Are you enrolled in college or in the military?

	(%)
Yes, I attend a college/university.	100.0%
Yes, I am enrolled in the military.	0.0%
No, I am not enrolled in a college or the military.	0.0%
No Response	0.0%

7. What was the primary reason for not attending college?

	(%)
My grades aren't good enough.	0.0%
It costs too much/I can't afford it.	0.0%
I need to work.	0.0%
Decided to take a year off from school with plans to enroll next semester or next year.	0.0%
No Response	0.0%

*Percentages in the table above are based on the number of respondents that indicated "No" in question 6.



8. Do you plan to pursue postsecondary education in the future?

	(%)
Yes, I plan to enroll next semester.	0.0%
Yes, I plan to enroll next school year.	0.0%
Yes, I plan to enroll at some point, but I'm not sure when.	0.0%
I'm not sure.	0.0%
No	0.0%
No Response	0.0%

*Percentages in the table above are based on the number of respondents that indicated "No" in question 6.

Section II: Completion of High School

9. Regardless of whether you are in college or not, how effective was your overall participation in GEAR UP (since you began the program) in preparing you for college?

	(%)
Not at all effective	3.2%
Somewhat effective	20.1%
Effective	52.6%
Very effective	24.1%
No Response	0.0%

10. How, if at all, did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your plans for education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

	(%)
It did not affect my plans.	73.5%
I decided to take fewer courses.	6.4%
I decided to not move away from home.	12.0%
I decided to pursue a different degree or certification type (e.g., 4-year degree, 2-year degree, certificate).	4.8%
I was unable to submit the applications (college, FAFSA, scholarships) I needed to apply and/or enroll in college.	2.0%
I decided not to enroll in college.	0.0%
Other	0.0%

*Total may fall below or exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

11. While in Grade 12, were you offered adequate support to submit college applications and the FAFSA?

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
FAFSA	97.2%	2.8%	1.2%
College Applications	90.4%	8.4%	1.2%



12. Did you participate in any of the college preparation activities in spring 2020? If so, how effective were these events in preparing you for college?

	Did not Participate (%)	Not at all Effective (%)	Somewhat Effective (%)	Effective (%)	Very Effective (%)	No Response (%)
Virtual College Decision Day	44.6%	9.6%	14.5%	21.3%	9.2%	0.8%
College Q&A Session	47.4%	6.0%	11.2%	25.3%	9.2%	0.8%
Virtual Leadership Symposium	56.6%	7.2%	12.9%	16.5%	6.4%	0.4%
YouTube Video Discussion	52.6%	8.0%	9.6%	20.9%	8.0%	0.8%
Other	38.2%	6.0%	6.0%	15.7%	6.0%	28.1%

Section III: Current Postsecondary Educational Status

13. What is your current status as a student?

	(%)
I'm a full-time student.	90.7%
I'm a part-time student.	4.0%
I'm unsure if I am a full-time or part-time student.	4.4%
No Response	0.8%

14. How are you attending school this semester?

	(%)
In person	4.0%
Virtually	33.1%
Both in person and virtually	62.1%
No Response	0.8%

15. What degree are you currently pursuing?

	(%)
4-year Bachelor's degree	61.3%
2-year Associate's degree	30.6%
Postsecondary certificate	1.2%
I haven't decided on a degree yet.	4.0%
I'm unsure which degree I'm pursuing.	2.0%
No Response	0.8%



16. How many courses are you currently enrolled in?

	(%)
1	1.2%
2	0.8%
3	3.2%
4	23.8%
5 or more	70.2%
No Response	0.8%

17. Have you dropped any courses since starting college?

	(%)
No	76.6%
Yes, after discussing my decision with my GEAR UP coordinator and/or a staff member from my college	19.4%
Yes, but I did not discuss it with my GEAR UP coordinator or a staff member from my college	2.8%
No Response	1.2%

18. Please select all of the items that helped you determine which college to enroll in this semester.

	(%)
High school GEAR UP coordinator/high school counselor/high school teacher	59.3%
Someone else from your high school	36.3%
College staff	41.5%
Family member	72.2%
Friends or peers	49.6%
CFWV.com	18.5%
Other college-planning website	9.3%
Other	0.0%

*Total may exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

Section IV: College Experience – All Students

19. Do you receive...

	Yes (%)	No (%)	I am Not Sure (%)	No Response
Txt 4 Success messages?	49.2%	23.0%	27.4%	0.4%



20. How helpful have the messages been in reminding you of important deadlines?

	(%)
Very helpful	48.4%
Somewhat helpful	41.0%
Slightly helpful	4.9%
Not helpful at all	4.1%
No Response	1.6%

*Percentages are based on the number of respondents who answered “yes” to question 19.

