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So document can be viewed
side by side as would be seen
in the booklet.



1

Stories and Voices 2020

Access to Higher Education

Agenda

- ⇒ Welcome and Introductions.
- ⇒ Purpose and Guidelines.
- ⇒ What is your experience with access to higher education?
- ⇒ What do we mean by higher education?
- ⇒ Barriers to access higher education.
- ⇒ Contemplating solutions.
- ⇒ Looking Forward.

Written by Chris Gagliolo & Jake Garner.
Advised by Professor Renee Heath.
With help from the class -
CMN 662: Public Dialogue and Deliberation.

The third annual interactive dialogue presented by the Department of Communication and the Civil Discourse Lab.

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Q: What is your experience with access to Higher Education?

"It was important to me to go to college because my parents immigrated here from Brazil and worked hard to give me opportunities they never had"
— Caroline, UNH Student

EDUCATION
~~IS A LUXURY~~
~~IS A MORTGAGE~~
~~IS A BUSINESS~~
IS A RIGHT

3

30%
of students worldwide
only go to a 4-year
college because they
think it's the **NATURAL**
PROGRESSION AFTER
HIGH SCHOOL



23%
only go because **IT'S**
EXPECTED OF THEM

4

Facilitator note: Goal is to have participants introduce themselves and explain how they are related to the issue of access and build rapport with one another.

Q:

How are you connected to the issue? Why is this topic important to you?

83%

of students want
to complete a 2-
or 4-year college
degree

30%

completed a 2- or
4-year college
degree by 2018

3

\$33,000

Average cost of trade
school

\$127,000

Average cost to attain a
bachelor's degree

5

On average it
takes 5.1 years to
complete a
bachelor's degree

6

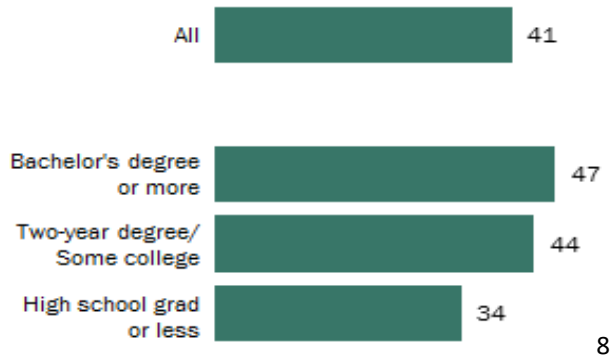
"Education is the most
powerful weapon which
you can use to change
the world."

— Nelson Mandela

7

Q: What do we mean by Higher Education?

% of Millennials ages 25 to 32 in each group who say their education was "very useful" in preparing them for a job or career



Reflect on these words.
How do they shape our understanding of higher ed.?

Micro-credentialing		Legacy
College	Liberal Arts	Online Degree
Trade School	Bachelor's	Associate's
Running Start Programs		Military
Low-Income Student		First Generation
Apprenticeship	Non-traditional student	
Community College		Technical School
Student Athlete	SAT/ACT	STEM
Student Loans	Tuition	FASFA
Work study	Financial Aid	Pell Grants

American Views of Higher Education Platforms

83%

Favorable view of vocational/trade schools

69%

Favorable view of four-year colleges/institutions

34%

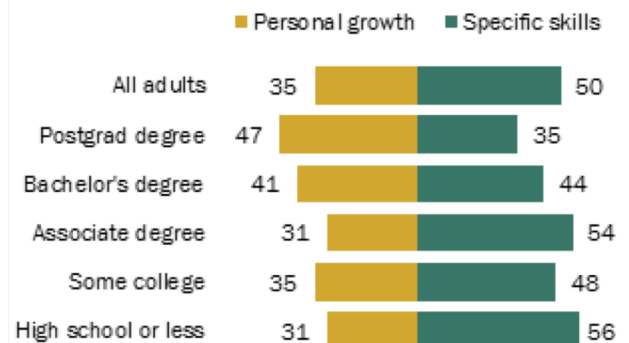
Favorable view of 'for-profit' colleges

55%

Favorable view of higher education system overall

9

% saying the main purpose of college should be...



