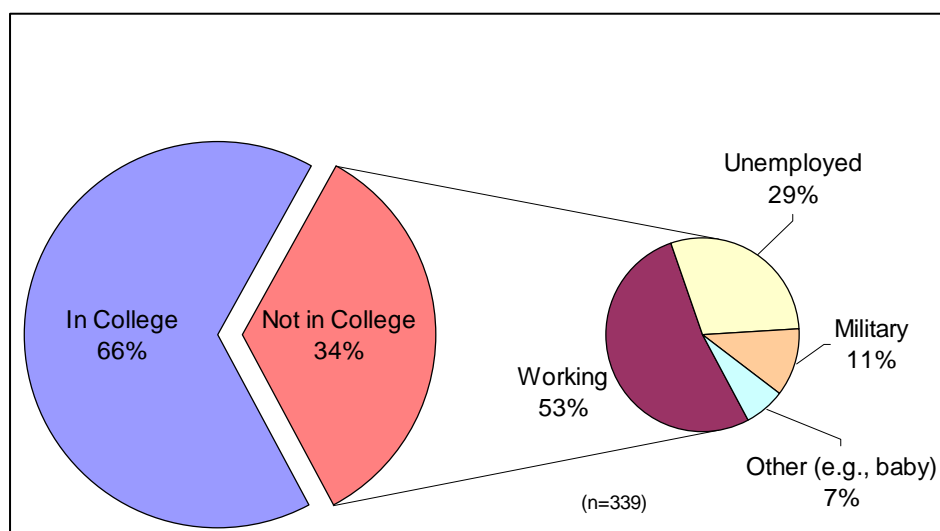


MONTANA GEAR UP 2007 GRADUATE SURVEY RESULTS

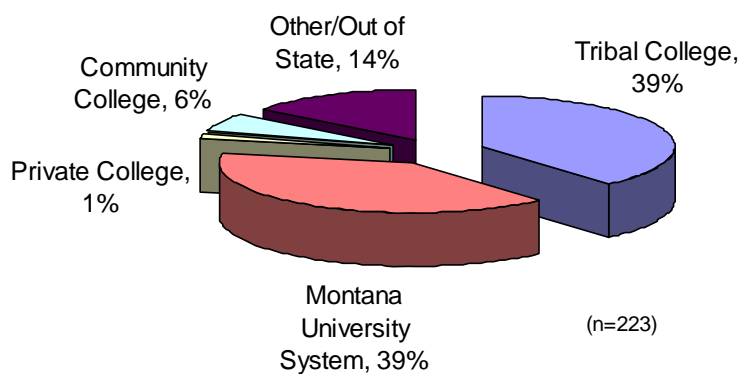
In December 2007, Montana GEAR UP surveyed those students who graduated from 19 GEAR UP high schools in the spring of 2007 to find out their post-high school status and plans. Out of a possible 357 graduates, Montana GEAR UP received information on 339 or 95 percent. A little less than one-third of the surveys were filled out by the students or with the student's input (e.g., over the phone). The remaining surveys were completed with the assistance of the GEAR UP school liaisons gathering post-high school information through different channels, such as the student's family, the high school counselor, or contacts at postsecondary institutions.



For the third year in a row, the college-going rate among Montana GEAR UP graduates has remained constant with 65 percent in 2005, 66 percent in 2006, and 66 percent in 2007 pursuing postsecondary education.

