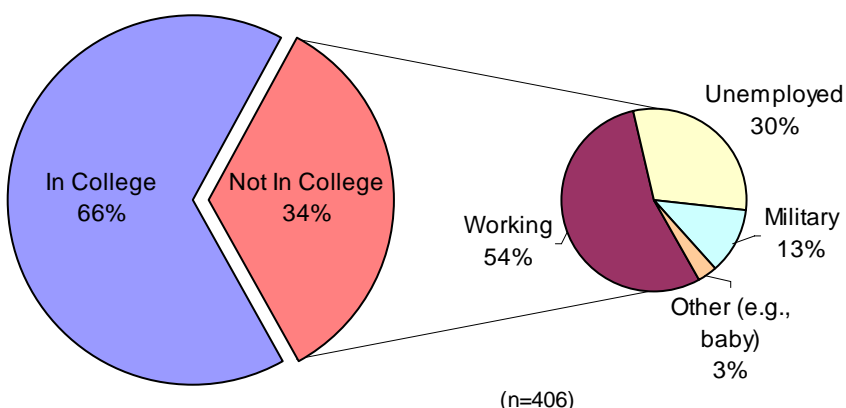


MONTANA GEAR UP 2006 GRADUATE SURVEY RESULTS

In December 2006, Montana GEAR UP surveyed those students who graduated from GEAR UP high schools in the spring of 2006 to find out their post-high school status and plans. Out of a possible 437 graduates, Montana GEAR UP received information on 406 or 93 percent. A little less than one-half 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.

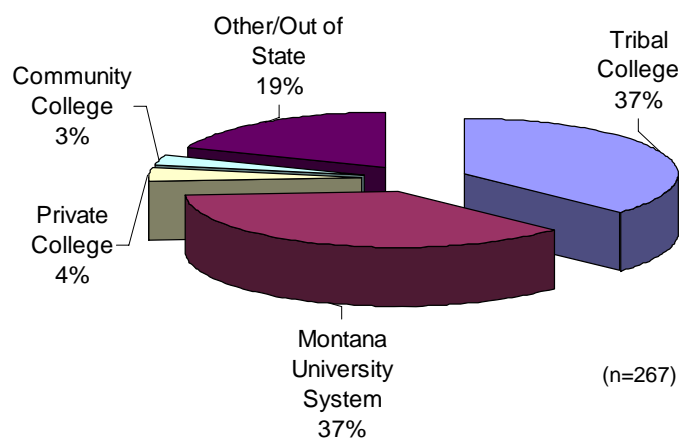
2006 Post-High School Graduation Status



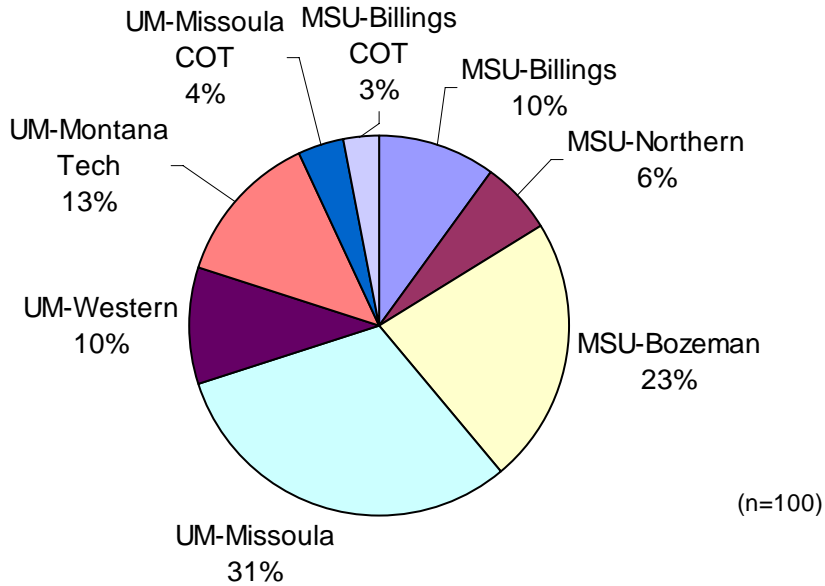
*"The GEAR UP program in general helped me prepare for college and made it a smooth transition for me."
~ 2006 Browning Graduate*

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 the 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?