10

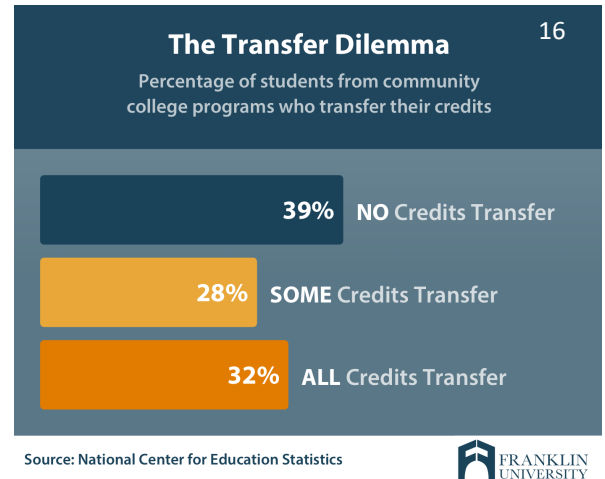
Facilitator note: Goal is to collect participants' perspectives on how they view higher education and its purpose.

Q:
What is the role of higher education? Why do people go?

3

Q: What are the barriers to accessing higher education throughout New Hampshire?

- ⇒ NH has a 227:1 student to guidance counselor ratio^{11 17}
- ⇒ 57% of students want more information on loans and credit^{12 19}
- ⇒ 3,335 NH students are homeless¹³
- ⇒ Only 59% of rural students go to college, compared to 67% in suburban areas¹⁴
- ⇒ 85% of LGBT+ students experience harassment at college^{15 24}



Barriers

In New Hampshire, students graduated with an average of \$33,410 in student loan debt

17

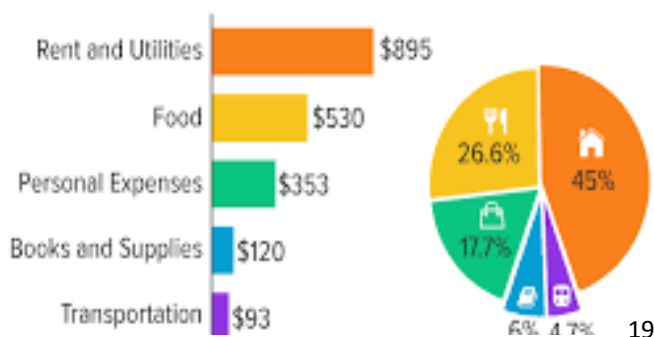
"In New Hampshire, state funding only covers about one-tenth of the budget for the University System of New Hampshire"

18

Facilitator note: Goal is to Focus specifically on barriers of accessing higher education in the state of New Hampshire.

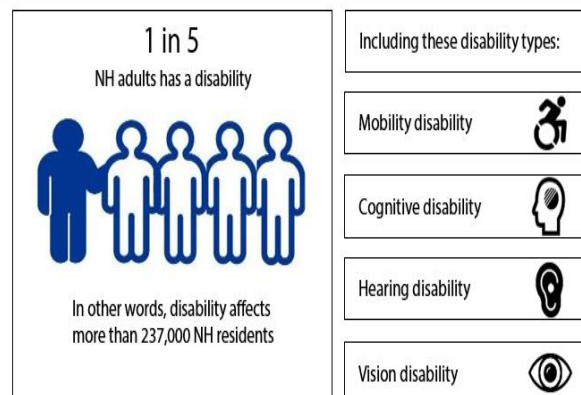
Mental Health
Inner-city Location
ESL
The "High-School Machine"
Foster Care
Religion
Rural Location
Homelessness
Privilege
Addiction
Socio-Economic Status
Citizenship Status
Access to Arts
AP Credit

How students spend an average \$1,991 per month in non-tuition expenses



19

Prevalence of Disabilities among NH Adults (ages 18 and older)



20

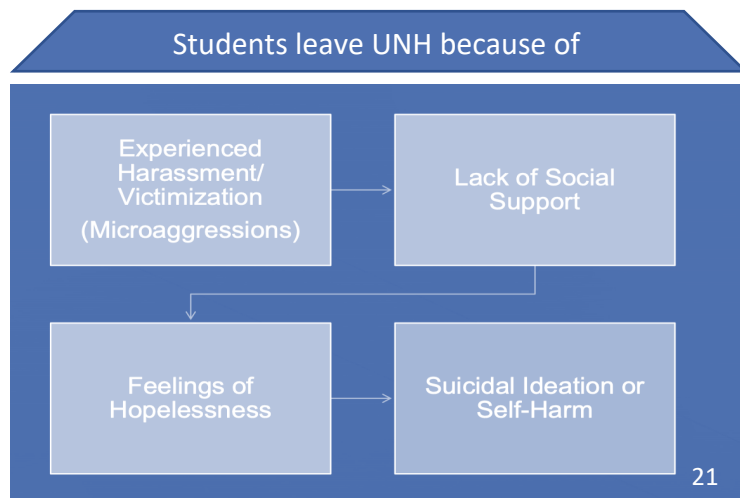
Q: What are the barriers specific to UNH?

