



County Name/Code	Survey Type	Grade Level	Number of Respondents (N)
Mercer / 051 County	Student Survey Report	12	464

County Level Response Rates:

Surveys Administered	563
Grade 12 Surveys Received	464
County Response Rate (%)*	82.4%

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

Results (Percentages) by Survey Question

1. What is your gender?

	(%)
Male	48.1%
Female	49.6%
Other	1.9%
No Response	0.4%

2. What is your race?

	(%)
White	80.0%
Black or African American	10.3%
Asian	0.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Two or more races	6.0%
Other	0.0%
No response	1.9%

3. What is your ethnicity?

	(%)
Hispanic or Latino	3.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	76.7%
Other	0.0%
No Response	20.0%

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

	(%)
English	96.1%
Spanish	0.4%
Other	0.0%
No Response	3.4%



5. How much money do you think your family made (before taxes) during the past 12 months?

	(%)
\$30,000 or less	23.3%
\$30,001 - \$60,000	22.8%
\$60,001 - \$100,000	14.4%
\$100,001 or more	6.9%
Don't know or I'd rather not say	31.7%
No Response	0.9%

6. Think about the last 30 days and the last 12 months. Is the following statement true for you?

"I didn't eat enough food because my family couldn't afford it."

	Often True (%)	Sometimes True (%)	Never True (%)	No Response (%)
Was that often, sometimes, or never true in the last 12 months?	3.4%	8.4%	85.3%	2.8%
Was that often, sometimes, or never true in the last 30 days?	2.6%	6.0%	86.2%	5.2%

7. During the past 12 months...

	Never (%)	Rarely (%)	Sometimes (%)	Most of the time (%)	Always (%)	No Response (%)
how often have you had a hard time staying focused on your homework or other things you had to do?	26.5%	17.2%	32.1%	14.0%	8.0%	2.2%
how often have you been so worried about something that you could not sleep at night?	32.1%	22.2%	27.2%	10.1%	6.0%	2.4%

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

	Father (%)
Some high school	7.5%
High school diploma/GED	24.8%
Some college (less than a 2- or 4-year degree, e.g., certificate or career/tech. cert.)	14.4%
2-year college degree (Associate's)	8.6%
4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	19.8%
Master's degree	8.6%
Ph.D. or higher	1.9%
Don't know	11.9%
No Response	2.4%



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

	(%)
0	47.0%
1	29.3%
2	9.5%
3	2.8%
4	0.2%
5 or more	1.5%
I don't have brothers or sisters	6.3%
No Response	3.4%

10. 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	28.2%	42.5%	18.1%	6.3%	5.0%
English/Language Arts	31.0%	52.4%	6.0%	5.6%	5.0%
Science	22.2%	51.3%	15.1%	6.0%	5.4%
Study Skills	22.8%	51.1%	12.3%	7.1%	6.7%
Ability to do well in college level courses in the future	29.7%	46.6%	7.5%	11.0%	5.2%
Ability to do well on college entrance exams (e.g., SAT, ACT)	22.0%	50.2%	11.9%	10.6%	5.2%

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

	(%)
Yes	83.2%
No	9.7%
No Response	7.1%

11a. What, if anything, may prevent you from continuing your education after high school?

	(%)
My grades aren't good enough	12.3%
It costs too much/I can't afford it	28.4%
I need to work	14.4%
I want to work	15.3%
Family issues	6.3%
I plan to enlist in the military	7.1%
I won't receive/be eligible for enough financial aid	12.1%
Not applicable; I am pretty confident that I will be able to continue my education after high school	44.6%



Other (please write in reason): Anxiety; injured or terribly sick; I'm having a child; don't perform on test; I rarely put any effort into school work.

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

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

	Would like to get? (%)	Expect to get? (%)
High school or less	6.9%	8.0%
Some college (less than a 2- or 4-year degree, e.g., certificate or career/tech. cert.)	10.1%	12.7%
2-year college degree (Associate's)	6.3%	11.4%
4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	44.4%	42.0%
More than a 4-year college degree	28.7%	22.2%
No Response	3.7%	3.7%

13. 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.	21.1%	24.4%	25.9%	9.3%	12.3%	7.1%
I can get accepted to a college.	34.1%	26.5%	17.0%	6.7%	8.4%	7.3%
I can have family support for going to college.	40.9%	26.3%	13.4%	3.7%	8.0%	7.8%
I can choose a good college.	33.4%	33.8%	14.2%	3.4%	7.1%	8.0%
I can get a scholarship or grant for college.	19.8%	26.1%	25.0%	11.4%	9.9%	7.8%
I can make an educational plan that will prepare me for college.	18.3%	31.7%	26.9%	6.0%	9.3%	7.8%
I can make my family proud with my choices after high school.	36.4%	30.4%	14.4%	2.8%	8.2%	7.8%
I can choose college courses that best fit my interests.	30.2%	34.3%	18.1%	2.4%	7.1%	8.0%
I can pay for college even if my family cannot help me.	12.5%	22.4%	23.7%	21.8%	11.4%	8.2%
I can get good grades in my high school math classes.	23.7%	33.0%	23.5%	5.4%	7.1%	7.3%
I can get good grades in my high school science classes.	22.6%	34.5%	23.3%	5.0%	6.9%	7.8%
I can choose the high school classes needed to get into a good college.	28.2%	33.8%	19.6%	2.2%	8.4%	7.8%
I know enough about computers to get into college.	26.7%	31.5%	21.3%	3.9%	9.1%	7.5%