Enrollment in the Montana University System



“The best thing that prepared me would have been the career day fair in Billings and the scholarship sheets that were handed out to us.”

~ 2006 GEAR UP Graduate

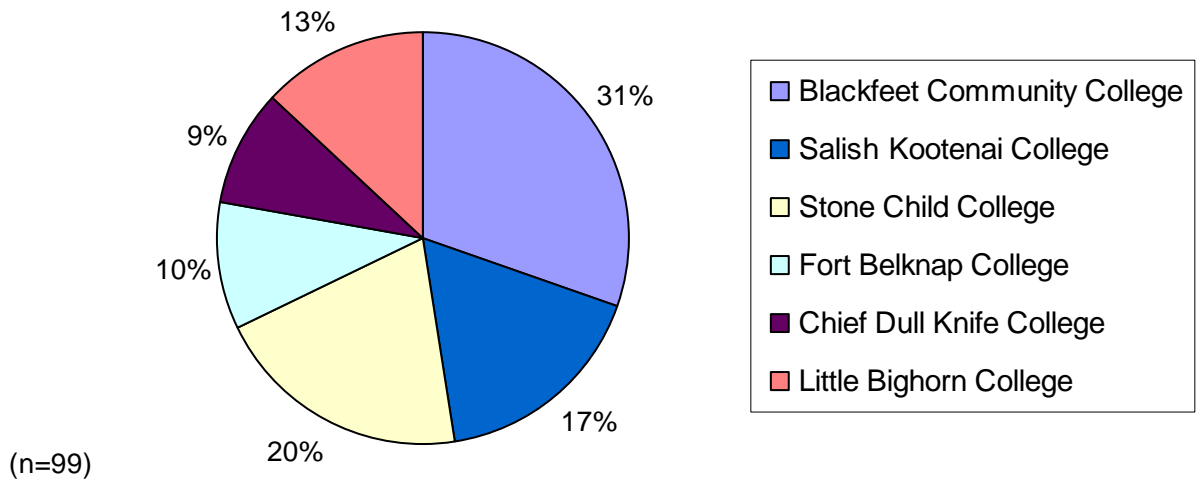


2005 Hardin Graduate

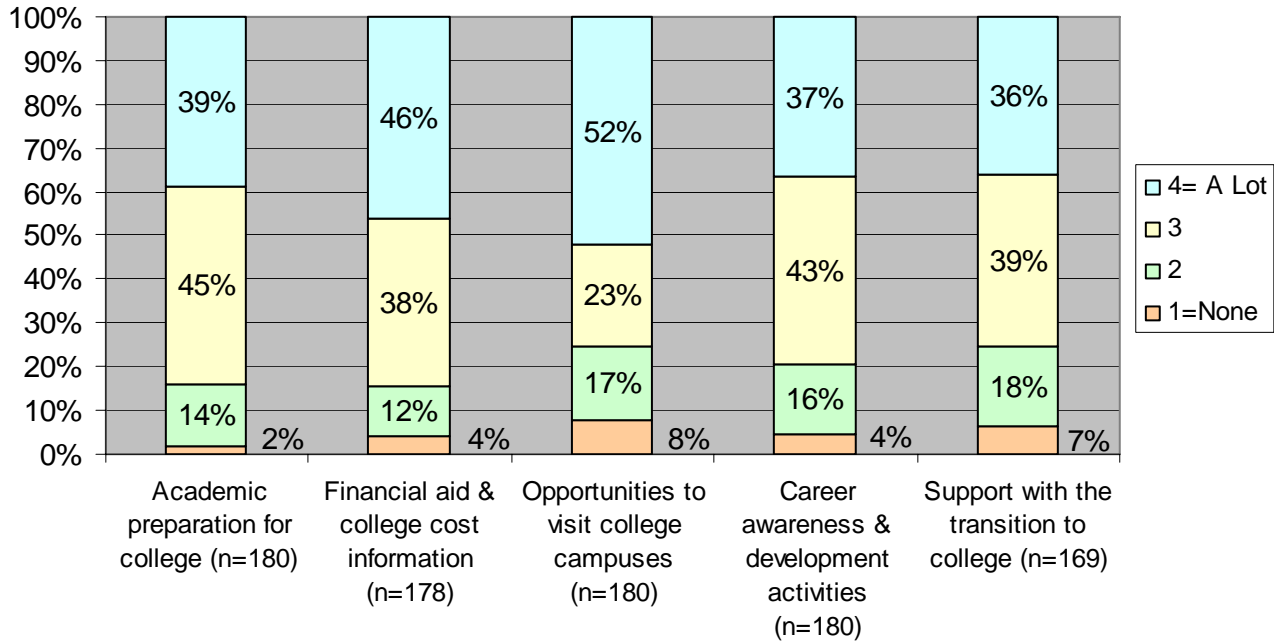