"I feel like I'm suffering more than I feel like I'm getting stuff done, so I should probably take a leave of absence"-
Marissa, UNH student dealing with mental health

to Contemplate

DISCRIMINATION
TRANSFERRING CREDITS
FOOD SECURITY
ATTENDANCE POLICY
LGBTQ+
RENT FEES FAFSA
DISABILITY RACE MARRIAGE
DEBT SENSE OF BELONGING
APPLICATION PROCESS
FAMILY
NON-TRADITIONAL
HARASSMENT

According to UNH Campus Climate Survey:

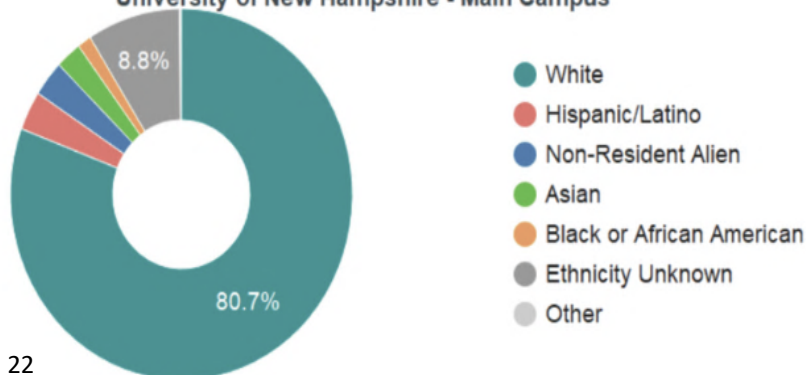


- ⇒ Trans-spectrum respondents feel less comfortable than cis gendered respondents
- ⇒ Respondents of Color and Multiracial feel less comfortable than White respondents
- ⇒ Bi-sexual and Queer respondents reported feeling less comfortable than straight respondents
- ⇒ Respondents with a disability reported feeling less comfortable than those without
- ⇒ Non- U.S. citizens felt less comfortable than U.S citizens

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Facilitator note: Using UNH as a case study to address specific barriers people have come across while trying to access universities.

Ethnic Diversity of Undergraduate Students at University of New Hampshire - Main Campus



22

Q:
What barriers have you/people you know encountered in your experience with access to UNH?

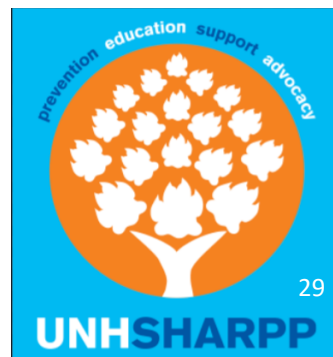
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Q: Keeping in mind the barriers that are important to you, how is UNH addressing them?

Services Across UNH

- ⇒ Commuter Student Amenities²³
 - Lounge with kitchenette
 - Commuter lockers
- ⇒ Connect Program²⁴
 - Helps first generation and multicultural student
- ⇒ UNH Marriage and Family Therapy Center²⁵
- ⇒ Child Study and Development Center²⁶
 - On campus daycare
- ⇒ Wildcats Working Parent's Network²⁷
- ⇒ UNH ADVANCE²⁸
 - Aims to improve UNH faculty leadership development with goal of increasing the number of women faculty primarily but not solely in STEM disciplines

Sexual
Harassment
and Rape
Prevention
Program



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
COUNSELING SERVICES



31

Facilitator note: The goal is to have participants generate ideas of how UNH is addressing their specific barrier and focus on what is working.



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33



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*Q:
How are these resources
supporting access to
UNH? What additional
resources that you know
of?*

Q: How **should** UNH be addressing barriers to access?