	Very Sure (%)	Sure (%)	Somewhat Sure (%)	Not at all Sure (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
I can go to college after high school.	37.5%	26.7%	14.9%	4.3%	8.8%	7.8%

14. If you do go to college after high school, 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.	21.3%	23.9%	23.3%	12.9%	10.8%	7.8%
I could get A's and B's in college.	24.4%	30.0%	23.3%	6.0%	8.6%	7.8%
I could get my family to support my wish of finishing college.	43.5%	25.4%	12.5%	3.4%	6.7%	8.4%
I could take care of myself in college.	36.9%	31.0%	15.3%	2.6%	6.5%	7.8%
I could fit in at college.	31.3%	32.5%	17.2%	3.9%	7.5%	7.5%
I could get good enough grades to get or keep a scholarship.	28.4%	34.1%	16.8%	4.7%	8.0%	8.0%
I could finish college and receive a college degree.	35.8%	31.7%	14.2%	3.2%	6.9%	8.2%
I could care for my family responsibilities while in college.	29.3%	31.7%	17.7%	4.5%	8.8%	8.0%
I could set my own schedule while in college.	30.0%	33.4%	18.3%	3.0%	7.5%	7.8%
I could make friends at college.	37.7%	29.3%	14.9%	3.0%	7.1%	8.0%
I could get the education I need for my choice of career.	36.6%	31.5%	14.7%	2.4%	7.1%	7.8%
I could get a job after I graduate from college.	35.8%	30.4%	15.5%	3.4%	7.3%	7.5%
I would like being in college.	29.5%	31.5%	16.8%	5.0%	9.5%	7.8%
I could be smart enough to finish college.	34.5%	32.1%	14.9%	3.0%	7.8%	7.8%
I could pick the right things to study at college.	30.2%	33.0%	17.7%	3.9%	7.1%	8.2%
I could do the classwork and homework assignments in college classes.	30.0%	33.4%	18.3%	2.6%	7.3%	8.4%

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

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
College Entrance Requirement?	79.7%	16.8%	3.4%
Availability of Financial Aid to help pay for college?	80.8%	14.7%	4.5%





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

	(%)
Yes	77.4%
No	15.1%
No Response	7.5%

17. 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 2-year community/ technical college (%)	A public career/ technical center (%)
Definitely	31.9%	40.5%	42.7%
Probably	38.8%	32.5%	31.5%
Not Sure	15.5%	14.0%	12.1%
Probably Not	5.0%	3.9%	3.4%
Definitely Not	4.5%	3.7%	4.3%
No Response	4.3%	5.4%	6.0%

18. On average, how much do you think it costs for one year of in-state tuition to attend the following college options in West Virginia? (your estimate should not include the cost of food, housing, or books).

	4-year University or College (%)	Public Community or Technical College (%)
Up to \$3,000	3.4%	12.7%
\$3,001 - \$6,000	9.7%	35.6%
\$6,001 - \$10,000	34.7%	18.3%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	18.8%	12.9%
\$15,001 - \$20,000	14.4%	8.4%
\$20,001 - \$25,000	7.1%	3.4%
More than \$25,000	5.6%	0.6%
No response	6.3%	8.0%

*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.



19. How aware are you about the following topics?

	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	36.6%	37.7%	12.7%	5.6%	7.3%
ACT /SAT	47.8%	32.8%	8.4%	3.7%	7.3%
WV Higher Education Grant	20.3%	38.6%	22.6%	11.2%	7.3%
WV Invests Grant	18.1%	37.3%	22.2%	15.1%	7.3%
Federal Pell Grants	21.6%	37.1%	21.6%	12.5%	7.3%
Federal Student Loans	26.1%	38.1%	20.3%	8.2%	7.3%
Federal Work-Study	22.4%	35.1%	21.3%	13.6%	7.5%
Scholarships (e.g., PROMISE or Institutional)	39.2%	36.0%	12.3%	4.7%	7.8%
Requirements for College Acceptance	36.9%	36.9%	13.1%	5.8%	7.3%
The Importance/ Benefit of a College Education	45.7%	31.0%	9.9%	5.4%	8.0%
High School Graduation Requirements	51.7%	26.7%	9.1%	4.3%	8.2%

20. What do you think is the maximum amount of money per academic year that is available to help pay for college through each of the following programs?

