

Fall 2022 WNC Student Needs Survey

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Survey Summary

Population Surveyed: All enrolled WNC students, ages 18 and older as of September 2022 (Higher Education in Prison Program, Apprenticeship Program, high school students as well as students who have opted out of surveys excluded) (1836 total). In addition, another 28 students in the same population, but enrolled in fall 2021 and not in fall 2022 responded to the survey. Because survey responses are anonymous, they could not be deleted.

Response Rate: 38% (708/1864) At Least Partial Response Rate
32% (589/1864) Complete Response Rate

NOTE: Many indicators of food and housing insecurity, as well as financial stress, are higher in the 2022 survey results than in previous years. This is likely due to the exclusion of WNC students still in high school, most of whom still receive support from parents and family.

Food and Housing Insecurity

Do WNC students have secure access to housing?

- **58% of respondents were housing insecure** during the last 12 months.
 - This is up from 28% in 2021.
 - *Housing Insecure**: Inability or extreme difficulty paying rent, mortgage, and/or other bills related to housing; needing to move frequently; and/or living in an unsafe environment.
- **8% of respondents were homeless** during the past 12 months.
 - This is up from 6% in 2021.
 - *Homeless**: Without a place to live; includes “couch surfing,” living in shelters, cars, outside, or other spaces not intended for habitation.

Do WNC students have secure access to food?

- **53% of respondents were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 35% in 2021.
 - *Food Insecure**: Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such foods.
- **31% of respondents were hungry** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 27% in 2021.
 - *Hungry**: Reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, and/or not eating due to lack of access to food.

- **54% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 40% in 2021.
- **9% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were hungry** in the last 30 days.
 - This is the same rate as in 2021.

Do WNC students know about the campus food pantry?

- **37%** of respondents know about the campus food pantry.
- **22%** say they would be likely or very likely to use the campus food pantry.
- **18%** say they have used a food pantry grab-and-go snack station on campus.
- **5%** say they have used the campus food pantry.

How many WNC students are vulnerable to either housing insecurity OR food insecurity?

- **67% of respondents** were either food insecure during the past 30 days or housing insecure during the past 12 months.
 - This is up from 49% in 2021.

*Definition Source: [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#)

Student Employment, Paying for School, Transportation, and Internet Access

How do WNC students pay for school and other expenses?

- **50% of respondents are employed.**
 - Of those employed, **53% work full-time.**
- **37% of respondents borrowed money from friends and family to pay bills** in the past 12 months.
- Top ways respondents pay for college and associated expenses:
 - **Employment** (non-work study): 42%
 - **Scholarships and Grants** (excluding Pell Grants): 42%
 - **Pell Grants**: 31%

Do WNC students have access to transportation to and from campus?

- **Yes.** 87% of all respondents report that access to transportation to and from campus is not a problem.
- However, **32%** reported missing class or other important appointments and events because gas was too expensive.

Do WNC students have internet access off campus?

- **Yes.** 97% of all respondents report having internet access off campus, and 95% of those with off-campus internet access report that it is of average or above average quality.
 - NOTE: This survey was distributed and completed online. While students were encouraged to take the survey using campus computers and internet access if they had limited internet access off campus, this number is still likely inflated due to the nature of the survey.

Fall 2022 WNC Student Needs Survey Results Summary: All Respondents

Do WNC students have secure access to food and housing?

Vulnerability	Respondent Percentage
Housing Insecure (past 12 months)	58% (390/673)
Homeless (past 12 months)	8% (56/668)
Food Insecure (past 30 days)	53% (335/635)
Hungry (past 30 days)	31% (195/635)
Likely or Very Likely to use campus food pantry	22% (134/622)
Either Housing Insecure or Food Insecure	67% (426/635)

Can WNC students provide food security to their children?

Of those with children at home:	
Vulnerability	Respondent Percentage
Children were Food Insecure (past 30 days)	54% (92/170)
Children were Hungry (past 30 days)	9% (16/170)

Definitions:

- **Housing Insecure:** Inability or extreme difficulty paying rent, mortgage, and/or other bills related to housing; needing to move frequently; and/or living in an unsafe environment.
- **Homeless:** Without a place to live; includes “couch surfing,” living in shelters, cars, outside, or other spaces not intended for habitation.
- **Food Insecure:** Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such foods.
- **Hungry:** Reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, and/or not eating due to lack of access to food.

Definition Source: [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#)

What financial challenges do WNC students have?

What financially challenging situations have our students faced in the past 12 months? Respondents selected all that applied.	
Challenge or Situation	Respondent Percentage
Borrowed money from family/friends to help pay bills	37% (252/673)
Not pay the full amount of a utility bill	18% (118/673)
Have an account default or go into collections	14% (94/673)
Move in with other people because of financial problems	13% (90/673)
Not paying or underpaying rent or mortgage	12% (79/673)
Live with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment	6% (43/673)
None of these	50% (339/673)

What financial assistance do WNC students receive?

