



County	Survey Type	Grade Level	Number of Respondents (N)
County / Mercer	Student Survey Report	12	269

County-Level Response Rates:

Surveys Administered	528
Grade 12 Surveys Received	269
County Response Rate (%)*	50.9%

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

Results (Percentages) by Survey Questionⁱ

1. What is your gender?

	(%)
Male	52.4%
Female	46.8%
Other	0.4%
No Response	0.4%

2. What is your race?

	(%)
White	77.3%
Black or African American	15.2%
Asian	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Two or More Races	5.6%
Other	0.0%
No response	1.5%

3. What is your ethnicity?

	(%)
Hispanic or Latino	3.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	81.8%
Other	0.0%
No Response	15.2%

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

	(%)
English	98.9%
Spanish	0.0%
Other	0.0%

No Response	1.1%
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5. How much money do you think your family made (before taxes) during the past 12 months? As you think about it, please include any money you earned from working and all the money you think the people living in your house made.

	(%)
\$30,000 or less	21.2%
\$30,001 - \$60,000	23.4%
\$60,001 - \$100,000	16.4%
\$100,001 or more	8.6%
Don't know or I'd rather not say	30.1%
No Response	0.4%

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?	0.7%	4.5%	93.3%	1.5%
Was that often, sometimes, or never true in the last 30 days?	0.7%	3.3%	93.7%	2.2%

7. During the past 12 months, how often have you had a hard time staying focused on your homework or other things you had to do?

	Never (%)	Rarely (%)	Sometimes (%)	Most of the Time (%)	Always (%)	No Response (%)
How often have you had a hard time staying focused on your homework?	32.7%	13.8%	33.8%	12.3%	5.6%	1.9%
How often have you been so worried about something that you could not sleep at night?	43.5%	18.2%	26.8%	7.4%	3.0%	1.1%

8. What is the highest level of education achieved by your parent(s)/guardian(s)? (Please answer this question for the parent/guardian who achieved the highest level of education. For example, if your mother has a 4-year college degree and your father has a high school diploma, select 4-year college degree.)

	Parent Education (%)
Some high school	6.3%
High school diploma/GED	22.3%



Some college (less than a 2- or 4-year degree, e.g., certificate or career/tech. cert.)	18.6%
2-year college degree (Associate's)	6.3%
4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	21.2%
Master's degree	5.9%
Ph.D. or higher	1.9%
Don't know	15.2%
No Response	2.2%

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

	(%)
0	53.5%
1	28.6%
2	4.8%
3	2.2%
4	0.4%
5 or more	0.4%
I don't have brothers or sisters	8.2%
No Response	1.9%

10. How are you currently attending school?

	(%)
In-person everyday	24.5%
Virtually everyday	12.6%
Both in-person and virtually	60.6%
No Response	2.2%

11. 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	24.5%	43.5%	19.3%	9.7%	3.0%
English/Language Arts	25.3%	55.0%	8.6%	7.4%	3.7%
Science	20.4%	53.2%	14.5%	8.9%	3.0%
Study skills	20.8%	55.8%	11.5%	8.9%	3.0%
Ability to do well in college level courses in the future	23.8%	49.4%	11.9%	11.5%	3.3%
Ability to succeed in online courses at college	20.4%	46.5%	16.4%	13.4%	3.3%
Ability to do well on college entrance exams (e.g., SAT, ACT)	15.2%	49.1%	19.0%	13.8%	3.0%



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

	(%)
Yes	79.2%
No	17.8%
No Response	3.0%

12a. What, if anything, may prevent you from continuing your education after high school?

