



High School Senior Opinion Survey

Spring 2008

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

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High School Senior Opinion Survey Spring 2008

Executive Summary

Background

- Twenty-eight high schools and 2,723 seniors participated in the 2008 survey.

College Intent

- Eighty-nine percent of students planned on enrolling in some type of postsecondary education upon graduation from high school; 71 percent in a four-year university. (**Table 1**)
- Those with lower academic achievement and fewer economic means were less likely to intend to enroll in college. (**Table 1**)
- Over half of students planned to earn a Master's degree or higher.

College Choice

- Financial concerns were unimportant in deciding to attend college or in choosing an institution. (**Table 3**)
- Still, 68 percent of college bound seniors reported some or major concern about their ability to pay for college. This concern was less for white, high income, and high academic achieving students. (**Table 6**)

Academic Preparation

- Over two-thirds of students (69 percent) felt prepared or very prepared for their plans after graduation.

- However, students did not frequently discuss school issues, including college plans, with their parents.
- Students reported having many resources available in the home and taking the necessary exams and high school courses for college entrance.

Financial Resources

- Even students who did not intend to attend college were generally aware of the financial aid available. (**Table 4**)
- Students overestimated both college costs and the increase in earnings from a college degree.
- Eighty-two percent of students planned to rely on parents or other relatives to pay for college, while 67 percent planned to use a part-time job and 61 percent the lottery scholarship. (**Table 7**)

Impact of the Lottery Scholarship

- Forty-seven percent of students said they expected to be eligible for the lottery scholarship.
- In the decision to attend college, 15 percent said it was the deciding factor, though for 85 percent the lottery scholarship had no impact.
- In deciding which college to attend, 69 percent said the lottery scholarship had no effect and for 17 percent it is the reason they will stay in-state.

Background

The *2008 Senior Opinions Survey* was distributed to graduating high school seniors in April 2008 to determine the importance of several variables in the college choice decision. A large stratified, random sample of high schools was selected to represent the over 50,000 seniors in the public and private secondary schools. The sample was stratified along the three grand divisions of the state, size of high school, and urban/ rural geographic areas to ensure a proper representation of high schools was included. This is the same method and same pool of schools as used in previous versions of this survey.

The survey was completed by 2,723 students from 28 Tennessee high schools. The demographics of student respondents were similar to all ACT tested high school seniors in 2008 across gender, race, sector, region, and size of high school (**Appendix A**). The survey results slightly over represent the low-income population. The responses given by students are explored below in the broad categories of college intent, college choice, academic preparation, financial resources, and impact of the lottery scholarship. Seven tables highlight the survey results and are attached in **Appendix B**.

The percentages provided represent the portion that answered the specific question; not every student answered every question. As specified, there were also questions pertaining only to those intending to go to college or those not intending to go to college. See **Appendix C** for complete survey results.

College Intent

Most students (89 percent) planned to enroll in postsecondary education after high school (**Table 1**). This statistic has remained consistent over the surveys previously administered by THEC. The rate was 87 percent in 2006, 85 percent in 2002, and 87 percent in 2000.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Most students (89 percent)
planned to enroll in some
type of postsecondary
education after high school.
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Among the 2008 high school seniors, 71 percent planned to attend a four-year college or university, 11 percent a two-year community college, and 7 percent a technical or vocational school. An additional 6 percent intended to work full-time, 2 percent to enter the armed forces, and 3 percent had other plans. These students underestimated the likelihood of attending a community college. Currently, Tennessee high school seniors who immediately enroll in higher education are distributed 67 percent at 4-year institutions, 32 percent at 2-year colleges, and 1 percent at less-than 2-year colleges (IPEDS 2006 Residence and Migration Survey).

College intentions differed by income and academic achievement. Students whose annual family income was \$36,000 or less were less likely to intend to enter a four-year university, but more likely to plan to work full-time or attend a two-year college or technical or vocational school. The same trends were also noted for students who scored a 20 or below on the ACT in comparison to their higher scoring counterparts.

College intentions varied little by race and ethnicity.

Over half (51 percent) of all students hoped to obtain a Master's, Ph.D., or professional degree. Another 41 percent planned to obtain a vocational certificate, Associate's, or Bachelor's degree. The remaining 8 percent of students chose earning a GED, high school diploma, or not finishing high school as their highest degree aspirations.

For students who did not intend to attend college, the top reasons related to their social network (**Table 2**). The most important reasons included; member of high school staff advised against college (77 percent thought important or very important), most of friends will not be going to college (77 percent), and no one in family has ever attended college (73 percent).

These students found financial reasons unimportant in their decision not to attend college including wanting to work to earn money (13 percent thought important or very important) and it costs too much to go to school (21 percent).

The academic qualifications for students who did not plan to enroll in higher education were lower their peers' qualifications, however. The average high school GPA was 2.84 compared to 3.29 and the average ACT score was 19.0 compared to 23.7. Only 20 percent of those who did not intend to go to college took one or more AP courses compared to 60 percent for those who did intend to go to college. Students that did not intend to enroll in higher education were also more likely to be

low income and have parents who never attended college.

For those who did intend to enroll in college, 54 percent began considering college in elementary school, 23 percent in middle school, and 22 percent in high school.

Of those students who planned to enroll in college, most planned to attend college full-time (89 percent). In addition, most students had chosen a field of study by spring of their senior year of high school. Only 14 percent of students were undecided. The fields of study students selected varied and 26 percent planned to go into a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) field.

