

# Fall 2019 WNC Student Needs Survey

Prepared January 23, 2020 by Mandy Billings, Planning and Assessment Coordinator, IRE

## This report contains:

1. Executive summary (p. 1)
2. Summary of responses by population (pp. 2-8)
3. Overview of survey, collection timeline, and response rate (p. 9)

## Executive Summary of Results

**Population Surveyed:** All enrolled WNC students (prison education program students excluded) (3601 total)

**Response Rate:** 29% (1049/3601) Partial Response  
25% (905/3601) Complete Response

### Do WNC students have secure access to housing?

- **23% of respondents were housing insecure** during the last 12 months.
  - *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.
- **7% of respondents were homeless** during the past 12 months.
  - *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?

- **38% of respondents were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
  - *Food Insecure\**: Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such foods.
- **28% of respondents were hungry** in the last 30 days.
  - *Hungry\**: Reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, and/or not eating due to lack of access to food.
- **36% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
- **9% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were hungry** in the last 30 days.

### How do WNC students pay for school and other expenses?

- **51% of respondents are employed.**
  - Of those employed, **40% work full-time.**
- **30% 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** (not work-study): **41%**
  - **Scholarships and Grants** (excluding Pell Grant): **34%**
  - **Pell Grant**: **33%**
  - **Help from family or friends**: **27%**

### What WNC student populations are most vulnerable?

- **LGBTQ+**
- **Former Foster Care**
- **Pell Grant recipients**

### Do WNC students have access to transportation and internet access?

- **Yes.** Transportation and internet access are not significant barriers to success for most respondents.
  - 87% of all respondents report that access to transportation to and from campus is not a problem.
  - 98% of all respondents report having off-campus internet access.

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

## Fall 2019 WNC Student Needs Survey Responses by Population

### Do WNC students have secure access to food and housing?

Population	Housing Insecure (past 12 months)	Homeless (past 12 months)	Food Insecure (past 30 days)	Hungry (past 30 days)
All Respondents (n=933)	23%	7%	38%	28%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=342)	30%	10%	54%	42%
First Generation (n=341)	29%	8%	41%	31%
Students of Color (n=356)	21%	7%	36%	29%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	32%	12%	60%	43%
Veterans (n=51)	27%	10%	33%	24%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	29%	18%	54%	50%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	9%	0%	15%	9%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	19%	5%	42%	29%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	34%	12%	44%	33%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	24%	5%	33%	27%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	32%	5%	32%	27%

#### 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](#)

## Can WNC students provide food security to their children?

Students with children at home:		
Population	Children in household	No children in household
All Respondents (n=965)	28%	72%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=324)	33%	67%
First Generation (n=341)	28%	72%
Students of Color (n=356)	24%	76%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	21%	79%
Veterans (n=51)	31%	69%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	39%	61%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	21%	79%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	19%	81%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	42%	58%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	48%	52%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	5%	95%

Of those with children in their household:		
Population	Children were food insecure (last 30 days)	Children were hungry (last 30 days)
All Respondents (n=259)	36%	9%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=107)	47%	13%
First Generation (n=94)	37%	9%
Students of Color (n=87)	37%	11%
LGBTQ+ (n=27)	63%	30%
Veterans (n=16)	31%	6%
Former Foster Care (n=11)	55%	27%
Age: Under 18 (n=11)	18%	18%
Age: 18-25 (n=98)	35%	7%
Age: 26-35 (n=76)	43%	11%
Age: 36-55 (n=64)	36%	11%
Age: 55+ *	N/A	N/A

\*Note: Sample sizes small enough to potentially identify respondents have been removed.

### Definitions:

- **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 challenge and support do WNC students have?

**What financially challenging situations have our students faced in the past 12 months? Respondents selected all that applied.**

Population	Not pay/ underpay rent/ mortgage	Underpay a gas, oil, or electricity bill	Borrow money from friends/ family	Have an account default or go into collections	Live with others due to financial problems	Live with others beyond capacity of dwelling	None of these situations
All Respondents (n=995)	10%	14%	30%	12%	13%	7%	56%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=335)	16%	24%	37%	21%	17%	10%	42%
First Generation (n=341)	12%	19%	36%	13%	15%	6%	49%
Students of Color (n=356)	10%	14%	32%	9%	13%	6%	53%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	15%	21%	50%	16%	24%	12%	37%
Veterans (n=51)	12%	18%	22%	18%	14%	6%	55%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	21%	25%	43%	29%	11%	12%	36%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	2%	89%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	7%	12%	31%	6%	14%	8%	56%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	16%	20%	41%	29%	17%	6%	45%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	16%	22%	27%	20%	8%	5%	52%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	18%	18%	27%	14%	14%	9%	64%

