



2021 Post-Course Survey Highlights

Warrior-Scholar Project empowers servicemembers and veterans in their pursuit of undergraduate education. We host immersive, [one and two-week college-preparatory academic boot camps](#) at top colleges and universities. This report highlights select feedback and statistical data from the 2021 post-course surveys for all summer 2021 service sites.

The following excerpts and numerical data are drawn from 229 HUM post-course surveys, 77 STEM post-course surveys, and 40 BUS post-course surveys. Participants who are absent from any portion of a course but do not drop are still given a survey. All survey data is anonymous.

General Feedback

100% of respondents indicated that they would recommend WSP to other veterans and service members. When asked why they would recommend WSP, participants responded:

- “It was a phenomenal experience and let me know I have a lot more to offer than just academic grades. I struggled in school, and in WSP, but I still loved what I learned and I have a lot to take with me; as well as a lot of connections to some amazing opportunities. It's an invaluable experience especially to those who have no idea what is available to them.”
- “I have been in college since early 2017, working on transfers, and until WSP, I was told to be realistic about schools I was looking into. That "realistic" narrative has been proven false to me by WSP. Veterans and service members need to know that pursuing academics can be for them if they choose too and WSP gives an insight into what top-tier courses are like.”
- “I will certainly recommend WSP to my fellow airman and to those veterans I meet at University. WSP gave me the space to be honest and open. I shared my experience, but more importantly, I learned from everyone else in my cohort. That last thing really is special to me: to know that I'm not alone during this transition process.”
- “This is definitely a hidden gem. If any service member is even remotely interested in school, they need to take advantage of WSP.”
- “I learned extremely invaluable information about the resources available to me and the things I need to work on to succeed at college - I only wish I'd learned about all these resources back when I was still active duty!”
- “I definitely thought it was empowering, eye opening and reassuring in many ways. Empowering in the fact that you can see that you can learn at a university level and you can be admitted. Eye opening to see that there are many other intellectual active duty and veterans among the services that like you, wish to pursue a higher education, not everyone in the service is dumb. Reassuring to know that there are an abundance of resources and people that can and will help you along the way and during the process.”
- “I would recommend this program to those I believe would benefit the most from it. Although this class is not graded or rated, I now hold this program near and dear in my heart and I would wholeheartedly and personally recommend this program to anyone that seeks it. Starting with my parts in all walks of the military to be able to better themselves and understand that higher education is more than just a piece of paper.”



General Statistics

- **100%** of respondents agreed that they would recommend WSP to other veterans and service members.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they are more informed consumers of higher education.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they are more confident they will complete a Bachelor’s degree.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they are more prepared to make the transition from the military to college.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they gained the confidence to apply to colleges they previously thought were out of reach.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they have gained the confidence to apply to colleges they previously thought were out of reach.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they are ready to socially interact with non-military students.
- **99%** of respondents agreed that they are confident they will succeed in college.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they are prepared to take care of their physical and mental health while attending college.
- **99%** of respondents agreed that they understand how military culture is different from academic culture.

Select Pre- and Post-Course Survey Responses

Individual Goals Set on Pre-Course Survey	Post-Course Self-Assessment
<p>“To sharpen my writing and overall studying skills and to expand my professional and social networks.”</p>	<p>“Yes. Thanks to the very well developed curriculum, I did sharpen some academic skills as I was hoping. My favorite of them all, I expanded my network but furthermore, I can confidently say that I made some more friends this week and for that I am eternally grateful.”</p>
<p>“Get a better grasp on how to handle higher institutions. Along with how to apply and how to be successful at them.”</p>	<p>“Yes! My goals were to find a drive that I have not seen within myself for college since high school. This program truly helped me see how hard and far I can push myself in an academic setting.”</p>
<p>“Set myself up for success in college with good habits and guidance/recommendations from WSP staff”</p>	<p>“Yes, but they were not what I had originally expected to accomplish. I got so much more out of this than I expected, it's not just about learning skills and tricks, but learning about myself individually.”</p>
<p>“Skills for retaining information, writing skills, student success”</p>	<p>“Yes, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect getting into the program, but it was great. My reading and writing and note taking skills have improved and I feel like I have more resources to share and use as a veteran than I did before WSP.”</p>

Humanities-Specific Statistics

After participating in a Warrior-Scholar Project humanities program...

- **100%** of respondents agreed that they understand how writers use evidence to support an argument.
- **99%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable reading and analyzing academic texts.
- **99%** of respondents agreed that they understand the process of drafting, revising, and completing college essays.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they know how to prepare for seminars and lectures.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they have a better understanding of how to analyze the structure and direction of an author's arguments.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they know how to form a thesis statement for an essay assignment.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they know how to annotate an academic text.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they can write clearly and effectively.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they are better writers now than they were before the program started.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable writing short essays.

STEM-Specific Statistics

After participating in a Warrior-Scholar Project STEM program...