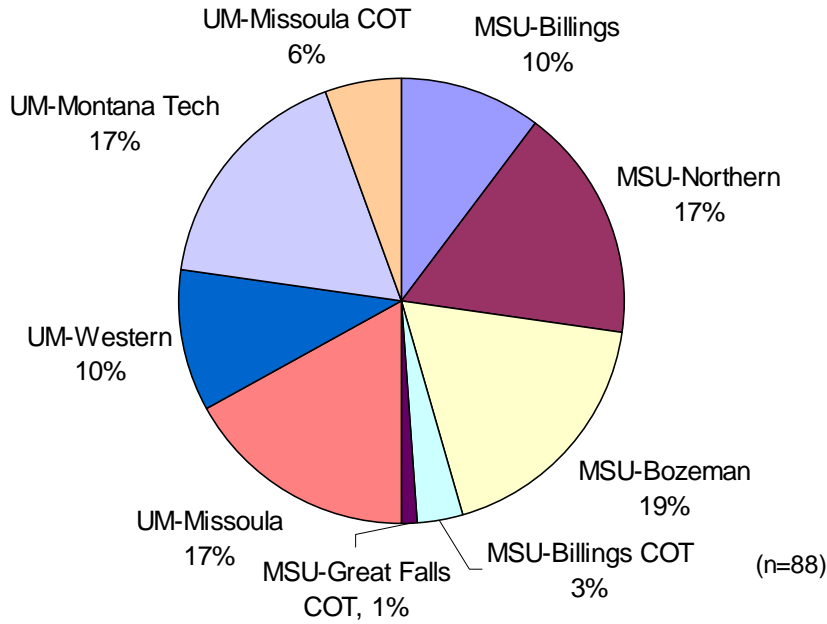
Montana GEAR UP believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Montana students, regardless of economic background, and strives to empower them to realize that ambition. Montana GEAR UP brings this message to middle and high schools, students, their parents, and their communities through early college and career awareness activities, scholarships, financial aid information, and improved academic rigor and support to raise the expectations and achievement of all.

Where Enrolled in College?



"The education I received in high school and the responsibilities I had in high school prepared me for college."
~ 2007 GEAR UP Graduate

Enrollment in the Montana University System

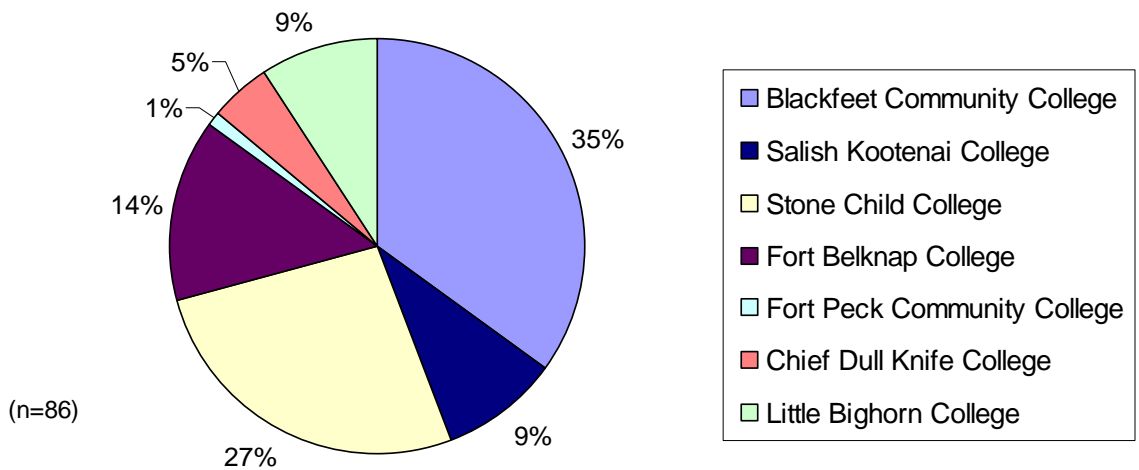


“Charlo has wonderful teachers who want you to succeed.”
 ~ 2007 GEAR UP Graduate

