



County Name	Survey Type	Grade Level	Number of Respondents (N)
MERCER County	Student Survey	9	596

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### County Level Response Rates:

Surveys Administered	730
Surveys Received*	596
<b>County Response Rate (%)</b>	<b>81.6%</b>

\*tables below include data only for those 592 students who provided assent.

### Results (Percentages) by Survey Question

#### 1. What is your gender?

	(%)
Female	47.1%
Male	51.5%
Other	1.2%
No Response	0.2%

#### 2. What is your race?

	(%)
White	79.7%
Black or African American	9.3%
Asian	0.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or more races	8.3%
Other	Italian;
No response	0.7%

#### 3. What is your ethnicity?

	(%)
Hispanic or Latino	3.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	88.0%
Other	american; white; American; African American; merican; Pakistani; merican; idk;
No Response	9.0%

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

	(%)
English	99.7%
Spanish	0.0%
Other	Hindi;
No Response	0.3%

5. Which of the following options best describes your family's total annual income?

	(%)
\$30,000 or less	13.5%
\$30,001 - \$60,000	16.9%
\$60,001 - \$100,000	17.7%
\$100,001 or more	4.7%
Don't know or I'd rather not say	46.8%
No Response	0.3%

6. What is the highest level of education obtained by your mother/father?

	Mother (%)	Father (%)
Some high school	9.1%	14.2%
High school diploma/GED	22.6%	27.0%
Some college	13.5%	9.5%
2-year college degree	7.1%	3.9%
4-year college degree	15.5%	10.1%
Master's degree	8.8%	4.1%
Ph.D. or higher	1.2%	1.4%
Don't know	20.8%	28.7%
No Response	1.4%	1.2%

7. If you have other brothers or sisters, how many have attended college in the past or are in college now?

	(%)
0	52.0%
1	22.6%
2	8.6%
3	2.4%
4	1.2%
5 or more	2.5%
I don't have brothers or sisters	8.4%
No Response	2.2%

8. Do you plan to continue your education after high school?



	(%)
Yes	85.8%
No	9.8%
No Response	4.4%

8b. If you answered No, what are your main reasons you do not plan to continue your education?

	(%)
My grades aren't good enough	32.8%
It costs too much/I can't afford it	37.9%
I need to work	20.7%
I want to work	43.1%
Family issues	13.8%
I plan to enlist in the military	17.2%
Other plan to take over the family bussinness; I just dont see myself going to college ;Just not me; I dont want to.; i don't like school ; im a redneck and ill just be a welder; i dont want to ;don't want to	

9. As you think about your current skills, how confident are you of your ability in the following areas?

	Very Confident (%)	Confident (%)	Not Confident (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
Math Skills	30.1%	44.1%	21.6%	4.2%	0.0%
English/Language Arts	35.6%	47.1%	10.3%	6.6%	0.3%
Science	17.1%	49.5%	23.8%	9.3%	0.3%
Study Skills	17.1%	51.9%	20.9%	8.4%	1.7%
Ability to pass the end-of-year tests (e.g., WESTEST 2, Smarter Balanced Assessment)	28.7%	46.1%	13.9%	9.8%	1.5%
Ability to do well in college level courses in the future	29.6%	43.8%	11.8%	12.8%	2.0%

10. What is the highest level of education that you...

	Would like to get? (%)	Expect to get? (%)
High school or less	9.8%	11.7%
Some college	10.0%	11.3%
Two-year associate's college degree	10.6%	14.0%
Four-year bachelor's college degree	32.4%	38.2%
More than a 4-year college degree	35.3%	22.5%
No Response	1.9%	2.4%