- **99%** of respondents felt that STEM week was worthwhile and they would recommend it to other veterans; **72%** strongly agreed.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they can identify and apply their current skills and existing knowledge to solve problems.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that the lectures helped them understand the physics discussed throughout the week.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that the problem solving skills they learned during the STEM program were valuable.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable learning and applying mathematical methods to solve problems.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they know how to prepare for STEM lectures and recitations.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable reading STEM textbooks.
- **91%** of respondents agreed that they are prepared to complete problem sets for a STEM class.
- **91%** of respondents agreed that the problem sets were challenging and a good use of their time.
- **89%** of respondents agreed that they are prepared to succeed in a STEM-related college course.

Business & Entrepreneurship-Specific Statistics

After participating in a Warrior-Scholar Project business and entrepreneurship program...

- **100%** of respondents agreed that they know what it means to be an entrepreneur.
- **100%** of respondents agreed that they feel comfortable receiving constructive feedback from others.
- **100%** of respondents agreed that they know their strengths and weaknesses when working with others in a group.
- **100%** of respondents agreed that they understand what an elevator pitch is and how to develop one.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they understand the difference between a group and a team when it comes to organizational structures.

- **98%** of respondents agreed that they understand the benefits of building a diverse and inclusive business organization.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they are familiar with basic entrepreneurship practices.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they have a good idea of what group dynamics are and how they affect interactions within a team.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that they can effectively communicate and publicly present their ideas to a group.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they think they would feel comfortable pitching a business idea to potential investors.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they are familiar with the requirements for entrepreneurship ventures.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they are interested in running their own business one day.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they know how to create an effective business-related presentation.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they feel comfortable interacting and networking with business professionals.
- **90%** of respondents agreed that they know what kinds of career resources are available on a college campus.
- **88%** of respondents agreed that they think they would do well if they were admitted to a top-tier business school.
- **88%** of respondents agreed that they have a good sense of what a marketing campaign entails.

Business & Entrepreneurship Open-Ended Feedback

When asked why they would recommend the Warrior-Scholar Project Business and Entrepreneurship program to other veterans/service members, respondents said:

- “It's a fantastic introduction to entrepreneurship; forming and adjusting your teams, ideation for your business plan all the way to pitching it to potential investors. I had no idea that's what it would be like but I had a blast. It wasn't easy by any means, but that's what WSP is all about. To give you a solid look at what it takes in a real college in the business track.”
- “I would recommend the WSP Business and Entrepreneurship program to other veterans and service members because of the exceptional quality of content and the supportive professionalism of WSP staff and USC faculty.”
- “I am going to suggest this to other vets because it's such a great way to understand finding problems. I believe what I learned will have utility in so many other ways than being an entrepreneur.”
- “It's an awesome foundation which is very empowering to any veteran or transitioning service members in pursuing higher education. Notre Dame University has only been a dream for me to attend in the past. At this point, I do believe that my dream could become a reality and this is due to the amount of reassurance and empowerment received during my time here with the WSP. I truly believe that people are here to help us succeed and truly care about our success here at Notre Dame and that as veterans we are respected for our differences in our life experiences instead of casted to the sidelines.”
- “Because the program has been nothing but excellent to us. The amount of guidance, patience, and understanding the instructors and professors have shown us has been remarkable.”
- “The course gave me a fantastic insight into the process of creating my own company. I feel like I have the confidence and knowledge to start the process of starting a business. Also, I enjoyed all the professors that spoke to us throughout the week.”

All-Women's Course Feedback

When asked why they would recommend a WSP program with an all-women cohort to other veterans and service members, respondents said:

- "I would 100% recommend an all-women cohort WSP program because of the dynamics. I instinctively give men more time to speak (or tirade in some cases) while I feel like I'm taking up too much space when I give my opinion. Here, the women were respectful of each other's opinions, listened well, and supported each other. It was wonderful seeing how productive academics can be with gracious listeners and open minds."
- "SO empowering. I didn't expect to feel so differently than if I was in an all-male cohort, but having been around so many male student-veterans throughout my college career (as much as I love them, too), these relationships feel different."
- "I would absolutely recommend the all-women cohort to other people. I mentioned many reasons in our actual discussions but being in a space where we can all relate to the same adversities brought us together more than a regular group I would say."
- "I would recommend this course. It's made me feel more comfortable and open up without caring."

When asked to describe their experience as a participant in an all-women cohort, respondents said:

- "I liked the group. It felt safe. Everyone in the cohort was very smart"
- "Again, as a participant, I felt accepted and listened to."
- "AMAZING"
- "Everyone seemed to feel they were all on the same level and teaching came from the instructors rather than the participants unless invited. That was nice. Everyone was so supportive of each other outwardly and lifting each other up."
- "I absolutely loved it. I was apprehensive about doing it in the first place instead of the co-ed one, thinking "what difference would it make" and being in an intense learning environment with other women with such strong voices made the experience altogether that much more enjoyable."