College Choice

Once students decided to attend college, many factors determined the institutions to which they applied and eventually enrolled (**Table 3**).

The most important reasons included parents or siblings attended the same school (80 percent said important or very important) and college recruiters convinced them to go there (73 percent).

Unimportant factors included the college offers the kind of program that they need (7 percent said important or very important) and cost that they could afford (14 percent).

Academic Preparation

Over two-thirds (69 percent) of students felt prepared or very prepared for what they chose to do after they graduate.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
**Over two-thirds of students
(69 percent) felt prepared
for their post-high school
plans.**



Students had many resources available to them in the home. About 90 percent of students had a computer and internet access, up from 70 percent in 2006.

Although 74 percent of students resided in a home with two parents or guardians, only approximately one-third of those who responded said they discussed grades and applying to college with their parents.

Students reported following the necessary steps to attend college. The majority (80 percent) selected a university curriculum path in high school. More than half of students took the PSAT (63 percent). In addition, 54 percent took at least one AP course. In 2006, 34 percent had taken the PSAT and 27 percent had taken one or more AP courses.

Almost two-thirds achieved the academic HOPE requirements. Sixty percent reported having a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher and 60 percent an ACT score of 21 or higher.

Financial Resources

Students who did not intend to go to college were asked if they were aware of various types of financial aid (**Table 4**). Of these students, 81 percent heard of the lottery scholarship, 70 percent the Federal Pell grant, and 56 percent the

Tennessee Student Assistance Award (state need-based grant).

All students were asked to estimate the cost of attending various higher education institutions. Students were aware of the college cost components, but tended to overestimate these costs (**Table 5**). Approximately half of students overestimated the cost of attending a Tennessee public university and 25 percent overestimated by \$5,000 or more. One-third overestimated the cost of attending a Tennessee public community college, 18 percent overestimated by \$5,000 or more.

Of those who intended to go to college, 68 percent had some or major concerns about their ability to pay for college (**Table 6**). This concern was more prevalent for minority students than white students (76 percent compared to 65 percent). Eighty-four percent of those with an annual family income of \$36,000 or less reported concerns compared to 60 percent for their higher income peers. Those with a 20 or lower on the ACT were more concerned about their ability to pay for college than their higher scoring peers (79 percent compared to 62 percent).



**Sixty-eight percent of
college bound seniors had
concerns about their ability
to pay for their education.**



For students who intended to go to college, they planned to use many sources to pay for college attendance (**Table 7**). The most commonly cited resources included parents and other relatives (82 percent of students), a part-time job (67 percent), lottery scholarship

(61 percent), college scholarship (60 percent), and personal savings (52 percent). Fewer students relied on a full-time job while in college (16 percent of students), the TSAA state need-based grant (18 percent), a Federal loan (24 percent), or the Federal Pell grant (24 percent).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**College bound seniors
 planned to pay for college
 with help from parents (80
 percent), a part-time job
 (67 percent), the lottery
 scholarship (61 percent),
 and other sources.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Among those who responded, 80 percent completed or planned to complete the FAFSA. For those who intended to go college the rate was 84 percent.

Many students planned to use the lottery scholarship to fund their education and the majority expected to be eligible for the award. Forty-seven percent of students expected to be eligible for TELS. Another 15 percent were unsure of their eligibility. Only 17 percent did not expect to be eligible. This corresponds to the student reported GPA and ACT scores in other sections of the survey. In 2006, 44 percent expected to be eligible for TELS and 39 percent were unsure about their eligibility, perhaps indicating an increased understanding of the lottery scholarship eligibility requirements. Typically, only 33 percent of high school seniors enroll in Tennessee higher education and receive the lottery scholarship.

The survey asked students to estimate the value of a college degree on their

annual earnings by age 25. Students understood the increased earnings potential gained from a college degree, but overestimated the magnitude of this difference. The income estimates for a 25-year old who had not attended college were underestimated by 71 percent of the students. The estimates for the annual income of a 25-year old who graduated from a 4-year university were overestimated by 39 percent of the respondents (annual income from College Board *College Pays*). Similar results were found in the 2006 survey.

Impact of the Lottery Scholarship

Among the students who responded, 85 percent said the lottery scholarship had no impact on their decision to attend college; 79 percent would have attended with or without the scholarship and an additional 6 percent would not have attended with or without the scholarship.

Fifteen percent of students cited a big impact, however, and said the lottery scholarship was the deciding factor in their decision to attend college.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**For 15 percent of students,
 the lottery scholarship was
 the deciding factor in their
 decision to go to college.**
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Similarly, 69 percent of students said the lottery scholarship had no effect on what college they would attend; 40 percent of students would have attended the same college in Tennessee and 19 percent would have attended the same out-of-state college.

However, for 23 percent of students the lottery scholarship had a big impact. Seventeen percent of students were persuaded to stay in Tennessee instead of attending an institution out-of-state.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Seventeen percent of students said the lottery scholarship was the reason they will attend an in-state instead of an out-of-state institution.
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Conclusion

The responses of high school seniors portrayed an optimistic outlook for plans after graduation. Most students planned to enroll in higher education, attend full-time, and obtain a Master's or professional degree. There are several instances where the intentions in high school do not match reality, however.