11. How sure are you about being able to do the following?



	Very Sure (%)	Sure (%)	Somewhat Sure (%)	Not at all Sure (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
I can find a way to pay for college.	17.6%	23.6%	30.9%	11.3%	16.4%	0.2%
I can get accepted to a college.	19.1%	32.3%	27.9%	10.0%	10.1%	0.7%
I can have family support for going to college.	48.6%	20.6%	14.2%	7.1%	8.6%	0.8%
I can choose a good college.	34.3%	34.1%	16.7%	6.3%	7.4%	1.2%
I can get a scholarship or grant for college.	11.3%	23.6%	33.4%	16.0%	14.4%	1.2%
I can make an educational plan that will prepare me for college.	13.7%	29.9%	33.8%	10.8%	11.1%	0.7%
I can make my family proud with my choices after high school.	40.9%	30.6%	16.2%	6.1%	5.9%	0.3%
I can choose college courses that best fit my interests.	33.4%	34.0%	19.6%	5.9%	6.3%	0.8%
I can pay for college even if my family cannot help me.	8.4%	14.2%	30.2%	26.9%	19.4%	0.8%
I can get good grades in my high school math classes.	23.6%	29.1%	24.7%	14.2%	7.4%	1.0%
I can get good grades in my high school science classes.	14.2%	30.2%	32.4%	12.2%	9.3%	1.7%
I can choose the high school classes needed to get into a good college.	23.0%	35.3%	24.2%	9.0%	7.8%	0.8%
I know enough about computers to get into college.	17.9%	24.5%	30.9%	14.5%	11.3%	0.8%
I can go to college after high school.	38.9%	27.4%	17.4%	7.4%	7.6%	1.4%

**12. If you do go to college, how sure are you about being able to do the following?**

	Very Sure (%)	Sure (%)	Somewhat Sure (%)	Not at all Sure (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
I could pay for each year of college.	11.3%	18.9%	33.1%	16.2%	19.9%	0.5%
I could get A's and B's in college.	14.0%	26.5%	32.8%	12.5%	13.5%	0.7%
I could get my family to support my wish of finishing college.	48.8%	21.5%	14.5%	5.9%	8.6%	0.7%
I could take care of myself in college.	37.3%	34.6%	16.6%	3.7%	7.1%	0.7%
I could fit in at college.	30.1%	30.2%	20.8%	8.8%	9.5%	0.7%
I could get good enough grades to get or keep a scholarship.	22.1%	31.4%	26.7%	8.4%	10.8%	0.5%
I could finish college and receive a college degree.	33.4%	30.4%	19.9%	5.7%	9.6%	0.8%
I could care for my family responsibilities while in college.	21.3%	35.8%	23.0%	7.8%	11.1%	1.0%



	Very Sure (%)	Sure (%)	Somewhat Sure (%)	Not at all Sure (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
I could set my own schedule while in college.	23.8%	35.3%	23.5%	6.8%	9.8%	0.8%
I could make friends at college.	39.4%	29.2%	16.6%	7.1%	6.9%	0.8%
I could get the education I need for my choice of career.	35.6%	35.0%	15.9%	4.7%	7.8%	1.0%
I could get a job after I graduate from college.	39.0%	32.1%	16.6%	4.6%	6.9%	0.8%
I would like being in college.	34.5%	29.2%	18.9%	7.3%	9.3%	0.8%
I could be smart enough to finish college.	32.3%	32.3%	18.4%	8.3%	7.8%	1.0%
I could pick the right things to study at college.	28.7%	34.6%	21.3%	5.4%	8.8%	1.2%
I could do the classwork and homework assignments in college classes.	28.5%	36.1%	20.1%	6.8%	7.4%	1.0%

**13. Has anyone from your school or GEAR UP ever spoken with you about...**

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
College Entrance Requirement	64.9%	33.6%	1.5%
Availability of Financial Aid	56.4%	40.4%	3.2%

**14. Are you knowledgeable about financial aid and the cost and benefits to you of going to college?**

	(%)
Yes	67.7%
No	27.9%
No Response	4.4%

**15. Do you think that you could afford to attend one of the following types of colleges using financial aid, scholarships, and your family's resources?**

	A public 4-year college (%)	A public community/ technical college (%)	A public career/ technical center (%)
Definitely	25.0%	28.5%	30.4%
Probably	40.2%	40.7%	37.7%
Not Sure	22.1%	19.6%	20.8%
Probably Not	5.9%	4.6%	4.6%
Definitely Not	6.1%	5.4%	4.4%
No Response	0.7%	1.2%	2.2%



16. How much do you think it costs for one year of in-state tuition (your estimate should not include the cost of food, housing, or books) at...

	4-year University or College (%)	Public Community or Technical College (%)
Up to \$4,000	8.6%	16.0%
\$4,001 - \$8,000	20.1%	24.0%
\$8,001 - \$11,000	20.8%	20.3%
\$11,001 - \$16,000	18.4%	15.0%
\$16,001 - \$21,000	13.3%	12.5%
\$21,001 - \$26,000	9.3%	5.6%
>\$26,000	6.3%	3.4%
No response	3.2%	3.2%

\*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.