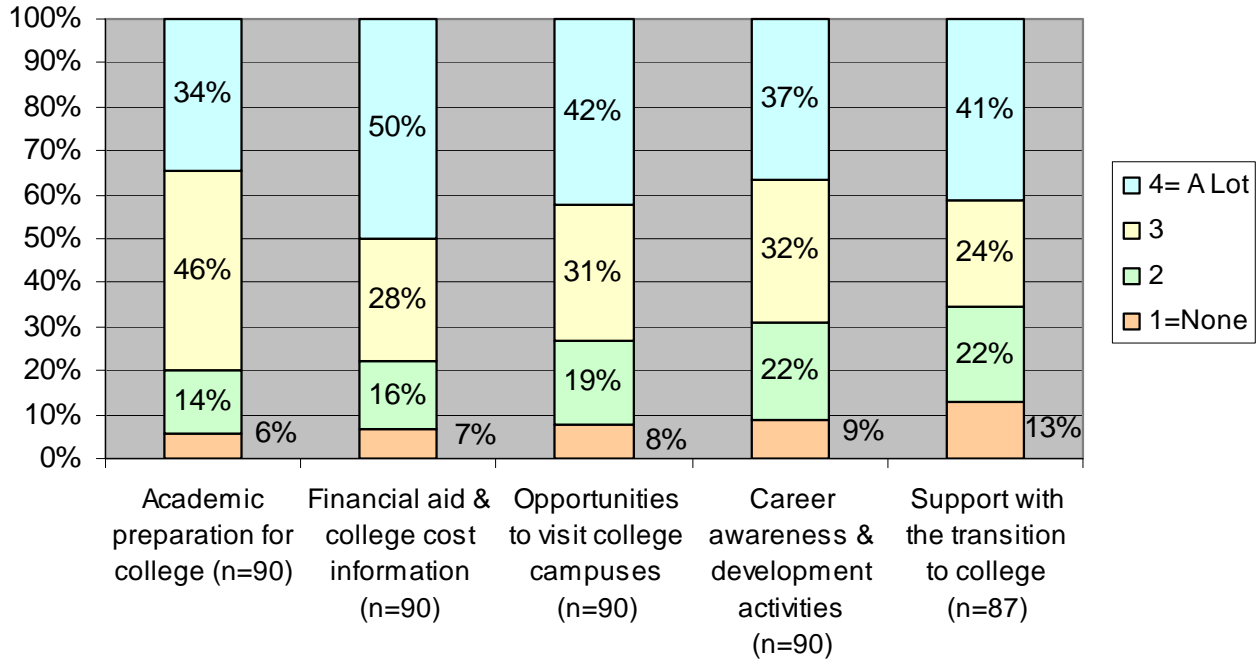


“Challenging myself while in high school, taking advanced classes, and trying to go above and beyond in the caliber of my work prepared me for college.”
 ~ 2007 GEAR UP Graduate