	(%)
My grades aren't good enough	11.2%
It costs too much/I can't afford it	20.1%
I need to work	14.1%
I want to work	16.7%
Family issues	2.6%
I plan to enlist in the military	8.2%
I won't receive/be eligible for enough financial aid	8.9%
Concerns about COVID-19	7.1%
Other (please write in reason):	I plan on picking up a trade at the Votech center.; I want to continue to grow my company.; Don't feel like it; i don't think its something for me; Pregnant; I havent taken the act yet.; If college classes will be virtual because of Covid-19
Not applicable; I am pretty confident that I will be able to continue my education after high school	43.5%
No Response	4.1%

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

	Would like to get? (%)	Expect to get? (%)
High school or less	9.3%	13.8%



Some college (less than a 2- or 4-year degree, e.g., certificate or career/tech. cert.)	15.2%	16.7%
2-year college degree (Associate's)	9.7%	12.6%
4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	34.6%	30.1%
More than a 4-year college degree	27.1%	22.3%
No Response	4.1%	4.5%

14. 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.	19.0%	24.2%	29.7%	8.9%	10.8%	7.4%
I can get accepted to a college.	28.3%	21.9%	26.8%	5.6%	10.0%	7.4%
I can have family support for going to college.	37.2%	24.9%	18.2%	4.8%	7.4%	7.4%
I can choose a good college.	27.1%	28.3%	22.3%	4.8%	10.0%	7.4%
I can get a scholarship or grant for college.	14.1%	21.9%	28.6%	15.2%	12.3%	7.8%
I can make an educational plan that will prepare me for college.	16.0%	27.5%	29.7%	7.8%	11.5%	7.4%
I can make my family proud with my choices after high school.	32.7%	27.1%	20.4%	4.5%	7.8%	7.4%
I can choose college courses that best fit my interests.	24.9%	29.4%	26.8%	3.3%	7.4%	8.2%
I can pay for college even if my family cannot help me.	8.9%	13.0%	30.1%	26.0%	14.5%	7.4%
I can get good grades in my high school math classes.	24.5%	22.7%	29.7%	7.4%	7.4%	8.2%
I can get good grades in my high school science classes.	20.4%	32.0%	24.9%	6.7%	8.2%	7.8%
I can choose the high school classes needed to get into a good college.	22.3%	30.9%	24.5%	5.9%	8.9%	7.4%
I know enough about computers to get into college.	19.0%	27.1%	29.4%	9.7%	7.4%	7.4%
I can go to college after high school.	30.9%	26.8%	21.9%	4.5%	8.2%	7.8%

15. 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.	30.5%	24.2%	23.0%	3.0%	10.8%	8.6%
I could get A's and B's in college.	23.4%	27.1%	23.4%	5.9%	11.5%	8.6%
I could get my family to support my wish of finishing college.	17.5%	27.1%	25.3%	9.3%	12.6%	8.2%



	Very Sure (%)	Sure (%)	Somewhat Sure (%)	Not at all Sure (%)	Don't Know (%)	No Response (%)
I could take care of myself in college.	27.9%	29.4%	19.3%	4.1%	10.8%	8.6%
I could fit in at college.	20.1%	24.9%	27.5%	7.8%	11.2%	8.6%
I could get good enough grades to get or keep a scholarship.	22.3%	29.7%	21.6%	7.1%	10.4%	8.9%
I could finish college and receive a college degree.	29.4%	26.4%	20.1%	4.5%	10.8%	8.6%
I could care for my family responsibilities while in college.	29.0%	26.4%	22.3%	3.7%	10.0%	8.6%
I could set my own schedule while in college.	30.5%	23.8%	22.7%	3.7%	10.4%	8.9%
I could make friends at college.	24.9%	23.0%	22.3%	10.4%	10.8%	8.6%
I could get the education I need for my choice of career.	25.3%	29.4%	20.4%	4.8%	11.2%	8.9%
I could get a job after I graduate from college.	22.3%	27.9%	23.8%	7.8%	10.0%	8.2%
I would like being in college.	22.7%	29.4%	22.7%	6.3%	9.7%	9.3%
I could be smart enough to finish college.	13.0%	19.3%	30.5%	14.1%	14.5%	8.6%
I could pick the right things to study at college.	16.0%	21.9%	33.8%	8.2%	11.5%	8.6%
I could do the classwork and homework assignments in college classes.	35.3%	20.8%	20.8%	4.1%	10.0%	8.9%

