

Fall 2021 WNC Student Needs Survey

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Survey Summary

Population Surveyed: All enrolled WNC students as of September 2021 (prison education program students and students who have opted out of surveys excluded) (3252 total)

Response Rate: 22% (730/3252) Complete Response
27% (891/3252) At Least Partial Response

Food and Housing Insecurity

Do WNC students have secure access to housing?

- **28% of respondents were housing insecure** during the last 12 months.
 - This is up from 25% in 2020.
 - *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.
- **6% of respondents were homeless** during the past 12 months.
 - This is up from 5% in 2020.
 - *Homeless**: Without a place to live; includes “couch surfing,” living in shelters, cars, outside, or other spaces not intended for habitation.
- **9% of respondents were displaced from their homes due to wildfires**, at least temporarily.

Do WNC students have secure access to food?

- **35% of respondents were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 30% in 2020.
 - *Food Insecure**: Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such foods.
- **27% of respondents were hungry** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 23% in 2020.
 - *Hungry**: Reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, and/or not eating due to lack of access to food.
- **40% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were food insecure** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 32% in 2020.
- **9% of respondents with children in their household reported their children were hungry** in the last 30 days.
 - This is up from 7% in 2020.

Do WNC students know about the campus food pantry?

- **23%** of respondents know about the campus food pantry.
- **14%** say they would be likely or very likely to use the campus food pantry.
- **1%** say they have used the campus food pantry.

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

- **49% of respondents** were either food insecure during the past 30 days or housing insecure during the past 12 months.
 - This is up from 38% in 2020.

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

COVID-19 and Enrollment Impacts

Have students changed their spring 2022 enrollment plans due to the student vaccine mandate?

- **26% of respondents said their spring 2022 enrollment plans changed** due to the student vaccination policy.
 - 13% plan to now only enroll in online classes.
 - 5% are now no longer planning to enroll in any WNC classes.
 - Remaining students had their enrollment plans change in different ways.
- **74% of respondents said their spring 2022 enrollment plans did NOT change** due to the student vaccination policy.

What are spring 2022 enrollment plans for WNC students?

- **53% of respondents plan to take some or all of their classes in-person.**
- **32% of respondents plan to take only online classes.**
- **6% of respondents plan to not enroll in any WNC classes.**
- Remaining responses were divided between other enrollment plans.

Are students changing class modalities between fall 2021 and spring 2022?

- For students taking **some or all of their classes as in-person classes in Fall 2021:**
 - **82% (323/393) are planning to take some or all of their classes as in-person classes in spring 2022.**
 - **7% (29/393) are planning to take only online classes in spring 2022**
 - **6% (22/889) are not planning to enroll in any classes in spring 2022.**
 - Remaining responses were divided between different enrollment plans.
- For students taking **only online classes in fall 2021:**
 - **19% (56/289) are planning to take some or all of their classes as in-person classes in spring 2022.**
 - **70% (203/289) are planning to take only online classes in spring 2022**
 - **6% (46/289) are not planning to enroll in any classes in spring 2022.**
 - Remaining responses were divided between different enrollment plans.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected students' employment and households?

- **42%** of all respondents report working as frontline or essential workers during the pandemic.
- **20%** of all respondents report losing their job, being furloughed, or having their work hours reduced as a result of the pandemic.
- **23%** of all respondents report that one or more household members have tested positive for COVID-19.
- **17%** of all respondents report that they have tested positive for COVID-19.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the WNC student experience?

- **14%** of all respondents report having no quiet space to complete coursework at home.
- **8%** of all respondents report being unable to take required hands-on or in-person coursework (such as labs).
- **6%** of all respondents report reducing the number of courses they are taking due to pandemic-related changes at WNC (such reduced in-person class sizes and increased hybrid/online course offerings).
- **9%** of all respondents report reducing the number of courses they are taking due to pandemic-related financial difficulties.

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

How do WNC students pay for school and other expenses?

- **45% of respondents are employed.**
 - Of those employed, **53% work full-time.**
- **28% 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): 37%
 - **Scholarships and Grants** (excluding Pell Grants): 38%
 - **Pell Grants:** 33%

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

- **Yes.** 90% of all respondents report that access to transportation to and from campus is not a problem.

Do WNC students have internet access off campus?

- **Yes.** 98% of all respondents report having internet access off campus, and 92% 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 2021 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)	28% (241/854)
Homeless (past 12 months)	6% (50/847)
Food Insecure (past 30 days)	35% (276/800)
Hungry (past 30 days)	27% (214/800)
Likely or Very Likely to use campus food pantry	14% (108/780)
Either Housing Insecure or Food Insecure	49% (394/800)

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)	40% (95/240)
Children were Hungry (past 30 days)	9% (22/240)

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	28% (239/854)
Not pay the full amount of a utility bill	13% (113/854)
Move in with other people because of financial problems	11% (97/854)
Have an account default or go into collections	10% (82/854)
Not paying or underpaying rent or mortgage	10% (82/854)
Live with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment	6% (50/854)
None of these	60% (509/854)

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	29% (226/789)
Medicaid or public health insurance	12% (97/789)
SNAP (food stamps)	10% (78/789)
Tax refunds (including EITC)	9% (69/789)
Unemployment compensation/insurance	5% (38/789)
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	3% (23/789)
Veterans benefits	3% (22/789)
None of these	54% (429/789)

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
Other grants or scholarships	38% (335/881)
Job (non-work study)	37% (330/881)
Pell Grant	33% (288/881)
Savings	29% (257/881)
Help from family/friends	23% (202/881)
Credit cards	13% (107/881)
Jump Start	12% (107/881)
Work-study job	8% (73/881)
Student loans	7% (65/881)
Employer support	6% (49/881)
Other	7% (62/881)

What does employment look like for WNC students?