- Few students (11 percent) intended to enroll in a community college. Historically, however, many more do so. Thirty-two percent of all Tennessee high school graduates who enroll in higher education immediately after graduation attend a community college.
- Eighty percent of students reported taking the university curriculum path in high school. An analysis by ACT indicates that only about two-thirds of ACT tested high school seniors took ACT's recommended college preparatory course sequence in high school. Further, only 17 percent met

ACT college readiness benchmarks. (2006-07 ACT Feedback Reports)

- The majority of students overestimated the costs of college attendance, some by substantial margins.
- Although students overestimated college costs, financial concerns reportedly did not effect their decision to attend college or where to enroll. Students were, however, concerned about how they would pay for college.

In sum, there are inconsistencies between high school seniors' plans and their post-graduation behavior. This disconnect may demonstrate unreasonable high school goals, an information gap, or unforeseen barriers to higher education participation.

The responses of high school seniors also clearly identified several obstacles to higher education participation. The vast majority of students planned to enroll in some type of higher education and understood the value of a degree. Differences persisted, however, across income groups and achievement levels.

Students were concerned about their ability to pay for college but generally overestimated the cost. Students planned to use a variety of revenue streams to pay tuition but were heavily dependent upon their parents, part-time employment, and the lottery scholarship to assist with these costs.

Students overestimated the earnings potential of college graduates. This lack of accurate information has important ramifications for students who take out education loans and may be unable to

repay them because their earnings are less than expected.

In making the decision to attend college and where to enroll, students relied on their social network including high school staff, college recruiters, friends, and family members. Students were less likely to use an objective criterion such as cost, location, program, or major availability. While college aspirations have been elevated through public awareness campaigns and public policy, the college choice decision and ensuring the right student and institution fit could also be addressed in these campaigns.

The results from the *2008 High School Senior Opinions Survey* are positive, but identify several areas for improvement in the high school to college pipeline.

Appendix A

Comparison of Survey Respondents to Population

		High School Senior Opinions Survey Graduating Class of 2008	ACT Tested Tennessee High School Graduating Class of 2008
Gender	Male	45.4%	44.8%
	Female	54.6%	55.2%
Race	Black	14.9%	19.5%
	Hispanic	2.3%	2.3%
	Asian	3.1%	1.8%
	White	73.5%	71.9%
	Indian	1.0%	0.3%
	Multiracial	2.5%	1.3%
	Other	2.7%	2.8%
Sector	Public	84.2%	87.6%
	Private	15.8%	12.4%
Region	East	38.0%	33.0%
	Middle	27.9%	38.6%
	West	34.1%	28.4%
HS Size	Avg. Senior Class Size	135	92
Income	\$18,000 or less	9.7%	10.7%
	\$18,001-\$24,000	5.7%	7.5%
	\$24,001-\$30,000	6.3%	6.6%
	\$30,001-\$36,000	7.2%	6.2%
	\$36,000-\$60,000	21.7%	20.9%
	\$60,001-\$80,000	14.0%	11.3%
	\$80,001-\$100,000	11.8%	8.2%
	\$100,001 or above	23.5%	10.5%

Appendix B

Table 1. Plans after High School

	Total	Race/ Ethnicity			Annual Family Income		ACT Score	
		White	Black	Other	Less than \$36,000	\$36,000 and Above	1 to 20	21 to 36
<i>Number of Responses</i>	2,383	1,664	387	258	594	1,440	505	1,207
4-year College	71%	71%	74%	72%	56%	79%	60%	92%
2-year College	11%	11%	12%	11%	16%	9%	23%	4%
Technical School	7%	8%	4%	5%	11%	4%	6%	1%*
Work Full-Time	6%	7%	5%	4%	9%	4%	6%	1%
Other	3%	2%	3%*	5%	5%	1%	3%	1%
Armed Forces	2%	2%	2%	3%*	3%	2%	3%	0%*

*Less than 10 students

Table 2. Reasons for Not Attending College

	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Member of high school staff advised me against college	46%	31%	12%	10%
Most of my friends will not be going to college	35%	42%	12%	11%
No one in my family has ever attended college	37%	36%	13%	14%
No college nearby that I want to go to	26%	40%	18%	16%
I want to enter the armed forces	50%	16%	14%	21%
College is not related to my future occupation	24%	38%	20%	18%
Would not know what to major in	20%	35%	27%	17%
I probably could not do well in college	17%	37%	30%	16%
I want to go to a technical, vocational, or business school	22%	25%	30%	23%
I need to help support my family	16%	27%	29%	28%
I am tired of school	9%	33%	24%	34%
It costs too much	6%	15%	38%	41%
I want to work and earn some money	5%	8%	37%	50%

Table 3. Reasons for College Choice Decision
Percent reporting reason as "important" or "very important"

Top Five "Important" Reasons			Top Five "Unimportant" Reasons		
1	Parents or siblings attended the same school	80%	1	College offers the kind of program I need	7%
2	College recruiters convinced me to go there	73%	2	Cost that I could afford	14%
3	Rankings in national magazines	69%	3	Superior program in my intended major	19%
4	Religious affiliation of the school	67%	4	I have a scholarship to go there	24%
5	Near enough that I could live at home	65%	5	Academic reputation of the college	24%
	My friends are going/ have attended there	65%		Ease in obtaining financial aid/ loans	24%
	My parents wanted me to go there	65%			

Table 4. Knowledge of Financial Aid Resources

	YES- I have heard of this source of financial aid.	NO- I have NOT heard of this source of financial aid.
Lottery scholarship	81%	19%
Pell grant	70%	30%
TSAA/ state grant	56%	44%
Scholarships offered by local organizations (churches, Rotary Club, etc.)	51%	49%
Federal loan (Stafford/Perkins)	50%	50%
Scholarships offered by individual colleges	45%	55%
ROTC scholarship	35%	65%