**Over the past 12 months, which programs provided assistance to our students? Respondents selected all that applied.**

Population	SNAP (food stamps)	WIC (Women, Infants, Children)	Veterans benefits	Tax refunds	Medicaid/ public health insurance	None of these programs
All Respondents (n=928)	9%	4%	4%	4%	15%	72%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=318)	18%	6%	3%	6%	25%	58%
First Generation (n=341)	13%	6%	2%	4%	17%	67%
Students of Color (n=356)	9%	5%	4%	3%	15%	70%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	14%	<1%	5%	5%	26%	66%
Veterans (n=51)	12%	0%	51%	4%	4%	39%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	32%	7%	4%	7%	29%	46%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	4%	0%	0%	0%	15%	83%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	8%	3%	2%	3%	15%	75%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	14%	8%	8%	8%	16%	63%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	11%	2%	6%	5%	13%	69%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	18%	0%	5%	5%	14%	68%

## 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.

Population	Job (not work-study)	Work-Study	Pell Grant	Other grants or scholarships	Student loans	Help from family/friends	Savings	Credit cards	Employer support	Other
All Respondents (n=1029)	41%	12%	33%	34%	10%	27%	25%	13%	5%	14%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=342)	38%	12%	100%	46%	15%	18%	18%	13%	2%	4%
First Generation (n=341)	45%	12%	40%	35%	9%	22%	24%	13%	3%	10%
Students of Color (n=356)	42%	15%	34%	37%	8%	23%	27%	12%	4%	13%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	44%	9%	44%	44%	16%	41%	26%	12%	2%	11%
Veterans (n=51)	41%	18%	25%	29%	14%	6%	24%	8%	10%	47%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	43%	11%	71%	21%	21%	18%	29%	7%	4%	11%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	11%	2%	2%	17%	2%	36%	15%	4%	0%	47%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	45%	15%	34%	43%	8%	34%	30%	11%	3%	11%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	53%	6%	46%	28%	15%	16%	22%	18%	8%	9%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	36%	6%	39%	23%	12%	14%	18%	19%	15%	15%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	18%	0%	18%	14%	14%	9%	23%	18%	14%	9%

## What does employment look like for WNC students?

Number of Students Employed		
Population	Employed (includes work-study)	Unemployed
All Respondents (n=1029)	51%	49%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=342)	48%	52%
First Generation (n=341)	54%	46%
Students of Color (n=356)	55%	45%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	52%	48%
Veterans (n=51)	55%	45%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	50%	50%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	11%	89%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	57%	43%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	59%	41%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	42%	58%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	18%	82%

Of those employed:					
Population	Working Part-Time (Under 36 hours/week)	Working Full-Time (36-55+ hours/week)	\$10/hour or less	\$10.01- \$15/hour	Over \$15/hour
All Respondents (n=513)	60%	40%	31%	41%	28%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=130)	65%	35%	34%	44%	22%
First Generation (n=184)	58%	42%	32%	42%	26%
Students of Color (n=195)	63%	37%	34%	38%	28%
LGBTQ+ (n=68)	69%	31%	47%	41%	12%
Veterans (n=28)	43%	57%	18%	21%	61%
Former Foster Care (n=14)	64%	36%	29%	57%	14%
Age: Under 18 (n=6)	83%	17%	100%	0%	0%
Age: 18-25 (n=296)	70%	30%	38%	48%	14%
Age: 26-35 (n=105)	41%	59%	18%	27%	55%
Age: 36-55 (n=56)	34%	66%	9%	23%	68%
Age: 55+ (n=4)	50%	50%	50%	0%	50%

Of those unemployed:	
Population	Actively looking for work (past 30 days)
All Respondents (n=507)	32%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=179)	40%
First Generation (n=157)	33%
Students of Color (n=161)	37%
LGBTQ+ (n=63)	46%
Veterans (n=23)	8%
Former Foster Care (n=14)	43%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	38%
Age: 18-25 (n=223)	39%
Age: 26-35 (n=74)	32%
Age: 36-55 (n=76)	22%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	11%

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

Is access to transportation to and from campus a problem?		
Population	Yes	No
All Respondents (n=919)	13%	87%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=317)	18%	82%
First Generation (n=341)	15%	85%
Students of Color (n=356)	17%	83%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	27%	73%
Veterans (n=51)	8%	92%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	25%	75%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	11%	89%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	16%	84%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	7%	93%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	8%	92%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	14%	86%