17. How aware are you about the following topics (by percentage)?

	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
FAFSA	6.9%	19.4%	29.7%	40.2%	3.7%
College Savings Plan/529	7.3%	22.3%	26.7%	39.5%	4.2%
ACT /SAT	20.8%	28.4%	24.5%	22.3%	4.1%
WV Higher Education Grant	9.3%	29.4%	28.9%	27.7%	4.7%
Federal Pell Grants	6.9%	20.1%	28.0%	40.2%	4.7%
Federal Student Loans	15.4%	33.4%	28.4%	18.2%	4.6%
Federal Work-Study	9.1%	23.1%	26.7%	37.0%	4.1%
Scholarships	33.3%	34.0%	17.2%	11.0%	4.6%
Requirements for College Acceptance	23.5%	36.0%	22.6%	14.0%	3.9%
The Importance/ Benefit of a College Education	45.1%	27.7%	12.0%	10.6%	4.6%
High School Graduation Requirements	43.9%	31.4%	12.3%	8.3%	4.1%

18. What do you think is the maximum amount of money per academic year that is available to help pay for college...

	Federal Pell Grant (%)	WV Higher Education Grant (%)	PROMISE Scholarship (%)
Up to \$1,000	4.9%	3.4%	5.6%
\$1,001- \$2000	5.6%	6.8%	4.6%
\$2,001-\$3,000	12.2%	11.3%	7.6%
\$3,001-\$4,000	17.9%	14.7%	13.5%
\$4,001-\$5,000	19.3%	18.6%	15.9%
\$5,001-\$6,000	16.0%	18.4%	17.2%



	Federal Pell Grant (%)	WV Higher Education Grant (%)	PROMISE Scholarship (%)
\$6,001-\$7,000	8.3%	10.6%	10.1%
>\$7,000	10.1%	10.0%	20.8%
No Response	5.7%	6.3%	4.7%

\*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.

**19. How important have the following resources, individuals, or tools been in gathering information about your options for college?**

	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
College or university websites	19.1%	32.4%	26.9%	18.8%	2.9%
College Foundation of WV website	14.9%	31.6%	23.6%	27.2%	2.7%
Other college planning websites	12.7%	31.4%	26.9%	26.2%	2.9%
College fairs	14.2%	28.0%	24.7%	30.4%	2.7%
Television	16.2%	31.4%	31.3%	18.4%	2.7%
Radio	13.0%	25.0%	30.9%	28.4%	2.7%
Direct mail	13.9%	23.6%	26.2%	33.8%	2.5%
E-mail	14.7%	26.0%	24.8%	31.9%	2.5%
Brochures and pamphlets	16.6%	32.9%	28.9%	18.9%	2.7%
Magazines/newspapers	12.5%	26.2%	29.1%	29.4%	2.9%
Signs, posters, or billboards	15.7%	31.6%	31.6%	18.4%	2.7%
Text messages	13.9%	22.3%	23.5%	37.8%	2.5%
School counselor	24.2%	34.6%	20.1%	17.7%	3.4%
Family members	31.4%	34.3%	21.5%	10.1%	2.7%
GEAR UP staff	25.0%	30.7%	24.0%	17.7%	2.5%
College admissions representatives	21.3%	25.7%	25.0%	24.8%	3.2%

**20. Which of the following do you need from your school or GEAR UP to help you be more successful in school and more prepared for college (check all that apply)?**

Support Needed	(%)
More advanced classes (e.g., AP)	39.7%
Information about participating in GEAR UP events	44.1%
Tutoring	42.4%
Opportunities to participate in college visits	63.2%
Information about college entrance requirements	59.0%
Information about college financial aid/scholarships	61.1%
Leadership opportunities	38.3%
Summer activities	32.1%



Support Needed	(%)
Career exploration activities	51.5%
Test preparation	48.8%
Assistance with the college entrance process	48.8%
Assistance with completing financial aid forms (e.g., FAFSA)	42.1%
Information and events presented in other languages (e.g., Spanish)	25.2%
Other      none; I don't want to go to college; more field trips; math help; jesus;	