Note: This question was for those not intending to go to college

Table 5. Student Estimates of Full Tuition and Required Fees

	\$0-\$2,500	\$2,500-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$14,999	\$15,000-\$19,999	\$20,000-\$29,999	\$30,000 or more
TN Comm. College	38%	29%	15%	8%	5%	2%	3%
Austin Peay	11%	16%	26%	20%	14%	8%	5%
Middle Tennessee	8%	18%	29%	23%	12%	6%	4%
Tennessee State	9%	20%	29%	21%	11%	6%	4%
UT Chattanooga	6%	13%	28%	24%	16%	8%	5%
Univ. of Mississippi	4%	8%	16%	27%	22%	15%	8%
UT Knoxville	6%	8%	24%	27%	18%	11%	7%
Fisk University	8%	13%	19%	22%	18%	13%	9%
Western KY Univ.	4%	9%	19%	23%	24%	14%	6%
Harvard University	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	8%	73%
Vanderbilt University	3%	3%	5%	8%	11%	19%	52%

Note: the actual tuition and fee cost is in bold

Table 6. Concerns about Ability to Pay for College

	Total	Race/ Ethnicity			Annual Family Income		ACT Score	
		White	Black	Other	\$36,000 or less	Greater than \$36,000	1 to 21	21 to 36
None	32%	35%	18%	33%	16%	38%	21%	39%
Some	51%	50%	55%	47%	54%	50%	54%	51%
Major	17%	14%	26%	19%	30%	12%	25%	11%

Note: For those intending to go to college

Table 7. Sources of Financial Support

	YES- I will pay part of my college expenses from this source	NO- I will NOT pay for part of my college expenses from this source
Parents or other relative	82%	18%
Part-time job while in college	67%	33%
Lottery scholarship	61%	39%
College scholarship	60%	40%
Personal savings	52%	48%
Other private scholarship	36%	65%
College work study	31%	69%
Other loans	31%	70%
Pell grant	24%	76%
Federal loan (Stafford/Perkins)	24%	76%
TSAA/ state grant	18%	82%
Full-time job while in college	16%	84%

Appendix C

DIRECTIONS

1. Please read carefully each question and all possible responses before selecting your answer.
2. Please fill in the bubble on the answer sheet that best fits your answer for each question. Please provide only ONE response for each question, unless the question requests otherwise.
3. Please respond thoughtfully. The results from this survey will be used to better understand opinions of high school seniors across the state.

1. What do you plan to do after you finish high school?	<u>N= 2,383</u>	<u>90% CI</u>
1 Go to work full-time	6.4%	(5.6% - 7.2%)
2 Go to four-year college or university	70.6%	(69.0% - 72.1%)
3 Go to two-year community college	11.2%	(10.1% - 12.2%)
4 Go to technical or vocational school	7.2%	(6.3% - 8.0%)
5 Go into the armed forces	2.1%	(1.7% - 2.6%)
6 Other	2.5%	(2.0% - 3.0%)

2. When did you begin to consider attending college?	<u>N= 2,375</u>	<u>90% CI</u>
0 I have never considered going to college	3.2%	(2.6% - 3.7%)
1 in elementary school	49.3%	(47.6% - 51.0%)
2 in middle school	22.8%	(21.4% - 24.2%)
3 in my freshman year of high school	10.7%	(9.7% - 11.8%)
4 in my sophomore year of high school	4.3%	(3.6% - 5.0%)
5 in my junior year of high school	6.0%	(5.2% - 6.8%)
6 in my senior year of high school	3.7%	(3.1% - 4.4%)

3. Please respond YES or NO to each of the following statements about your college plans.

	N=	YES	NO	90% CI
a. I plan to apply to college(s)	2,330	84%	16%	(83.2% - 85.7%)
b. I have already applied to college(s)	2,348	81%	19%	(80.0% - 82.7%)
c. I have already been accepted to college(s)	2,348	73%	27%	(71.1% - 74.2%)
d. I have decided for sure to attend college	2,329	88%	12%	(87.4% - 89.6%)
e. I have decided for sure to attend college next fall	2,347	82%	18%	(80.4% - 83.0%)
f. I have decided for sure which college I will attend	2,357	76%	24%	(75.1% - 77.9%)

4. How many colleges did you apply to?	<u>N=2,393</u>		
0 .....None	15%	5 .....5	6%
1 .....1	22%	6 .....6	4%
2 .....2	18%	7 .....7	3%
3 .....3	15%	8 .....8	2%
4 .....4	12%	9 .....9 or more	4%

- 5. If your GPA, ACT scores, and costs were irrelevant, which colleges would you most like to attend.** Please use the list on the last three pages of this booklet, to record the college code. For example, 001 = Austin Peay State University.

N= 1,935 for first choice, 1,664 for second choice, and 1,503 for third choice

- a. First Choice: UTK (9% first choice and 9% overall), 42% TN public, 42% out-state school
- b. Second Choice: ETSU (6% first choice and 5% overall), 33% TN public, 39% out-state
- c. Third Choice: MTSU (4% first choice and 4% overall), 28% TN public, 37% out-state

IF YOU ARE PLANING TO ATTEND COLLEGE, PLEASE SKIP THE NEXT SECTION AND CONTINUE ON TO Q. 8.