21. Select all of the ways you have received postsecondary counseling since graduating high school.

	(%)
Face-to-face meetings	31.9%
Text messages	45.6%
Email	68.1%
Phone	34.3%
Instagram	3.6%
Facebook	9.7%
Other virtual meeting platforms (e.g., Zoom, Teams, Skype, video calls, etc.)	42.3%
Other	0.0%

*Total may exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

22. How many hours do you study each week?

	(%)
None	4.0%
1–5 hours	39.1%
6–10 hours	35.9%
11–15 hours	13.7%
More than 15 hours	6.9%
No Response	0.4%

23. If you currently have a job, how many hours a week do you work?

	(%)
10 or less	8.5%
11–20 hours a week	15.3%
20–39 hours a week	21.0%
40 or more hours a week	2.4%
I do not currently have a job.	52.4%
No Response	0.4%



24. How are you paying for college?

	(%)
WV Promise Scholarship	34.7%
Other scholarship(s)	54.0%
Federal Pell Grants	46.8%
Federal student loans	30.2%
Private loan	4.0%
The state pays my tuition because I am/was in the foster care system.	0.8%
WV Higher Education Grant	41.5%
WV Invests Grant	15.3%
College savings plan/529	1.6%
Federal work-study financial aid program	5.2%
I am using my own money to pay my tuition.	21.0%
My family helps pay my tuition.	29.8%
Other	0.4%

*Total may exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

25. Where are you currently living?

	(%)
In a dorm on campus	30.2%
At home with my parents/guardians	60.5%
In an apartment/house near campus (alone or with roommates/housemates)	5.6%
Other	0.4%
No Response	3.2%

26. Think about the time since you started college. Is the following statement true for you?

	Often True (%)	Sometimes True (%)	Never True (%)	No Response (%)
Since starting college, I have worried whether my food or meal plan would run out before I got money to buy more.	4.8%	15.3%	79.0%	0.8%

27. Since you started college, have hunger problems caused you to do any of the following?

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
Miss a class	2.8%	96.4%	0.8%
Miss a study session	4.0%	95.6%	0.4%
Miss a club meeting	2.0%	97.2%	0.8%
Opt to not join an extracurricular activity	4.0%	95.2%	0.8%
Not buy a required textbook	2.0%	97.2%	0.8%
Drop a course	2.0%	97.2%	0.8%



28. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	No Response (%)
My high school prepared me for college.	14.1%	23.8%	42.3%	18.5%	1.2%
My family is supportive of me pursuing a college education.	0.8%	2.0%	28.2%	68.1%	0.8%
I am satisfied with my college's response to COVID-19 challenges	2.0%	10.1%	48.0%	39.1%	0.8%
I feel welcome at my college.	0.8%	3.6%	51.6%	42.7%	1.2%
Since starting college, it has been easy to make new friends.	12.1%	28.2%	39.9%	18.5%	1.2%
I have the motivation to do what it takes to succeed in college.	2.8%	5.6%	47.6%	42.7%	1.2%

29. How have the changes put in place by your college to address the challenges of COVID-19 impacted your first semester of college?

	(%)
It has not been as easy to make new friends in college.	59.3%
I have not been able to find a job on campus and/or work-study job like I expected to help pay for college.	12.5%
I have not been able to communicate as easily and/or frequently as I need with college faculty or staff.	43.5%
I have not been able to participate in any study groups.	33.1%
I have not been able to join any extracurricular activities that interest me.	32.7%
I have not had enough and/or the right kind of support to stay motivated to succeed in college.	19.4%
Other	0.0%

*Total may exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

30. In the past 12 months, how often have you...

	Never (%)	Rarely (%)	Sometimes (%)	Most of the Time (%)	Always (%)	No Response (%)
...had a hard time staying focused on your homework or other things you had to do?	10.9%	14.5%	42.3%	21.4%	10.5%	0.0%
...been so worried about something that you could not sleep at night?	19.0%	22.2%	33.5%	13.7%	11.3%	0.0%



31. During the summer did you...

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
Attend a college orientation (virtual [e.g., phone, online meeting platform] or in person)?	62.9%	35.5%	1.6%
Speak with postsecondary GEAR UP staff/college counselor?	50.0%	49.2%	0.8%
Receive career counseling?	23.0%	75.4%	1.6%
Discuss your degree and/or major with someone from your college (including postsecondary GEAR UP staff)?	60.9%	33.5%	5.6%

*Table above includes all student responses, including any non-GU students who responded to the question.