Over the past 12 months, which programs provided assistance to our students? Respondents selected all that applied.	
Assistance Type	Respondent Percentage
COVID-19 relief funds	13% (82/627)
Medicaid or public health insurance	14% (90/627)
SNAP (food stamps)	11% (68/627)
Tax refunds (including EITC)	6% (38/627)
Unemployment compensation/insurance	5% (38/627)
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	4% (26/627)
Veterans benefits	4% (23/627)
None of these	65% (406/627)

How do WNC students pay for school?

Which of the following ways do students pay for the expenses associated with attending college? Respondents selected all that applied.	
Funding Source for School Tuition, Fees, and Related Expenses	Respondent Percentage
Job (non-work study)	42% (296/699)
Other grants or scholarships	42% (292/699)
Savings	31% (218/699)
Pell Grant	31% (216/699)
Help from family/friends	23% (162/699)
Credit cards	17% (120/699)
Student Loans	10% (67/699)
Work-study job	9% (62/699)
Employer support	6% (41/699)
Jump Start	2% (13/699)
Other	8% (55/699)

What does employment look like for WNC students?

Employment Status	Respondent Percentage
Employed (includes work-study)	50% (350/699)
Unemployed	50% (349/699)

Of those Employed:	
Hours and Pay	Respondent Percentage
Working Part-Time (Under 36 hours/week)	47% (162/344)
Working Full-Time (36-55+ hours/week)	53% (182/344)
\$10.50/hour or less	9% (32/344)
\$10.51-\$15/hour	27% (92/344)
Over \$15/hour	64% (220/344)

Of those Unemployed:	
Job Search Status	Respondent Percentage
Actively looking for work (past 30 days)	32% (112/348)
Not actively looking for work (past 30 days)	68% (236/348)

Do WNC students have problems accessing transportation to and from campus?

Is access to transportation to/from campus a problem?	Respondent Percentage
Yes	13% (78/606)
No	87% (528/606)

Do WNC students miss class or other appointments and events due to the high cost of gas for their vehicles?

Over the past 12 months, have you missed or rescheduled class, work, appointments, events, or other activities because the cost of gas for your vehicle was too expensive?	Respondent Percentage
Yes	32% (195/606)
No	68% (411/606)

Do WNC students have internet access off campus?

Do students have internet access off campus?	Respondent Percentage
Yes	97% (596/612)
No	3% (16/612)

Of those with internet access off campus, how do they access the internet? Respondents checked all that applied.	
Off-Campus Internet Access	Respondent Percentage
Personal computer (desktop or laptop)	88% (523/595)
Smartphone	87% (519/595)
Computer at work	21% (123/595)
Tablet	19% (111/595)
Smart TV	18% (109/595)
Video game console	15% (89/595)
Public library or community center	7% (43/595)
Other	1% (8/595)

Of those with internet access off campus, how do they rate the quality of their off-campus internet?	
Off-Campus Internet Quality	Respondent Percentage
Above Average	51% (302/595)
Average	44% (264/595)
Below Average	5% (29/595)

Fall 2022 WNC Student Needs Survey Overview, Collection Timeline, and Response Rate Information

Survey Instrument Information

The Fall 2022 WNC Student Needs Survey is based on an adaptation of the national [Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) #RealCollege survey that Walla Walla Community College conducted in 2018. In 2019, WNC's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness received feedback from colleagues at Walla Walla Community College about their experience to inform the survey's adaptation to WNC's student population.

WNC has administered a version of this survey modified for our student population each fall since 2019. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, questions were added regarding COVID-19 pandemic impacts. In 2022, students under 18 were excluded from the survey for the first time. As a result, indicators of student financial stress, food insecurity, and housing insecurity increased as compared with previous years. This is likely because most students under 18 are receiving support from their parents and families.

The following incentive prizes were offered to students via a prize drawing that students could enter after completing the survey: Free 3-credit WNC class (2 available); one \$500 Chevron gas card; one \$250 Walmart gift card; one \$150 Amazon gift card; and one \$100 Save Mart gift card. The prize value of each class is approximately \$500, and the combined value of the gift card prizes is \$1000. Upon completion of the anonymous survey, student respondents were directed to a separate Google Form where they could input their contact information for the prize drawing. Duplicate prize drawing entries were removed, and winning students were chosen via random number generator.

Survey Collection, Timeline, and Response Rate Information

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Response Rate: 38% (708/1864) At Least Partial Response Rate
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Survey Collection Type: Students were emailed individual links to the survey via Survey Monkey, with weekly staggered reminders across a four-week period.

Survey Open and Close Dates: 09/23/22-10/17/22

Responses Volume