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING.

6. Mark the response which best indicates the importance of each of the following items on your decision not to attend college.

I do not want to go to college because...	N=	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	90% CI Imp. & Very
a. I am tired of school	217	9%	33%	24%	34%	(36.4% - 47.9%)
b. It costs too much	217	6%	15%	38%	41%	(16.2% - 25.3%)
c. I want to work and earn some	216	5%	8%	37%	50%	(8.8% - 16.2%)
d. No college nearby that I want to	211	26%	40%	18%	16%	(21.1% - 31.1%)
e. I probably could not do well in	210	17%	37%	30%	16%	(48.6% - 60.0%)
f. Would not know what to major in	210	20%	35%	27%	17%	(50.0% - 61.4%)
g. Member of high school staff advised me against college	213	46%	31%	12%	10%	(73.2% - 82.6%)
h. College is not related to my future occupation	209	24%	38%	20%	18%	(56.2% - 67.3%)
i. Most of my friends will not be going to college	209	35%	42%	12%	11%	(72.2% - 81.9%)
j. I need to help support my family	211	16%	27%	29%	28%	(37.0% - 48.3%)
k. No one in my family has ever attended college	209	37%	36%	13%	14%	(67.6% - 77.8%)
l. I want to enter the armed forces	209	50%	16%	14%	21%	(60.1% - 71.0%)
m. I want to go to a technical, vocational, or business school	210	22%	25%	30%	23%	(41.4% - 52.8%)

7. Please indicate whether or not you are familiar with the sources of financial aid below.

	N =	YES- I have heard of this source of financial aid.	NO- I have NOT heard of this source of financial aid.	90% CI Yes
a Pell grant	209	45.5%	54.5%	(39.8% - 51.2%)
b Federal loan (Stafford/Perkins)	207	50.7%	49.3%	(45.0% - 56.5%)
c TSAA/ state grant	208	34.6%	65.4%	(29.2% - 40.1%)
d Lottery scholarship	206	50.5%	49.5%	(44.7% - 56.3%)
e Scholarships offered by individual colleges	208	80.8%	19.2%	(76.2% - 85.3%)
f Scholarships offered by local organizations (churches, Rotary Club, etc.)	210	69.5%	30.5%	(64.3% - 74.8%)
g ROTC scholarship	209	55.5%	44.5%	(49.8% - 61.2%)

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE, PLEASE SKIP TO Q. 16 ON PAGE 4.

8. Please mark up to three colleges to which you applied or plan to apply.

Please use the list on the last three pages of this booklet, to record the college code.

For example, 001 = Austin Peay State University.

N= 1,600 first choice, 1,246 second choice, 982 third choice, 3,828 total

57% first choice in TN public sector, 50% total

- a. First College: UTK (12% of first choice, 11% of total)
- b. Second College: ETSU (9% of first choice, 7% of total)
- c. Third College: MTSU (6% of first choice, 4% of total)
UM (6% of first choice, 4% of total)

9. Of the three colleges marked above, please mark up to three colleges to which you were accepted. Please use the list on the last three pages of this booklet, to record the college code. For example, 001 = Austin Peay State University.

N= 1,342 first college, 838 second college, 518 third college, 2,698 total

28% first choice in TN public sector, 34% total

- a. First College: UTK (11% of total)
- b. Second College: ETSU (7% of total)
- c. Third College: MTSU (5% of total)

10. Where do you plan to attend college, please mark in the code for that college.

If you do not know where you will attend college next fall, please bubble in "0 0 0". N= 1,397
 College I will attend next year: 59% TN public, 26% out-state, 13% TN private 13% UTK, 9% ETSU, 6% UM, 5% MTSU, 3% NSTCC, 3% UTC, 3% TTU, 3% WSCC, 3% UTM, 2% PSCC

11. Please mark the response that best indicates the importance of each of the following items when you will consider making your college choice decision.

	Number of Responses	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a	1,821	3%	11%	37%	49%
b	1,812	31%	34%	23%	13%
c	1,804	6%	34%	44%	15%
d	1,807	1%	6%	33%	59%
e	1,805	9%	44%	35%	11%
f	1,798	19%	50%	26%	5%
g	1,801	19%	46%	28%	7%
h	1,805	17%	35%	34%	14%
i	1,796	11%	43%	34%	12%
j	1,798	13%	45%	31%	11%
k	1,793	9%	38%	38%	15%
l	1,796	2%	17%	45%	36%
m	1,771	12%	40%	30%	17%
n	1,792	4%	32%	45%	19%
o	1,787	4%	26%	48%	21%
p	1,793	16%	37%	32%	15%
q	1,793	25%	39%	26%	10%
r	1,787	14%	37%	31%	17%
s	1,787	17%	35%	33%	15%
t	1,783	5%	19%	36%	40%
u	1,776	4%	20%	38%	37%
v	1,784	11%	19%	30%	39%
w	1,784	21%	44%	27%	8%
x	1,780	9%	44%	35%	12%
y	1,782	4%	20%	51%	26%
z	1,784	30%	50%	15%	5%
aa	1,776	22%	45%	25%	9%
bb	1,778	16%	44%	29%	10%
cc	1,775	15%	48%	31%	7%
dd	1,770	6%	28%	51%	15%
ee	1,778	5%	21%	23%	20%
ff	1,781	24%	49%	20%	7%