“In high school, it helped me best prepare for college by being active in high school activities (sports, clubs, etc.). This helped me by showing me how to manage my time.”

~ 2006 GEAR UP Graduate

Enrollment in the Tribal Colleges

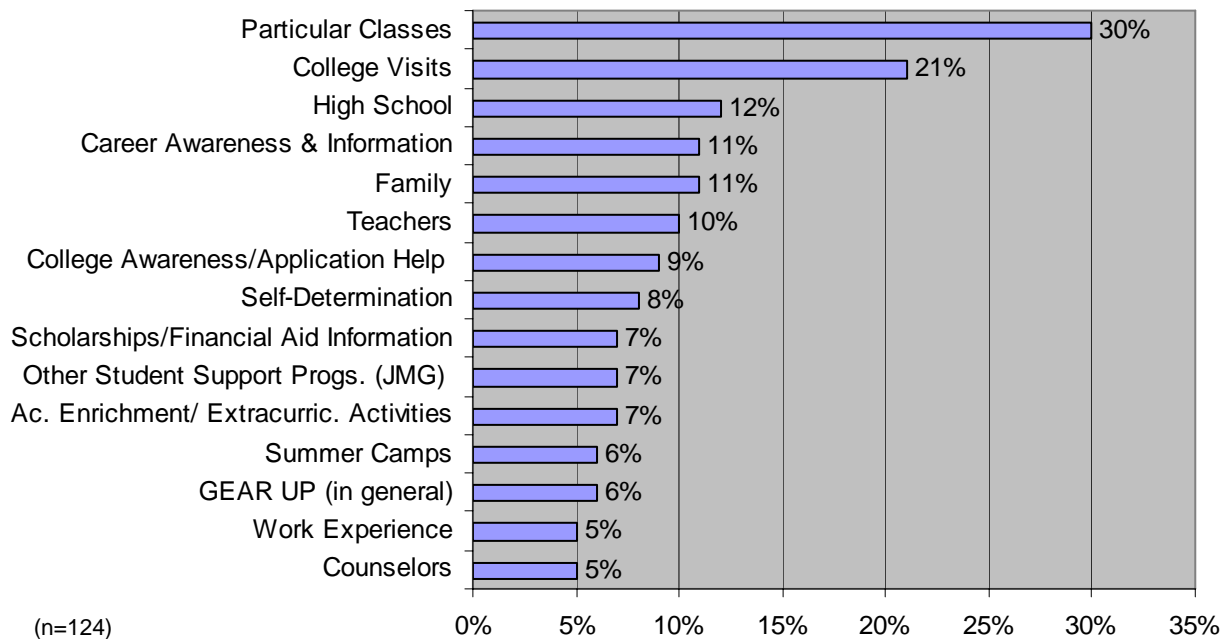


Student Perception of High School Preparation for College: "On a scale of 1 to 4, my high school provided sufficient..."