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

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
College entrance requirements?	67.7%	26.0%	6.3%
The availability of financial aid to help you pay for college?	71.4%	22.7%	5.9%

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

	(%)
Yes	71.0%
No	22.3%
No Response	6.7%

18. 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	28.6%	36.1%	40.9%
Probably	38.7%	36.4%	31.2%
Not Sure	21.2%	16.7%	17.1%
Probably Not	4.1%	2.6%	2.2%
Definitely Not	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%
No Response	6.3%	7.4%	7.4%

19. 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 Public University or College (%)	2-year Public Community or Technical College (%)
Up to \$3,000	1.1%	15.6%
\$3,001 - \$6,000	11.2%	44.2%
\$6,001 - \$10,000	43.1%	10.8%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	14.5%	14.5%
\$15,001 - \$20,000	9.7%	4.1%
\$20,001 - \$25,000	8.2%	1.5%
More than \$25,000	3.7%	1.1%
No response	8.6%	8.2%

*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.

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

	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	27.5%	37.5%	17.5%	8.2%	9.3%
ACT /SAT	45.0%	32.7%	8.2%	4.5%	9.7%
WV Higher Education Grant	10.0%	33.1%	27.5%	19.0%	10.4%
WV Invests Grant	9.3%	30.9%	23.8%	26.4%	9.7%
Federal Pell Grants	11.2%	30.5%	26.8%	21.9%	9.7%
Federal Student Loans	16.7%	38.3%	24.5%	10.8%	9.7%
Federal Work-Study	10.4%	33.1%	23.4%	22.3%	10.8%
Scholarships (e.g., PROMISE or Institutional)	28.3%	40.5%	14.9%	6.3%	10.0%
Requirements for College Acceptance	27.5%	40.5%	15.2%	6.7%	10.0%
The Importance/ Benefit of a College Education	38.3%	37.5%	8.2%	5.9%	10.0%



High School Graduation Requirements	46.1%	31.2%	7.1%	5.2%	10.4%
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21. 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	1.1%	1.5%	2.2%
\$1,001- \$2000	5.2%	3.3%	3.0%
\$2,001-\$3,000	8.9%	34.2%	7.8%
\$3,001-\$4,000	11.5%	19.3%	9.7%
\$4,001-\$5,000	14.9%	11.5%	42.4%
\$5,001-\$6,000	12.3%	10.0%	8.9%
\$6,001-\$7,000	32.3%	5.2%	7.8%
More than \$7,000	5.2%	5.6%	8.9%
No Response	8.6%	9.3%	9.3%

*The correct amounts are highlighted in green.

22. 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	21.6%
\$1 - \$2,000	21.2%
\$2,001 - \$4,000	34.6%
More than \$4,000	14.5%
No Response	8.2%

23. 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	32.7%	38.3%	9.7%	8.6%	10.8%
College Foundation of WV website (CFWV.com)	19.3%	37.9%	16.0%	16.0%	10.8%
Other college planning websites	19.3%	37.9%	17.5%	13.8%	11.5%
College fairs (in-person or virtual)	17.8%	32.3%	16.0%	23.0%	10.8%
Television	16.0%	30.9%	19.3%	22.7%	11.2%
Radio	15.2%	27.1%	15.6%	30.9%	11.2%
Direct mail	26.8%	36.1%	14.5%	11.9%	10.8%
E-mail	29.0%	36.1%	14.9%	9.3%	10.8%
Brochures and pamphlets	20.8%	34.6%	18.6%	14.5%	11.5%
Magazines/newspapers	14.9%	30.5%	15.6%	27.9%	11.2%
Signs, posters, or billboards	15.2%	29.7%	20.1%	23.8%	11.2%