How do our students travel to and from campus? Respondents checked all that applied.								
Population	Drive myself in my personal vehicle	Carpool	Friends/family drop off/pick up	Bus	Bicycle	Walk	Taxi/Uber/Lyft	Other
All Respondents (n=919)	81%	11%	19%	3%	3%	5%	<1%	4%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=317)	79%	10%	19%	4%	2%	6%	1%	4%
First Generation (n=341)	83%	10%	18%	3%	4%	5%	<1%	4%
Students of Color (n=356)	77%	10%	24%	5%	3%	6%	<1%	4%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	69%	16%	30%	5%	7%	11%	0%	4%
Veterans (n=51)	96%	8%	6%	0%	4%	6%	2%	0%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	68%	4%	18%	0%	0%	4%	0%	11%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	45%	21%	53%	8%	6%	13%	0%	8%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	77%	14%	25%	3%	2%	5%	<1%	3%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	92%	8%	8%	3%	4%	4%	0%	4%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	91%	2%	4%	3%	2%	5%	2%	5%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%

## Do WNC students have internet access off campus?

Do our students have internet access off campus?		
Population	Access	No Access
All Respondents (n=924)	98%	2%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=318)	97%	3%
First Generation (n=341)	96%	4%
Students of Color (n=356)	96%	4%
LGBTQ+ (n=131)	97%	3%
Veterans (n=51)	100%	0%
Former Foster Care (n=28)	93%	7%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	96%	4%
Age: 18-25 (n=519)	97%	3%
Age: 26-35 (n=179)	99%	1%
Age: 36-55 (n=132)	98%	2%
Age: 55+ (n=22)	91%	9%

Of those with internet access off campus, how do they access the internet? Respondents checked all that applied.							
Population	Smartphone	Personal computer	Tablet	Video game console	Smart TV	Public library	Other
All Respondents (n=902)	89%	88%	21%	22%	19%	9%	3%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=309)	92%	89%	18%	20%	16%	9%	3%
First Generation (n=329)	88%	86%	19%	19%	18%	9%	3%
Students of Color (n=340)	92%	83%	17%	23%	19%	9%	1%
LGBTQ+ (n=127)	93%	90%	20%	35%	25%	13%	2%
Veterans (n=51)	88%	94%	31%	39%	31%	2%	2%
Former Foster Care (n=26)	81%	85%	23%	12%	23%	8%	0%
Age: Under 18 (n=51)	84%	86%	14%	20%	27%	18%	4%
Age: 18-25 (n=505)	93%	88%	18%	27%	18%	9%	2%
Age: 26-35 (n=178)	92%	87%	27%	21%	20%	9%	4%
Age: 36-55 (n=129)	82%	90%	25%	12%	19%	9%	5%
Age: 55+ (n=20)	70%	95%	45%	0%	20%	0%	0%

Of those with internet access off campus, how do students rate the quality of their internet access?			
Population	Above average	Average	Below average
All Respondents (n=902)	49%	45%	6%
Pell Grant Recipients (n=309)	45%	48%	7%
First Generation (n=329)	46%	47%	7%
Students of Color (n=340)	47%	46%	7%
LGBTQ+ (n=127)	47%	48%	5%
Veterans (n=51)	51%	47%	2%
Former Foster Care (n=26)	42%	46%	12%
Age: Under 18 (n=53)	53%	39%	8%
Age: 18-25 (n=505)	48%	46%	6%
Age: 26-35 (n=178)	51%	43%	6%
Age: 36-55 (n=129)	50%	45%	5%
Age: 55+ (n=20)	55%	40%	5%

# Fall 2019 WNC Student Needs Survey Overview, Collection Timeline, and Response Rate Information

## Survey Instrument Information

The Fall 2019 WNC Student Needs Survey was based on an adaptation of the national [Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) #RealCollege survey that Walla Walla Community College conducted in 2018. 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's Office of Student Life provided incentive prizes worth approximately \$900 in support of the WNC Student Needs Survey, including a Nintendo Switch, Acer Chromebook, and Apple AirPods. Additionally, the President's Office provided certificates for two free three-credit classes. 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

**Population Surveyed:** All enrolled WNC students (prison education program students excluded) (3601 total)

**Response Rate:** 29% (1049/3601) Partial Response  
25% (905/3601) Complete Response

**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:** 10/11/19-11/11/19

### Responses (by week)

First: 10/11/2019 Zoom: 10/7/2019 to 11/4/2019



Weekly (Starting on the date)