

# Washington GEAR UP



## 2021-2022 Student Survey

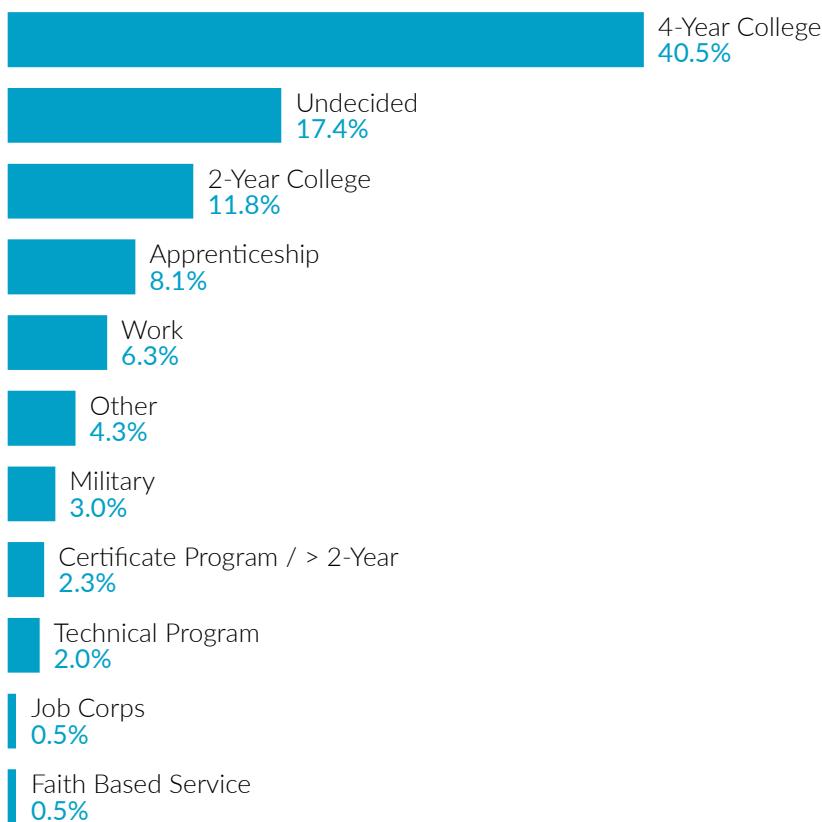
### Background

The Washington GEAR UP (WAGU) program provides services and resources to middle and high school students to increase academic performance and prepare students for postsecondary success. Below is an overview of survey results and recommendations based on 2,427 student responses. Students completed this survey in Spring of 2022, at the end of their junior year of high school. The majority of these students were in remote instruction for at least part of the previous two academic years (Spring of 2020 through Fall of 2021).

### Postsecondary Plans:

The majority of students (52.3%) expect to pursue some level of college education, with a 4-year degree (40.5%) being the top choice. Students who are still undecided (17.4%) about what to do after high school account for the next largest group of respondents. These results indicate high aspirations and a college-going identity among many WAGU students; however, there are many students still deciding on their postsecondary plans.

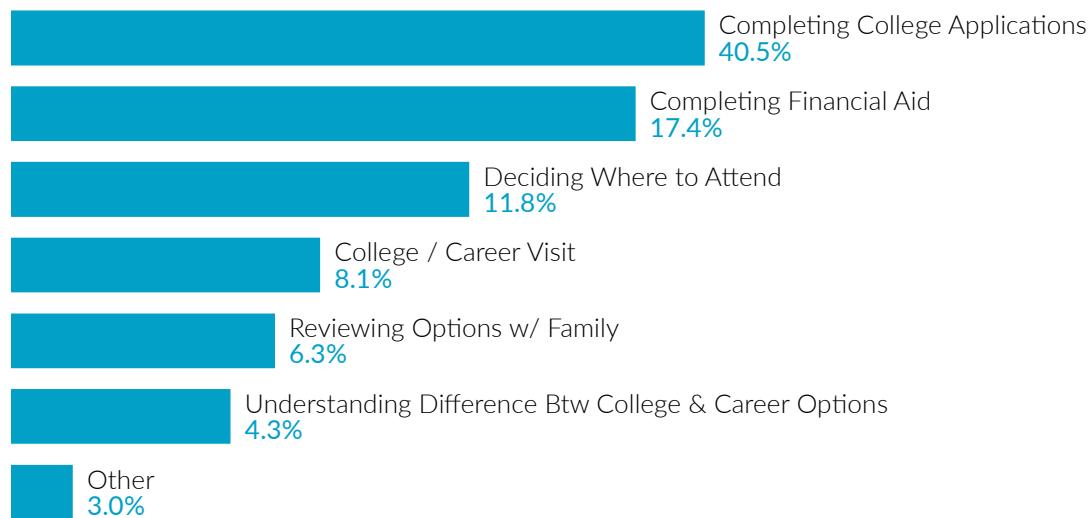
### What are your plans after high school?



## Postsecondary Support:

One of the key tenets of any GEAR UP program is preparing students for postsecondary education. WAGU's vision is that all students are academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter and complete the postsecondary program or institution of their choice. The figure below depicts what support students feel they need.

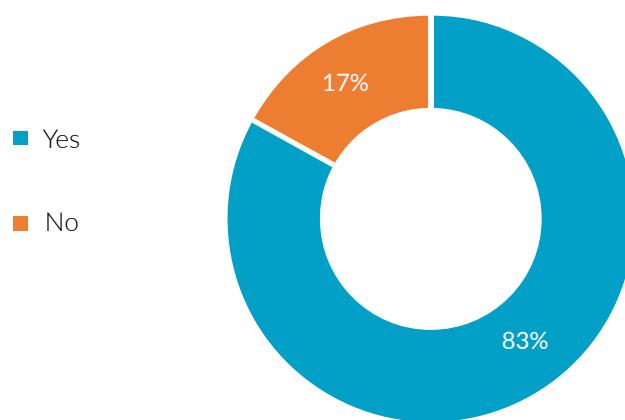
What support do you need to prepare to enroll in college?



## Postsecondary Communication:

Students from underrepresented groups often lack the social capital to understand the world of postsecondary education, as they are less likely to have role models who have attended institution of higher education.<sup>1</sup> The figure below shows students response to the question: "Has anyone at school talked to you about opportunities after high school?"

Has anyone at school talked to you about opportunities after high school?



<sup>1</sup>Hooker, S., & Brand, B. (2010). College knowledge: A critical component of college and Career Readiness. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 2010(127), 75–85. <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.364>

## **Next Steps:**

GEAR UP school-based staff were provided with student level results in Fall 2022 so that they can target their assistance based on student responses. By using the survey data, they can conduct specific student outreach and address them by offering GEAR UP services and resources. We anticipate that by doing so the “undecided” group will find a pathway that aligns with their aspirations, and that they will be supporting in taking the next steps to support their goals. Students and families will have access to financial aid and postsecondary application support, ongoing counseling and advising, and transition services to ensure they are prepared for life after high school.

**This focused work serves to support the WSAC 2022 Strategic Action Plan to increase educational attainment in Washington in the following ways:**

- Supporting students in being prepared to earn a credential beyond a high school diploma through academic supports and access to dual enrollment courses.
- Ensuring that students and families are aware of college-going choices and are prepared for a career pathway that has labor market value through ongoing career and college exploration and exposure.
- Supporting students who are facing barriers in and out of the classroom and school setting through individualized support, counseling and advising and mentoring services.
- Supporting low-income and historically underrepresented populations to ensure they have access to the supports they need to reach their goals.