Enrollment in the Tribal Colleges

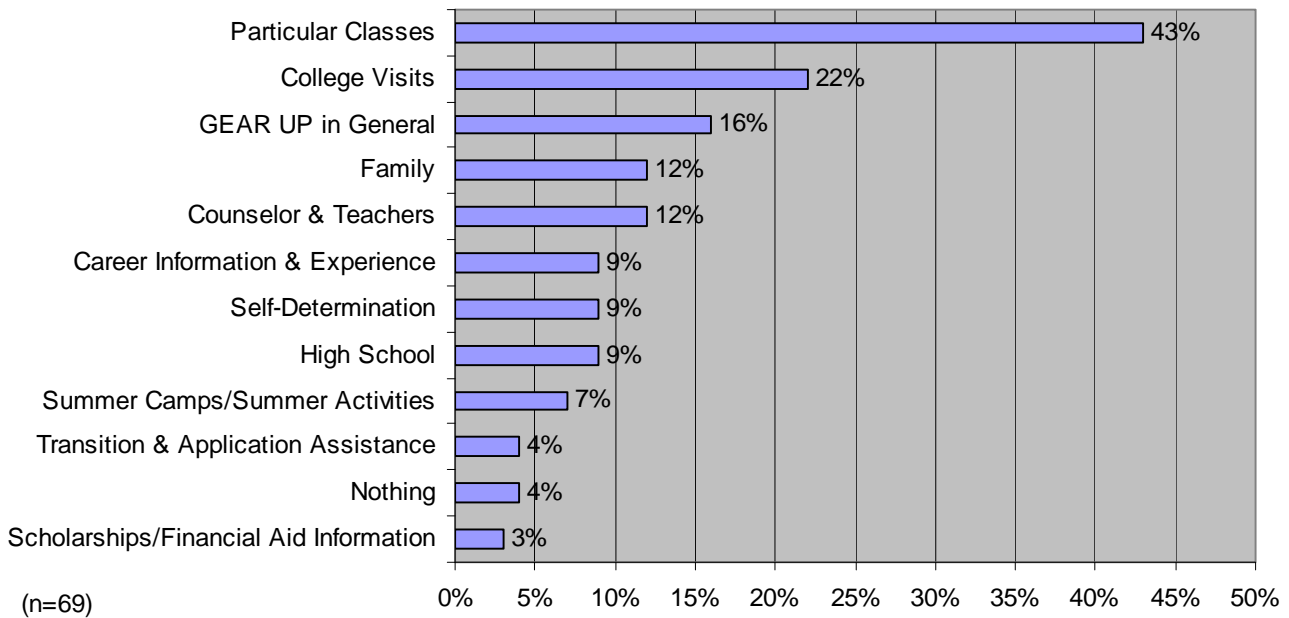


Student Perception of High School Preparation for College: "On a scale of 1 to 4, my high school provided sufficient..."

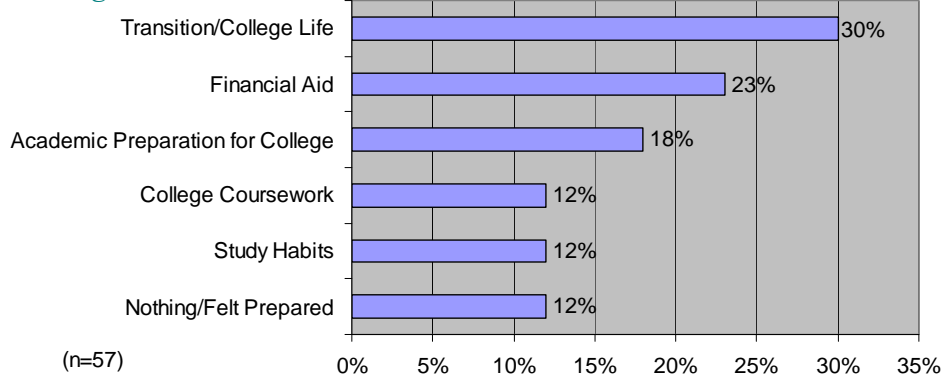


*"The thing that really prepared me for college was that my school required four years of math, science, English, and social studies. This really helped me to be very efficient in these subjects in college."
~ 2007 GEAR UP Graduate*

What Best Prepared Students for College?



What Students Wish They Had Known BEFORE Starting College



“I was sort of upset that I was told I only need 3 years of math. When I arrived to college, I was told I had to pay for a class with no credit and I can’t declare my major until I pass.”

~ 2007 GEAR UP Graduate

“I Wish I Had Known...” - What Students Said

- How different it is from high school.
- What classes in high school would help me in college or give me college credit.
- All the different styles of writing and how much homework there’d be.
- Better test and study skills.
- Understanding the expectations of college professors and the independent work required.
- More about the cost of living in college—all the miscellaneous things.
- How not to hold anything back and just to get out and explore!
- More information about scholarships would have helped a lot.

Reported Planned Majors	
(n=76)	
Health Care	21%
Business	13%
Education	11%
Sciences	9%
Technical	9%
Liberal Arts	9%
Engineering	8%
Computer	3%
Gen. Studies/Undecided	17%



Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
 46 N. Last Chance Gulch
 PO Box 203201
 Helena, MT 59620-3201
 Phone: (406) 444-0056
 Fax: (406) 444-0425
www.gearup.mus.edu

The graduate data reported here are based on Montana GEAR UP’s first state grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education from 1999-2005. The 19 high schools with GEAR UP graduates that participated in this survey include: Box Elder, Dutton-Brady, Browning, Charlo, Flathead, Hardin, Harlem, Hays/Lodgepole, Heart Butte, Lame Deer, Lincoln, Lodge Grass, Park, Plenty Coups, Rocky Boy, Simms, St. Ignatius, Wibaux, and Winnett.

Montana GEAR UP is currently in the third year of its second state grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Funded at \$18 million, the grant period runs from 2005-2011. The program’s three goals provide the framework for the delivery of programmatic services: early college and career awareness; financial aid awareness, planning, and scholarships; and improved academic support and rigor. The program serves an entire cohort of students beginning in the seventh grade and follows the cohort through high school. Grant funds are also used to provide scholarships.