	Extremely (%)	Moderately (%)	Slightly (%)	Not at All (%)	No Response (%)
Text messages	21.6%	34.6%	16.0%	16.7%	11.2%
School counselor	29.7%	38.7%	10.8%	9.7%	11.2%
Family members	28.3%	35.7%	15.6%	8.9%	11.5%
GEAR UP staff	19.3%	32.0%	18.2%	20.1%	10.4%
College admissions representatives	25.7%	34.6%	14.9%	14.1%	10.8%
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	21.6%	36.1%	16.0%	15.2%	11.2%

24. How, if at all, has your ability to gather information about options for education after high school been affected by the modifications to your learning environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Select all that apply.

	(%)
I have not been able to visit colleges	43.9%
It is more difficult to speak with GEAR UP or someone at my school about education after high school	18.6%
I have not been able to speak with anyone from colleges they are interested in	18.6%
I can't get hard copies of applications or information for colleges and scholarships	14.9%
I have had trouble accessing information online	10.0%
My ability to gather information has not been affected	36.1%
Other	0.0%
No Response	0.0%

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

	(%)
No, and I do not plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year.	17.1%
No, but I plan to complete the FAFSA this academic year.	61.3%
Yes.	21.6%
No Response	0.0%

26. 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 plan to take some time off between high school and college	15.2%
I do not plan to continue my education after high school	58.7%
I'm not sure what the FAFSA is	13.0%
I do not believe I will be eligible for financial aid	13.0%
Other	Military

27. Did you receive in-person and/or virtual support (e.g., phone, email, text message, Zoom, Google)?

	(%)
Yes, I received in-person and virtual help	31.0%
Yes, I received virtual help only	8.6%
Yes, I received in-person help only	24.1%
No, I did not receive help from GEAR UP or anyone else my school to submit my FAFSA	36.2%
No Response	0.0%

28. Have you participated in SAT or ACT test prep this school year (2020-21)?

	(%)
Yes	46.8%
No	53.2%
No Response	0.0%

28b. If you answered yes to the previous question, how helpful do you think these test prep resources have been for your SAT or ACT prep?

	Not at all (%)	Slightly (%)	Moderately (%)	Extremely (%)	Did Not Participate (%)	No Response (%)
Khan Academy	8.7%	10.3%	27.8%	13.5%	36.5%	3.2%
Testive	14.3%	10.3%	13.5%	4.0%	54.0%	4.0%
Other online resources/websites	9.5%	8.7%	23.0%	9.5%	46.0%	3.2%
Other (see below for responses)	10.3%	9.5%	8.7%	1.6%	50.8%	19.0%

If you selected "Other" please write in type

Other:	Teacher help; Preparation books; College board; magoosh; Upper level classes; Clever; Books
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29. How many times have you taken the SAT and ACT tests?

	SAT (%)	ACT (%)
0	26.4%	60.2%
1	56.1%	15.2%
2	7.4%	3.0%
More than 2	1.5%	0.0%
No response	8.6%	21.6%

30. Do you plan to take/retake the SAT this year (2020–21)?

	(%)
Yes	43.1%
No	48.3%
No Response	8.6%

31. Do you plan to take/retake the ACT this year (2020–21)?

	(%)
Yes	39.4%
No	52.0%
No Response	8.6%

32. How many college applications have you completed?

	(%)
0, and I do not plan to complete any this academic year.	18.2%
0, but I plan to complete one or more this academic year.	38.7%
1	15.2%
2 or more	20.1%
No Response	7.8%

33. Did you receive in-person and/or virtual support (e.g., phone, email, text message, Zoom, Google Classroom) from GEAR UP or anyone else at your school to complete your college applications?

	(%)
Yes, I received in-person and virtual help	37.9%
Yes, I received virtual help only	6.3%
Yes, I received in-person help only	12.6%
No, I did not receive help from GEAR UP or anyone else at my school to submit my college applications	47.4%
No Response	0.0%



(%)

*Table above includes responses for those students who indicated completing at least one application.

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