12. Do you plan to attend college on a full-time or part-time basis?

	N= 1,848	90% CI
1 .....Full Time	89.1%	(87.9% - 90.3%)
2 .....Part Time	10.9%	(9.7% - 12.1%)

13. Once you enter school in the fall, which of the categories below best matches your intended major or area of study? N= 1,830 90% CI

1 Humanities (English, History, Foreign Language, Philosophy, etc.)	13.1%	(11.8% - 14.4%)
2 Social Sciences (Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, etc.)	8.7%	(7.6% - 9.8%)
3 Natural or Physical Sciences (Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	14.0%	(12.7% - 15.4%)
4 Engineering / Mathematics	9.1%	(8.0% - 10.2%)
5 Computer Science / Technology	3.3%	(2.6% - 4.0%)
6 Business or Marketing	15.5%	(14.1% - 16.9%)
7 Education	7.1%	(6.1% - 8.1%)
8 Allied Health or Nursing	15.0%	(13.6% - 16.3%)
9 Undecided	14.3%	(13.0% - 15.6%)

14. Do you have any concerns about your ability to pay for college? N=2,005 90% CI

1 .....None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	31.8%	(30.1% - 33.6%)
2 .....Some (but I will probably have enough funds)	51.0%	(49.1% - 52.9%)
3 .....Major (not sure I will have enough funds to complete college)	17.2%	(15.7% - 18.6%)

15. The following questions ask you to assess how you will pay for your college expenses. Please answer YES or NO to whether you will use the following sources to pay for college.

	N=	YES- I will pay part of my college expenses from this source	NO- I will NOT pay for part of my college expenses from this source	90% CI Yes
a Parents or other relative	1,834	81.8%	18.2%	(80.4% - 83.3%)
b Personal savings	1,804	51.7%	48.3%	(49.7% - 53.6%)
c Part-time job while in college	1,801	66.8%	33.2%	(65.0% - 68.6%)
d Full-time job while in college	1,777	16.2%	83.8%	(14.8% - 17.6%)
e Pell grant	1,777	24.0%	76.0%	(22.3% - 25.6%)
f Lottery scholarship	1,795	60.9%	39.1%	(59.0% - 62.8%)
g TSAA/ state grant	1,768	18.0%	82.0%	(16.5% - 19.5%)
h College scholarship	1,790	59.7%	40.3%	(27.8% - 61.6%)
i College work study	1,783	31.0%	69.0%	(29.2% - 32.8%)
j Other private scholarship	1,774	35.5%	64.5%	(33.6% - 37.4%)
k Federal loan (Stafford/Perkins)	1,773	24.0%	76.0%	(22.2% - 25.6%)
l Other loans	1,766	30.5%	69.5%	(28.6% - 32.3%)

16. Did you, or do you plan to, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? N= 2,333 90% CI

1 .....Yes	79.6%	(78.3% - 81.0%)
2 .....No	20.4%	(19.0% - 21.7%)

17. Are you eligible, or do you expect be eligible, to receive a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship? N= 2,358 90% CI

0 .....No	16.8%	(15.5% - 18.1%)
1 .....Yes, HOPE Award	39.5%	(37.9% - 41.2%)
2 .....Yes, HOPE Award with Need Supplement	3.6%	(2.9% - 4.2%)
3 .....Yes, General Assembly Merit Scholarship	2.6%	(2.0% - 3.1%)
4 .....Yes, Access Award	0.3%	(0.01% - 0.5%)
5 .....Yes, Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant	0.6%	(0.3% - 0.9%)
6 .....Yes, but I'm not sure which one	14.8%	(13.6% - 16.0%)
7 .....Don't know	21.8%	(20.4% - 23.2%)

18. Did your eligibility for the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship have an impact on your decision whether or not to ATTEND college? N=2,331 90% CI

1 ...No impact: I will attend college with or without the lottery scholarship	78.9%	(77.5% - 80.2%)
2 ...Big impact: I will not attend college without the lottery scholarship	11.9%	(10.8% - 13.0%)
3 ...No impact: I never planned to attend college with or without the scholarship	6.4%	(5.6% - 7.3%)
4 ...Big impact: I do not plan to attend college but would if I received a lottery scholarship	2.7%	(2.2% - 3.3%)

19. Which statement best reflects the impact that lottery scholarship eligibility will have on WHERE you will attend college? N= 2,319 90% CI

0 No impact: I will not attend college	9.7%	(8.7% - 10.7%)
1 No impact: I will attend the same college in Tennessee (TN)	39.8%	(38.1% - 41.4%)
2 No impact: I will attend the same out-of-state college	19.1%	(17.8% - 20.5%)
3 Big impact: I will now attend a Tennessee college instead of an out-of-state college	16.9%	(15.6% - 18.2%)
4 Big impact: I will now attend a private college in TN instead of a TN public college	2.7%	(2.1% - 3.2%)
5 Big impact: I will now attend a different public college in Tennessee	2.5%	(1.9% - 3.0%)
6 Big impact: I will now attend a different private college in Tennessee	0.7%	(0.4% - 1.0%)
7 I don't know where I will attend college yet	8.6%	(7.6% - 9.5%)

20. What is the highest academic degree that you hope to obtain? N= 2,341 90% CI

0 Will not finish high school	0.9%	(0.6% - 1.3%)
1 High School	6.3%	(5.5% - 7.1%)
2 GED	1.2%	(0.9% - 1.6%)
3 Vocational Certificate	4.0%	(3.3% - 4.7%)
4 2-year college degree (Associate's)	6.5%	(5.7% - 7.3%)
5 4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	30.0%	(28.5% - 31.6%)
6 Master's degree	27.9%	(26.3% - 29.4%)
7 Ph.D. or other advanced professional degree (law, medicine, etc.)	23.2%	(21.7% - 24.6%)

21. How well do you feel that your high school has prepared you for what you have chosen to do upon graduation from high school? N= 2,298 90% CI

1 .....Very Prepared	34.0%	(32.4% - 35.7%)
2 .....Prepared	35.3%	(33.7% - 36.9%)
3 .....Somewhat Prepared	24.2%	(22.7% - 25.7%)
4 .....Not Prepared At All	6.5%	(5.6% - 7.3%)

The following questions are related to the costs to attend college, the wages associated with attending college, and your current household and extra-curricular activities.

