



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

County Level Response Rates:

Surveys Administered	730
Surveys Received*	596
County Response Rate (%)	81.6%

*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;	