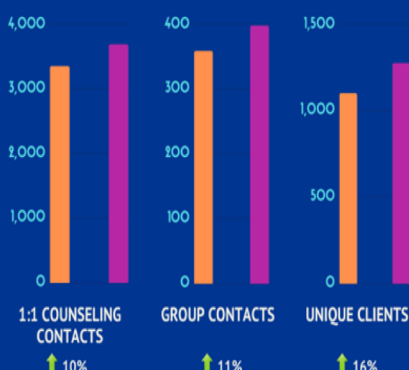
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UNH PACS

FALL SEMESTER 2019
STATS AT A GLANCE

GROWTH IN UTILIZATION OF SERVICES

FALL 2018 FALL 2019



Ideas

- ⇒ Implement FAFSA and other information sessions for those not connected to high schools
- ⇒ Flexibility arounds assignments
- ⇒ Better commuter parking options
- ⇒ Better link community college curriculum with UNH
- ⇒ More defined guidelines regarding credit transfers
- ⇒ More flexibility in decision making structure around credits and graduation

Facilitator note: Goal is to have participants generate ideas and suggestions of how UNH can better address these barriers.

"Be considerate to international students...

They [UNH Administration] have a speech they have a talk it's really good... but the follow up isn't really there" – UNH International Student

"I've had professors re-arrange their syllabus just to work with me in order for me to be successful" – Tabitha, a fulltime working mother and UNH student

What resources would it take?
What are the trade-offs?

Q:
What do we need from administration, faculty, services, infrastructure?

Q: Looking beyond UNH how are we currently addressing barriers specific to New Hampshire?

NH State Bills

SB 276 (2019)

Signed by Governor – Expands career and technical education (CTE), in particular by permitting students in grade 10 to enroll in CTE courses designated by the community colleges system of New Hampshire. This bill also expands CTE reporting requirements.

36

HB 570 (2019)

Signed by Governor- Establishes a commission to study career pathways from full-time service year programs to post-secondary education and employment opportunities.

37

HB 730 (2019)

Signed by Governor – Reestablishes the CART (computer aided, real-time translation of spoken English) Provided and Sign Language interpreter net tuition repayment fund.

38



39

Designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds including:

- ⇒ first generation
- ⇒ High financial needs
- ⇒ Students with disability
- ⇒ Homeless students

These students can receive:

- ⇒ Assistance filing FAFSA
- ⇒ Financial aid information
- ⇒ Academic subject area tutoring
- ⇒ Career and major exploration

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New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation

41

Facilitator note: Have participants generate what is known of how the state of New Hampshire is addressing barriers.

RUNNING START

Earn College Credit in High School!

- Gain** experience with college level coursework
- Save** money - tuition cost is only \$150
- Transfer** credits to many colleges and universities

40

- ⇒ Assists students in making a plan for college
- ⇒ Helps with filling out applications and FAFSA

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Q:
How are these resources supporting access to NH? What additional resources do you know of?

Q: How **should** New Hampshire address barriers to higher education?



42

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the New Hampshire Career Academy is an innovative education program that provides students with a pathway leading to a high school diploma, an associate degree, an industry credential, and a job interview with a New Hampshire employer. This happens over a two-year period at no tuition cost to students or their families.

42

Programs include:

- ⇒ Marine Technology
- ⇒ Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- ⇒ Respiratory Health
- ⇒ Occupational Therapy Assistant
- ⇒ Physical Therapy Assistant
- ⇒ Radiologic Technology
- ⇒ Medical Laboratory Technician
- ⇒ Medical Assistant
- ⇒ Engineer Technology
- ⇒ Mechanical Engineering
- ⇒ Robotics
- ⇒ Cyber Security
- ⇒ Biotechnology

42

Colleges include:

River Valley Community College
Lakes Region Community College
New Hampshire Technical School
Manchester Community College
Great Bay Community College

42

University System
of New Hampshire 43



“The University System strives to assure the availability of appropriate higher educational opportunities to all New Hampshire people; seeks to enroll a diverse student population to enhance educational experiences; and provides programs and activities based on a commitment to excellence.”

43

What resources
would it take?
What are the
trade-offs?

Facilitator note: This page should continue with deliberation of what the state could do to make higher education more accessible.

“Individuals attending schools with strong counseling programs reported a higher level of academic achievement; a greater sense of happiness, safety and security at their institution”³⁵

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Q:
What do we need from
high-schools, community
colleges, trade school,
legislators?

Moving Forward

Democrat



45

"Ensure that no child's future is determined by their zip code, parents' income, race, or disability."

