

What Appalachian Ohio high school students say about careers, preparation, college location...

PREPAREDNESS

*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. Some findings related to careers, preparation, and college location choice are presented here.*

This study was conducted by Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and Center for Higher Education.

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. For full reports go to:
<http://www.oache.org/downloads/index.php> or
<http://www.voinovichschool.ohio.edu/Publications.aspx>

- A lower % of Appalachian Ohio students take a high school curriculum to prepare them for college than students in the rest of the state.
- Advanced Placement participation is lower in Appalachian Ohio than for the rest of the state.
- Inroads have been made regarding Appalachian Ohio students' self-efficacy. 72 percent of 2008 12th grade respondents report that they are educationally prepared for college, compared to 58 percent of the respondents in a similar 1992 survey.
- 70% of the 2008 high school seniors responding reported participating in a college prep or college tech prep curriculum, as compared to 57% of the 1992 seniors surveyed.
- Today's Appalachian high school students want to continue their education after high school. In the 2008 survey, 80% of the respondents planned to enroll in some form of postsecondary education right after high school. This compares to 65% of the 1992 high school survey respondents.
- Overall, high school seniors ranked lack of finances as their biggest problem or difficulty regarding college. Lack of information in terms of college programs and financial aid was also found to be high on the students' list of major problems or difficulties, followed by the desire for an immediate income.

COLLEGE LOCATION

Appalachian Ohio High School Seniors' Planned Location of College 1992 and 2008*		
Planned location of college	2008 High School Sample*	1992 High School Sample
Ohio college within 50 miles of home	52.7%	30.3%
Within Ohio but more than 50 miles from home	22.6%	33.6%
Out of state	16.1%	12.4%
Unsure	8.4%	23.2%

Note: Totals do not equal 100% for either sample because the "foreign country" category is not listed. Less than half a percent of both samples indicated plans to study abroad.

*Based on 2008 Spring survey

OCCUPATION/CAREER CHOICE

2008 Appalachian Ohio High School Seniors' Planned Occupation/Career Choice							
Occupation/Career Choice	All Respondents	Males	Females	Occupation/Career Choice	All Respondents	Males	Females
nursing/ancillary medicine/allied health	27.9%	15.0%	38.7%	engineering	3.8%	7.6%	0.7%
education	9.4%	6.2%	11.9%	psychology/sociology/ social work	3.6%	1.8%	5.0%
business	9.2%	11.2%	7.6%	medicine - physician, medical research	3.5%	1.8%	5.0%
undecided	8.1%	8.8%	7.3%	communication	2.2%	2.6%	1.8%
other/misc	8.1%	8.4%	7.9%	law - attorney/paralegal	2.1%	1.4%	2.6%
law enforcement/criminal justice/public safety	4.4%	7.0%	2.3%	military	2.0%	3.8%	0.5%
skilled hard trades - mechanic, carpentry, welding	4.4%	9.8%	0.0%	veterinary medicine/ vet tech	1.9%	0.4%	3.1%
computer science/ information technology	4.1%	6.8%	2.0%	agriculture	1.0%	1.8%	0.3%
sciences	3.9%	5.0%	3.0%	architect	0.5%	0.8%	0.3%

Note: STEM-related occupations are not delineated here. Several occupational categories listed here contain STEM-related careers.

* Based on 2008 Spring survey. (Respondent n=1,145 students in 25 high schools.)