	Federal Pell Grant (%)	WV Higher Education Grant (%)	WV PROMISE Scholarship (%)
Up to \$1,000	4.1%	2.6%	2.4%
\$1,001- \$2000	4.7%	3.4%	2.8%
\$2,001-\$3,000	8.6%	21.1%	7.5%
\$3,001-\$4,000	14.9%	18.3%	15.9%
\$4,001-\$5,000	21.3%	19.2%	30.4%
\$5,001-\$6,000	14.9%	13.6%	13.6%
\$6,001-\$7,000	17.5%	7.3%	9.9%
More than \$7,000	8.4%	8.8%	11.2%
No Response	5.6%	5.6%	6.3%

*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.

21. How much would tuition cost at a 2-year public community/technical college in West Virginia if you qualify for a WV Invests Grant?

	(%)
\$0	14.7%
\$1 - \$2,000	13.4%
\$2,001 - \$4,000	45.9%
More than \$4,000	20.3%
No Response	5.8%



22. 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	33.4%	39.2%	11.9%	7.1%	8.4%
College Foundation of WV website (CFWV.com)	25.4%	38.4%	16.6%	11.0%	8.6%
Other college planning websites	20.0%	42.0%	16.2%	12.9%	8.8%
College fairs	27.2%	37.7%	16.6%	9.9%	8.6%
Television	17.5%	37.1%	20.0%	17.0%	9.1%
Radio	17.0%	32.1%	19.2%	23.3%	8.4%
Direct mail	25.9%	41.2%	13.6%	10.8%	8.6%
E-mail	29.3%	41.2%	12.3%	8.2%	9.1%
Brochures and pamphlets	20.3%	42.7%	17.7%	11.2%	8.2%
Magazines/newspapers	15.7%	35.8%	19.2%	20.9%	8.4%
Signs, posters, or billboards	18.5%	36.4%	18.5%	18.3%	8.2%
Text messages	24.8%	37.1%	14.9%	14.4%	8.8%
School counselor	30.6%	35.8%	15.3%	10.1%	8.2%
Family members	31.3%	36.2%	15.7%	8.4%	8.4%
GEAR UP staff	28.7%	38.6%	15.3%	8.8%	8.6%
College admissions representatives	30.2%	39.0%	13.8%	9.1%	8.0%
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	25.2%	37.5%	16.6%	12.1%	8.6%

23. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be completed as early as October 1, 2019. Have you completed your FAFSA yet?

	(%)
No, and I do not plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year.	14.2%
No, but I plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year.	43.5%
Yes.	42.2%
No Response	0.0%

24. If you answered "No, and I do not plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year," what are the main reasons you do not plan to do so? Select all that apply.

	(%)
I do not plan to continue my education after high school	48.5%
I'm not sure what the FAFSA is	21.2%
I do not believe I will be eligible for financial aid	31.8%
Other	0.0%
No Response	0.0%

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



25. Have you participated in SAT or ACT test prep this school year (2019-20)?

	(%)
Yes	62.5%
No	37.5%
No Response	0.0%

25b. If you answered yes to question 25, how helpful do you think these test prep resources have been for your SAT or ACT prep?

	Did not participate (%)	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
Khan Academy	31.4%	17.9%	22.8%	17.2%	5.9%	4.8%
Testive	31.4%	16.9%	24.1%	16.6%	5.5%	5.5%
Other online resources/websites	30.3%	12.4%	17.2%	19.0%	6.2%	14.8%
Other (see below for responses)	35.2%	10.0%	12.4%	12.1%	4.1%	26.2%

If you selected "Other" please write in type

Other: Bsb
youtube videos
SAT Tip Books
STUDY BOOK
poop
nothing
Teachers
teachers at my school
Teachers helping
YouTube; book
test strat class
STUFF.
Kaplan
act test prep book
quizlet
AP Classroom
Moblie phone apps
SAT test
SAT Test Prep Book
study book
Kaplan

26. How many times have you taken the SAT and ACT tests?



	SAT (%)	ACT (%)
0	4.7%	50.9%
1	69.8%	25.0%
2	14.7%	6.3%
More than 2	6.0%	4.5%
No response	4.7%	13.4%



27. Do you plan to take/retake the SAT this year (2019–20)?

	(%)
Yes	42.7%
No	52.2%
No Response	5.2%

28. Do you plan to take/retake the ACT this year (2019–20)?

	(%)
Yes	45.7%
No	49.1%
No Response	5.2%

29. How many college applications have you completed?

	(%)
0, and I do not plan to complete any this academic year.	12.1%
0, but I plan to complete one or more this academic year.	25.0%
1	21.1%
2 or more	37.5%
No Response	4.3%