32. Please indicate the activities you have participated in since you started college.

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
Spoke with your academic advisor in-person or virtually	88.7%	10.1%	1.2%
Sought tutoring, academic help, or help from your school's writing center	34.3%	64.1%	1.6%
Met one-on-one (virtually [e.g., phone, online meeting platform] or in person) with at least one of your professors	67.7%	31.0%	1.3%
Spoke with a staff member from your school's office of financial aid in-person or virtually	71.1%	29.8%	0.0%
Received financial aid advising from postsecondary GEAR UP staff/college counselor in-person or virtually	43.5%	55.2%	1.3%
Spoke with someone from your school's student support services in-person or virtually	41.5%	56.9%	1.6%
Spoke with someone from your school (including postsecondary GEAR UP staff) regarding your current schedule/course load in-person or virtually	72.2%	25.8%	2.0%
Spoke with someone from your school (including postsecondary GEAR UP staff) regarding registering for courses next semester in-person or virtually	82.3%	16.1%	1.6%
Spoke with someone from your school (including postsecondary GEAR UP staff) about the transition from high school to college in-person or virtually	47.2%	45.6%	7.3%
Spoke with someone from your school regarding virtual learning in-person or virtually	60.5%	38.3%	2.0%
Spoke with postsecondary GEAR UP staff about your individual success plan in-person or virtually^	54.2%	45.8%	1.6%

^The percentage for this item reflects a reduction in responses due to skip logic.



33. How frequently do you communicate with each of these people?

	Postsecondary GEAR UP Staff (%)	Academic Advisor (%)	Student Support Services Staff (%)
Never; I'm not sure who this is.	14.0%	5.2%	26.6%
Never; I know who this person is, but I do not need to speak to them.	19.3%	9.7%	23.0%
Less than once a month	28.9%	39.9%	28.6%
1–2 times a month	25.9%	22.6%	14.5%
3–4 times or more a month	7.9%	12.5%	2.8%
At least once a week	2.6%	8.1%	2.4%
No Response	1.2%	2.0%	2.0%

Section V: College Experience –GEAR UP College Campuses

The following questions ask students attending Bluefield State College, Concord University, Marshall University, Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College, West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, New River Community & Technical College, or Bridge Valley Community & Technical College about their involvement in GEAR UP Student Success Ambassador.

34. Are you a GEAR UP Student Success Ambassador?

	(%)
Yes	12.3%
No	50.4%
I'm not sure	36.8%
No Response	0.4%

35. How helpful has being a Student Success Ambassador been in helping you transition into college?

	(%)
Very helpful	53.6%
Somewhat helpful	32.1%
Slightly helpful	10.7%
Not at all helpful	3.6%
No Response	0.0%

* Table above is based on number of respondents who indicated "Yes" in the previous question.

Section VI: Education Future

36. What are your plans for the spring 2021 semester?

	(%)
Remain enrolled at the same school (answer Question 37, skip Question 38, answer 39)	95.2%
Enroll at a different school (skip Question 37, skip Question 38, and answer 39)	1.6%



	(%)
I do not plan to be enrolled at any school (skip Question 37, answer questions 38 and 39)	0.8%
I am unsure of my plans (skip Questions 37 and 38, answer Question 39)	2.4%
No Response	0.0%

37. In the previous question, if you indicated that you are planning to remain enrolled at the same school or that you are planning to enroll in a different school in the spring, how many courses do you plan to enroll in?

	(%)
The same as this semester	65.1%
Fewer than this semester	11.6%
More than this semester	22.4%
No Response	0.8%

*Table above is based on the number of respondents who indicated “remain enrolled at the same school or “planning to enroll in a different school in the spring” in the previous question.

38. In the previous question, if you indicated that you are not planning to enroll at any school in the spring, please select the reason(s) why below. Select all that apply.

	(%)
I cannot afford to pay for my next semester.	100.0%
I am not doing well in my classes.	50.0%
I am about to lose my financial aid.	0.0%
I don’t like being in college.	50.0%
I need to work	0.0%
I plan to be in the military	0.0%
I was never planning to enroll in college	0.0%
I decided to take time off from school with plans to enroll next year or later in the future	50.0%
I have concerns about COVID-19	50.0%
Other	0.0%

*Total may exceed 100% because respondents were able to select multiple items.

**Table above is based on the number of respondents who indicated “I do not plan to be enrolled at any school” in question 36.

39. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be completed as early as October 1, 2020. Have you completed the FAFSA yet?

	(%)
No, and I do not plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year because I do not plan to be enrolled in postsecondary education next year.	1.2%
No, but I plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year.	47.8%
Yes	49.4%
No Response	1.6%



38. What kind of assistance/resources could have helped you have a better experience this semester?

See separate data file for responses.

ⁱ Tables above may not total 100% due to rounding.