22. How much do you think it costs to attend the following colleges full-time per year? (Think of the cost of full tuition, not including room and board, food, books, etc. Do not adjust for financial aid.) N= 1,976- 2,015 for items a through k

	\$0- \$2,500	\$2,500- \$4,999	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$14,999	\$15,000- \$19,999	\$20,000- \$29,999	\$30,000 or more	Over Estimated	Under Estimated	Correct
a Austin Peay	11%	16%	26%	20%	14%	8%	5%	73%	11%	16%
b Fisk University	8%	13%	19%	22%	18%	13%	9%	61%	20%	19%
c Harvard University	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	8%	73%	90%	6%	4%
d Middle Tennessee	8%	18%	29%	23%	12%	6%	4%	45%	26%	29%
e TN Comm. College	38%	29%	15%	8%	5%	2%	3%	18%	67%	15%
f Tennessee State	9%	20%	29%	21%	11%	6%	4%	20%	59%	21%
g Univ.of Mississippi	4%	8%	16%	27%	22%	15%	8%	45%	28%	27%
h UT Chattanooga	6%	13%	28%	24%	16%	8%	5%	13%	71%	16%
i UT Knoxville	6%	8%	24%	27%	18%	11%	7%	18%	64%	18%
j Vanderbilt University	3%	3%	5%	8%	11%	19%	52%	n/a	48%	52%
k Western KY Univ.	4%	9%	19%	23%	24%	14%	6%	n/a	94%	6%

23. About how much money do you think that you would earn per year (by the age of 25) if you did not go to college and worked full-time?

N= 2,198 71% underestimated, 18% overestimated

1 \$18,000 or less	26%	5 \$36,001 - \$45,000	7%
2 \$18,001 - \$24,000	26%	6 \$45,001 - \$60,000	5%
3 \$24,001 - \$30,000	18%	7 \$60,001 - \$80,000	2%
4 \$30,001 - \$36,000	12%	8 \$80,001 or above	4%

24. About how much money do you think that you would earn per year (by the age of 25) if you graduated from a 4-year college or university?

N= 2,181 38% underestimated, 39% over

1	\$18,000 or less	3%	5	\$36,001 - \$45,000	14%
2	\$18,001 - \$24,000	2%	6	\$45,001 - \$60,000	23%
3	\$24,001 - \$30,000	7%	7	\$60,001 - \$80,000	20%
4	\$30,001 - \$36,000	12%	8	\$80,001 or above	19%

25. For the items below, please indicate how frequently you have discussed these issues with your parents or guardians.

	N =	Very Frequently	Frequently	Somewhat Frequently	Not Frequently
a. High school course selection	2,284	15%	23%	35%	27%
b. School activities (clubs, sports, etc.)	2,269	19%	24%	30%	27%
c. Current events	2,268	17%	30%	32%	21%
d. Grades	2,258	8%	16%	35%	41%
e. ACT or SAT	2,272	16%	22%	33%	29%
f. Applying to college	2,264	9%	13%	30%	49%

26. For the items below, please indicate whether or not your household contains the following items.

	N=	Yes	No	90% CI Yes
a. Daily newspaper	2,283	64.7%	35.3%	(63.1% - 66.4%)
b. News magazine subscription	2,266	49.4%	50.6%	(47.7% - 51.2%)
c. Computer	2,263	93.0%	7.0%	(92.1% - 93.9%)
d. Internet access	2,269	89.1%	10.9%	(88.0% - 90.2%)
e. Atlas or globe	2,266	65.2%	34.8%	(63.5% - 66.8%)
f. Set of encyclopedias	2,261	54.4%	45.6%	(52.7% - 56.2%)
g. More than 50 books	2,256	80.3%	19.7%	(78.9% - 81.7%)

27. Since you have been in high school, please indicate each of the activities below in which you have participated? *Please mark all of the items that apply.* Number of students

1 .....Varsity athletics	1,166	4.....Political campaigns	230
2 .....Student government	444	5.....Community service	1,394
3 .....Fine arts activities (music, drama)	1,286	6.....Religious organizations	940

28. Mark the "Yes" response for this question.

- 0.....No
1.....Yes

29. Do you currently work? N=2,299

0 .....No	46%	5 .....Yes, 21 - 25 hours per week	7%
1 .....Yes, 1 - 5 hours per week	6%	6 .....Yes, 26 - 30 hours per week	5%
2 .....Yes, 6 - 10 hours per week	8%	7 .....Yes, 31 - 35 hours per week	3%
3 .....Yes, 11 - 15 hours per week	8%	8 .....Yes, 36+ hours per week	4%
4 .....Yes, 16 - 20 hours per week	12%		

Background Information: The following series of questions are related to a variety of demographic areas that are needed in order to better serve Tennesseans such as yourself. All of the information provided is anonymous and will remain confidential.