Employment Status	Respondent Percentage
Employed (includes work-study)	45% (396/881)
Unemployed	55% (485/881)

Of those Employed:	
Hours and Pay	Respondent Percentage
Working Part-Time (Under 36 hours/week)	47% (186/394)
Working Full-Time (36-55+ hours/week)	53% (208/394)
\$10/hour or less	15% (58/394)
\$10.01-\$15/hour	37% (145/394)
Over \$15/hour	48% (191/394)

Of those Unemployed:	
Job Search Status	Respondent Percentage
Actively looking for work (past 30 days)	29% (141/484)
Not actively looking for work (past 30 days)	71% (343/484)

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

Is access to transportation to/from campus a problem?	Respondent Percentage
Yes	10% (78/773)
No	90% (695/773)

Do WNC students have internet access off campus?

Do students have internet access off campus?	Respondent Percentage
Yes	98% (758/777)
No	2% (19/777)

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)	86% (651/757)
Smartphone	85% (645/757)
Computer at work	20% (152/757)
Tablet	20% (149/757)
Smart TV	17% (128/757)
Video game console	14% (108/757)
Public library or community center	5% (40/757)
Other	2% (18/757)

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	46% (347/757)
Average	47% (352/757)
Below Average	8% (58/757)

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted students?

Which of the following economic, health, and/or education-related statements have been true for WNC students since COVID-19 began impacting Nevada (about March 2020)? Respondents selected all that applied.	
Economic, health, and/or education impact or situation	Respondent Percentage
I work or worked as an essential or frontline worker during the pandemic	42% (318/757)
One or more people in my household tested positive for COVID-19	23% (171/757)
One or more people in my household are considered more vulnerable to or higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19	22% (163/757)
I lost my job, was furloughed, and/or had my work hours reduced due to the pandemic	20% (153/757)
I have tested positive for COVID-19	17% (130/757)
I have not had a quiet space to study or complete coursework	14% (109/757)
I am considered more vulnerable to or higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19	10% (76/757)
I have reduced the number of classes I am taking due to pandemic-related financial difficulties	9% (70/757)
I have not been able to take or complete hands-on, in-person courses necessary for my program of study (such as those requiring lab space)	8% (63/757)
I have had to reduce my hours at work, quit my job, and/or reduce my hours at school to provide childcare to my children	7% (56/757)
I have reduced the number of classes I am taking at WNC due to pandemic-related changes at WNC	6% (49/757)
I have not had the equipment necessary to complete remote coursework	4% (29/757)
Other impacts	5% (38/757)
None of the above	15% (111/757)

Did WNC students change their enrollment plans for spring 2022 due to the NSHE student vaccination mandate?

Change in spring 2022 enrollment plans	Respondent Percentage
This policy did NOT change my original spring 2022 enrollment plans	74% (544/739)
Because of this policy, I am now planning to take only online classes	13% (94/739)
Because of this policy, I am now planning to not take any classes at WNC	5% (34/739)
Because of this policy, I am now planning to take some or all in-person classes at WNC	3% (23/739)
Because of this policy, I am now planning to only take classes through a specialized program, such as Jump Start, that takes place entirely off campus	2% (17/739)
Other change to enrollment plans	4% (27/739)

Note: For an expanded in-depth report on student responses to enrollment-related questions, contact Planning and Assessment Coordinator Mandy Billings: mandy.billings@wnc.edu

What are self-reported COVID-19 vaccination rates for WNC students?

Vaccination Status	Respondent Percentage
Fully vaccinated	58% (431/739)
Partially vaccinated (one dose of Pfizer or Moderna)	7% (51/739)
Not vaccinated but planning to get vaccinated	7% (55/739)
Not vaccinated and not planning to get vaccinated	14% (106/739)
Prefer not to answer	13% (96/739)

Fall 2021 WNC Student Needs Survey Overview, Collection Timeline, and Response Rate Information

Survey Instrument Information

The Fall 2021 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 and 2021, questions were added regarding COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

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); HP Chromebook; Apple iPad, Apple AirPods; Canon Wireless Printer; Air Fryer; Hydro Flask Water Bottle; and Amazon Echo Dot. The prize value of each class is approximately \$500, and the combined value of the additional prizes is approximately \$1000. These prizes and amounts are similar to what has been offered in past years. 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 as of September 2021 (prison education program students and students who have opted out of surveys excluded) (3252 total)

Response Rate: 22% (730/3252) Complete Response
27% (891/3252) At Least Partial 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 and Close Dates: 09/20/21-10/10/21