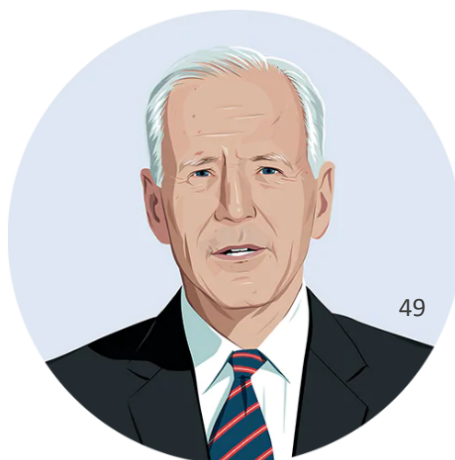
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"Double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in our schools so our kids get the mental health care they need."

46

"As President, Biden will build an education system that starts investing in our children at birth and helps every student get some education beyond a high school diploma, whether a certification, associate degree, or bachelor's degree."

46



49

Joe Biden

"Mr. Biden, the former vice president, supports making public colleges and universities tuition-free for students from families with incomes up to \$125,000,"

47

"Borrowers should not have to make payments towards their loans until they are earning at least \$30,000"

48

"Free community college"

48

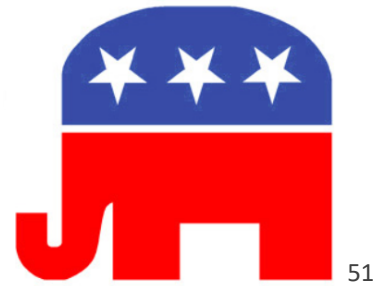
"Because all of society benefits from a well-educated population, the government has a role in providing quality schools –and helping parents and students pay for them... and using public funds to make college more affordable. "
-Voter's Guide to Education
Apple News Spotlight

50

Facilitator note: The purpose of these pages is to have participants reflect on the discussions and see how their values align with the two presidential candidates' perspectives of access to higher education.

You have the power to influence access to education with your vote

Republican



"More than half of current students are classified as "nontraditional," yet many institutions of higher education have not adequately addressed their unique needs. Non-traditional students interested in accelerated paths to careers should have access to innovative providers who can more effectively meet their needs."

52

"By offering options that look to the private sector for risk mitigation, we can both protect taxpayers and help more Americans use education as a ladder to achieve the American dream."

52

Proposed that student loan forgiveness be made available to all borrowers with undergraduate and graduate student loans who participate in a single income-driven repayment plan.

48

"The Trump Administration implemented the year-round distribution of Pell grants, instead of limiting these grants to the spring and fall semesters."

53



54

Donald Trump

"Borrowers would pay 12.5% of their discretionary income and would receive student loan forgiveness after 15 years for their federal undergraduate loans and 25 years for federal graduate loans financial aid programs"

48

"Low-income students will now have access to these funds over summer and winter breaks, so they can earn their degrees faster with fewer loans."

53

*Q:
How do your values and interests align with the candidates?*

"The private sector is a more reliable steward of education dollars than local governments. And parents should be allowed to make their own choices about schooling their children. That means cutting funds to public institutions while giving private alternatives more funding and flexibility." -Voter's Guide to Education Apple News Spotlight

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Additional Resources

⇒ **Gear Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)** ⁵⁵

- Prepares low income students to succeed in higher education
- Provides 6-7 year grants to each state that allows them to visit high-poverty schools

Resources Addressing Disability

⇒ **Parent Information Center** ⁵⁶

- Provides services and support to students of all ages with disabilities
- 54 Old Suncook Rd, Concord NH, (630-224-7005)
- Information and resources available online

⇒ **Pathways of the River Valley** ⁵⁷

- Non-profit agency serving people with disabilities in their communities
- 654 Main Street, Claremont NH 03743 (Main office, more local offices)
- Provides services for people with disabilities, website has information on resources available in New Hampshire

Alternative Ways to Earn College Credit

⇒ **CLEP and DSST Tests** ⁵⁸

- 33+ exams covering intro level college courses accepted at 2,900 US universities as pass/fail college credit
- Each college determines what CLEP/DSST exams they accept and what scores they require
- Test costs \$87 plus testing center fee

⇒ **Modern States** ⁵⁹

- Non-profit dedicated to making high quality education available to all students
- Provides online courses prepping students for CLEP exams

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