30. Your gender:

N= 2,317

1	Male	45%
2	Female	55%

31. Your racial or ethnic identification: N= 2,314

1 .....African American	14.9%
2 .....Hispanic / Latino-Latina	2.3%
3 .....Asian American or Pacific Islander	3.1%
4 .....Caucasian / White	73.5%
5 .....American Indian / Native American / Alaskan Native	1.0%
6 .....Multiracial	2.5%
7 .....Other	2.7%

32. How many parents or guardians reside in your home? N= 2,314

1 .....One parent or guardian	23%
2 .....Two parents or guardians	74%
3 .....No parents or guardians	3%

33. Which high school curriculum path have you selected? N= 2,306

1 .....University preparation	80%
2 .....Technical preparation	14%
3 .....Don't know	6%

34. Have you taken the PSAT? N= 2,297

1 .....Yes	63%
2 .....No	37%

35. How many total Advanced Placement (AP) courses have you taken? N= 2,297

0 .....None	46%	5 .....5	6%
1 .....1	12%	6 .....6	4%
2 .....2	10%	7 .....7	3%
3 .....3	7%	8 .....8	1%
4 .....4	7%	9 .....9 or more	4%

36. From the options below, please select the item that best reflects the highest level math course you have taken or are currently taking? N= 2,299

1 .....Pre-Algebra	1%	5 .....Advanced Algebra or Trigonometry	10%
2 .....Algebra I	4%	6 .....Statistics	5%
3 .....Geometry	10%	7 .....Pre-Calculus	23%
4 .....Algebra II	25%	8 .....Calculus	22%

37. What is your best estimate of your cumulative unweighted GPA (0.00 to 4.00)? . . .
 N= 2,047 legitimate responses
 Less than 2.0= 2%, 2.0 to 2.49= 8%, 2.5 to 2.99= 15%, 3.0 to 3.49= 32%, greater than 4.0= 43%

38. What is your highest composite ACT score? --
If you have not taken the ACT, please bubble in "0 0".
If you scored a 9 on the ACT, please bubble in "0 9".
 N= 2,067 legitimate responses
 Less than 8= 15%, 9 to 17= 11%, 18 to 20= 13%, 21 to 28= 43%, 29-36= 17%

39. What is your highest composite (verbal + math) SAT score? ----
If you have not taken the SAT, please bubble in "0 0 0 0".
If you scored a 900 on the SAT, please bubble in "0 9 0 0".
 N= 437 legitimate responses Mean= 1227

40. What is the ZIP code for your home address? ----
If you do not know your ZIP code, please bubble in "0 0 0 0 0".

41. Please select each of the tools that you used in preparation for the ACT or SAT?
Please mark all of the items that apply. Number of Students

1 .....Private classes	357	6.....Private tutor	139
2 .....Test preparation books	883	7.....No test preparation tools	693
3 .....Test preparation videos	33	8.....Did not take the ACT or SAT	258
4 .....Test preparation computer programs	313		

42. What is the highest level of education obtained by your MOTHER (or guardian)? N=2,240

1	..... Did not finish high school	6%
2	..... Graduated from high school	24%
3	..... GED	5%
4	..... Some college, no degree	13%
5	..... 2-year college degree (Associate's)	8%
6	..... 4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	25%
7	..... Master's degree	10%
8	..... Ph.D. or other advanced professional degree (law, medicine, etc.)	4%
9	..... Don't know	5%

43. If your MOTHER (or guardian) attended college, please indicate up to two colleges that she attended from the list on the last three pages of this booklet.

- a. First College: ___ N=1,024 48% TN public, 40% out-state
- b. Second College: ___ N= 293 51% TN public, 32% out-state

44. What is the highest level of education obtained by your FATHER (or guardian)?

1	..... Did not finish high school	8%	<u>N=2,210</u>
2	..... Graduated from high school	23%	
3	..... GED	4%	
4	..... Some college, no degree	11%	
5	..... 2-year college degree (Associate's)	5%	
6	..... 4-year college degree (Bachelor's)	21%	
7	..... Master's degree	9%	
8	..... Ph.D. or other advanced professional degree (law, medicine, etc.)	10%	
9	..... Don't know	9%	

45. If your FATHER (or guardian) attended college, please indicate up to two colleges that he attended from the list on the last three pages of this booklet.

- a. First College: ___ N= 882 45% TN public, 42% out-state
- b. Second College: ___ N= 275 43% TN public, 40% out-state

46. If you have older brothers or sisters, how many of them have attended or are attending college? N=2,161

1	..... 1	29%
2	..... 2	11%
3	..... 3 or more	6%
4	..... none	20%
5	..... I do not have older brothers or sisters.	34%

47. What is your best estimate of your family's total income from last year? N=2,083

1	..... \$18,000 or less	9.7%	6	..... \$45,001 - \$60,000	12.3%
2	..... \$18,001 - \$24,000	5.7%	7	..... \$60,001 - \$80,000	14.0%
3	..... \$24,001 - \$30,000	6.3%	8	..... \$80,001 - \$100,000	11.8%
4	..... \$30,001 - \$36,000	7.2%	9	..... \$100,001 or above	23.5%
5	..... \$36,001 - \$45,000	9.4%			

Your contributions to this effort are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this survey, feel free to contact our office at (615) 532-7977