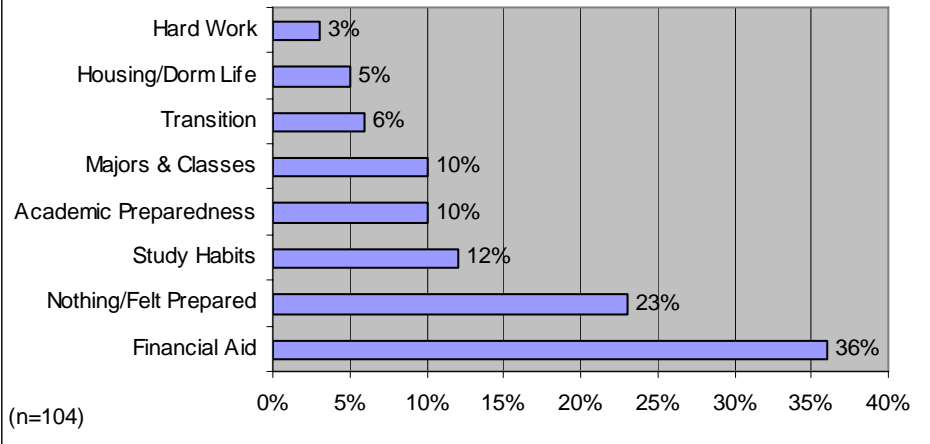


*"I had awesome teachers that really gave me great skills to survive in the outside world."
~ 2006 Hardin Graduate*

What Best Prepared Students for College?



What Students Wish They Had Known BEFORE Starting College



"I don't know if it is the information I lacked, but it is more of an understanding that I have to make all decisions myself."

~ 2006 Lincoln Graduate

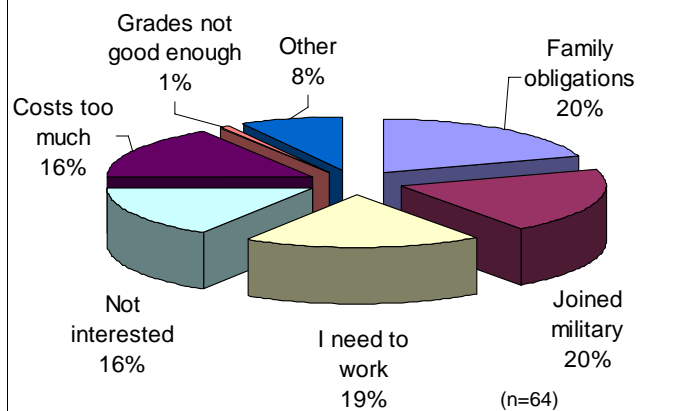
"Money is a biggy!"

~ 2006 Rocky Boy Graduate

"I Wish I Had Known..." - What Students Said

- That they really mean it when they say, "It's going to be a lot hard work".
- What kind of jobs or careers there are, and what major / majors I need for those career paths.
- How to organize my time and how to study more.
- To take time to apply for scholarships.
- To take more difficult math classes in high school.
- Basically just more information on financial aid and just stressing how important it is for college.
- The odds and ends of the fees and costs that seem to come out of nowhere that are hard to pay for.

Reasons for Not Attending College



Planned Majors

(n=127)

Health Care	21%
Business	14%
Sciences	9%
Liberal Arts	9%
Computer	8%
Education	7%
Technical	7%
Engineering	6%
Law Criminal Justice	5%
General Studies/Undecided	13%



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

Montana GEAR UP is currently in the second year of a six-year, \$18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This is Montana's second state GEAR UP grant. 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.