

What Appalachian Ohio high school seniors in 2008 encountered in preparing for college ...



ACCESS AND SUCCESS – APPALACHIAN OHIO

As part of a two-year Appalachian Ohio college access study, **1,145** high school seniors from the class of 2008 were surveyed twice during their senior year of high school. These students attended **25** high schools in **14** Appalachian Ohio counties. The **guidance counselors** at these high schools were also interviewed about their perspectives on college access in the region.



Project sponsors:

Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

Ohio Board of Regents

Ohio College Access Network

Ohio College Tech Prep

Selected findings from Access and Success – Appalachian Ohio Study. This study was conducted by Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and Center for Higher Education. For full reports go to:
<http://www.oache.org/downloads/index.php> or
<http://www.voinovichschool.ohio.edu/Publications.aspx>

BARRIERS in 1992 & 2008

Inroads have been made regarding Appalachian Ohio students' self-efficacy. Fewer respondents in 2008 indicate that **poor grades** and **perceived lack of intelligence** are major problems they have encountered regarding college than respondents of a similar survey conducted in 1992.

High School Seniors' Self-Reported Major Problems Encountered Regarding College 1992 and 2008			
Major problems or difficulties	2007-08 Fall*	2007-08 Spring*	1992 Study
Lack of Finances	64.8%	80.8%	58.1%
Lack of Financial Aid Information	39.4%	31.7%	38.1%
Lack of Information Regarding College Educational Programs	38.3%	31.3%	33.4%
Want Immediate Income	34.5%	38.9%	31.9%
Poor Grades	21.4%	16.8%	26.9%
Not Intelligent Enough	22.9%	14.4%	25.8%

*2008 percentages are based on subset of students completing both the fall and spring surveys (n=857)

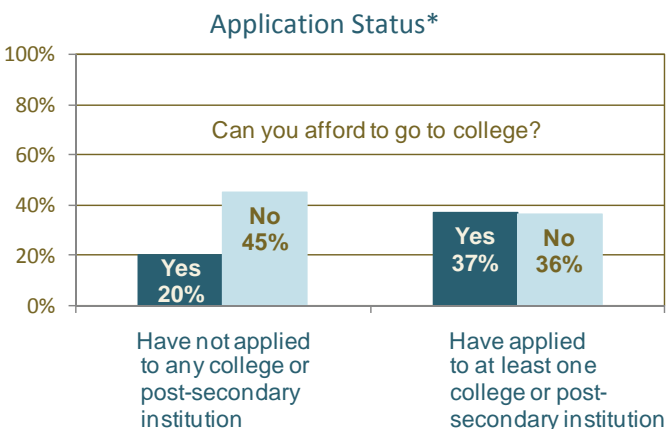
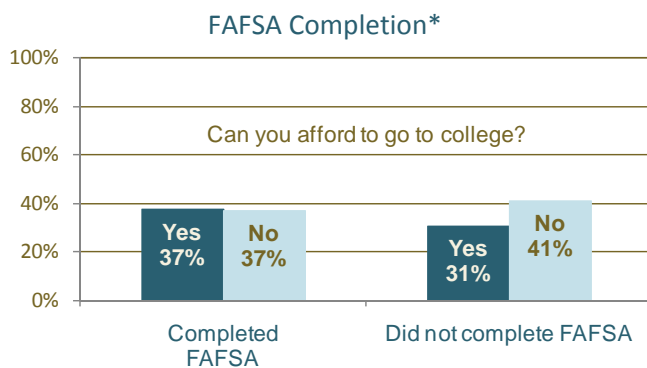
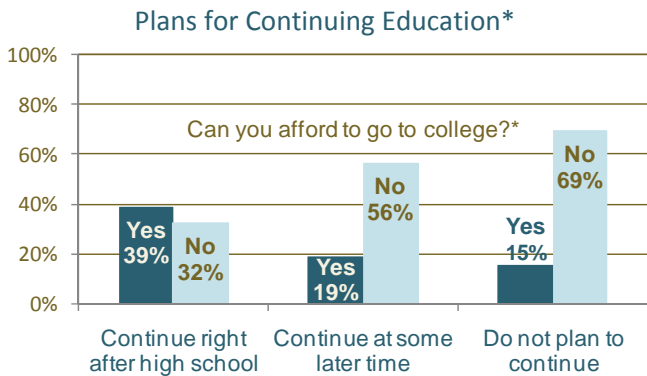
Lack of finances is a larger problem in 2008 than in 1992, and the percent of students encountering this problem increased from the fall to the spring of the students' senior year of high school, when over 4 out of 5 seniors surveyed indicated a major problem. **Lack of information** about college programs and financial aid remains a problem for Appalachian Ohio seniors, but affects fewer students by spring when decisions about college may have been made.

High school **guidance counselors** agree that financial considerations are the greatest factors in determining whether students pursue post-secondary education. Counselors responded that parent knowledge is crucial to identifying the needed financial resources, yet families are often overwhelmed by this aspect. Of particular concern is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

AFFORDABILITY

"Can You Afford to Go to College?"

Seniors' plans in the fall for after graduation are related to whether they think they can afford to go to college. Those not planning to continue their education were more than two times more likely to respond they cannot afford college than those continuing right after graduation. These early perceptions have an effect on students' preparations for college by April or May. Those in the spring who had not yet completed the FAFSA and those who had not yet applied to a post-secondary institution were more likely to have responded in the fall that they cannot afford college.

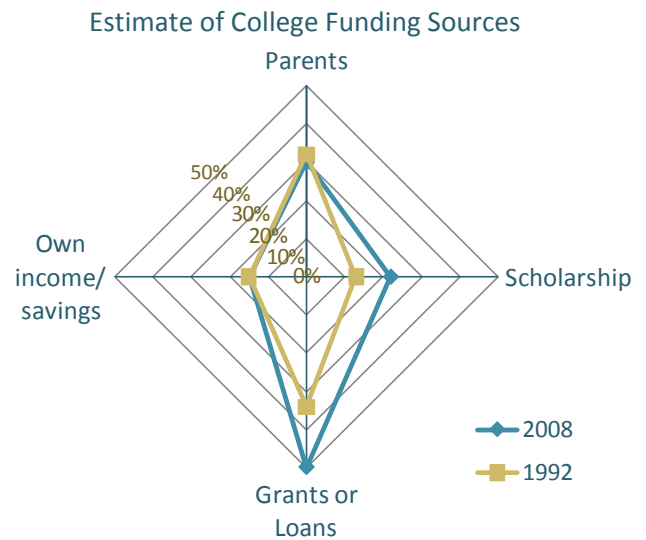


* Responses to, "Can you afford to go to college?" and plans for continuing education taken from Fall survey; FAFSA completion and application status based on Spring survey responses.

FINANCING

Paying for College

Compared to the 1992 study, seniors surveyed in 2008 estimated a larger percent of their college expenses will be covered by funding sources beyond their parents or their own income or savings. On average, seniors reported that over 20 percent of their expenses will be covered by scholarships, and half of their college funding will come from grants and loans. In 1992, the average estimates were 13 percent from scholarships and 34 percent from grants or loans.



Seeking Financial Aid

Nearly 25 percent of seniors surveyed in the spring who planned to continue their education right after high school had not yet completed the FAFSA. High school guidance counselors reported that the lack of available financial aid has had a tremendous impact on whether students will apply to college. Survey responses indicate the percentage of students who had completed the FAFSA by April or May was much smaller among those who had not applied to a four-year college or university.

FAFSA Completion by Highest Level of Institution where Student Applied as of April/May 2008

