

2023 Post-Course Survey Highlights

Warrior-Scholar Project propels enlisted veterans and service members towards success in higher education and beyond. 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 2023 post-course surveys for all summer 2023 service sites.

The following excerpts and numerical data are drawn from 210 HUM post-course surveys, 112 STEM post-course surveys, and 49 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

99% of respondents indicated that they would recommend WSP to other veterans and service members. When asked why they would recommend WSP, participants responded:

- *“I would recommend WSP to enlisted veterans who have even the slightest thought of attending college to give them a perspective of what life would be like, and to show them that not a single college is out of their reach with enough hard work. WSP told me that past mistakes can be corrected and there is still an open doorway to higher education[.]” – MIT Participant*
- *“I can only speak on my experience at Chapel Hill, wonderful teachers. They truly care about veterans succeeding.” – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Participant*
- *“I would recommend the WSP program to other mil/vets because it gave me a realistic expectation of a full college load in finals week, and also showed me that it's possible to succeed in it too.” – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Participant*
- *“I would recommend WSP to veterans even if they are already enrolled in college and have been for a while. For those of us who are preparing to begin college, it has been a great experience that has given us tools to succeed in an environment. For those of us who have already been in a college environment, it can serve as a refresher.” – Amherst College Participant*
- *“When you leave the military and the culture it can be challenging finding yourself, forming your identity, and making friends. WSP brings like-minded student veterans together over a shared goal/mission. I truly believe in this program and in all the people I've met here. The program has also given me a baseline to work off of in terms of my academic capabilities and instilled confidence in me to follow my interests even if I'm not necessarily good at them or are familiar with them.” – University of Chicago Participant*
- *“The STEM program provided me with a great opportunity to both challenge myself and learn more about resources and opportunities at college.” – California Institute of Technology Participant*
- *“It is a legitimately life-altering experience- I gained confidence that I have needed for years. The professors are receptive and informative, the fellows are encouraging, and the campus opportunities you gain are unparalleled.” – Harvard University Participant*
- *“I believe that this program really gives veterans a way to prepare for college. In addition, it is a great way to learn about resources for veterans, both in education and otherwise.” – Williams College Participant*
- *“WSP literally is the reason I'm going to be attending Wesleyan this fall. That speaks for itself. This program changed the course of my life in a completely new direction.” – Wesleyan University Participant*
- *“It is truly eye opening experience and everyone in WSP is very inspiring and eager to help each other. I love it's about learning to learn and collaborating with others for the process.” – Princeton University Participant*
- *“This was quite literally life-changing. I am not the same scholar I was a week ago. This course has shown me that I can hit the pitching, as it were, at this level.” – Georgetown University Participant*

- *“I recommend WSP to ALL active duty member[s] and veterans! The amount of dedication the staff and professors put into their lectures and the constant assistance really helped to create an environment where I was growing in a positive manner, even with the rigorous amount of coursework. I also loved how discussions were set up in the classroom, enabling everyone to give their opinion and dive deeper into text to understand the author’s point.” – **Columbia University Participant***
- *“I would recommend the WSP program for the vast amount of information it provides on approaching higher education, and for the social networking opportunity it provides.” – **Brown University Participant***
- *“Great opportunity, knowledgeable fellows, and useful information to prepare you for college.” – **University of California Irvine Participant***

General Statistics

- 99% of respondents agreed that they would recommend WSP to other veterans and service members.
- 97% of respondents agreed that they are more confident they will complete a Bachelor’s degree.
- 97% of respondents agreed that they understand how military culture is different from academic culture.
- 97% of respondents agreed that they are confident they will succeed in college.
- 95% of respondents agreed that they are more informed consumers of higher education.
- 95% of respondents agreed that they are prepared to take care of their physical health while attending college.
- 94% of respondents agreed that they are ready to socially interact with non-military students.
- 94% of respondents agreed that they are prepared to take care of their mental health while attending college.
- 92% of respondents agreed that they are more prepared to make the transition from the military to college.
- 91% of respondents agreed that they have gained the confidence to apply to colleges they previously thought were out of reach.

Select Pre- and Post-Course Survey Responses

Individual Goals Set on Pre-Course Survey	Post-Course Self-Assessment Biggest Take Away
“I hope to become a better writer. Specifically by being able to articulate my thoughts better. I also aim to improve my ability to read challenging texts.” – Cornell Participant	“The ability to intake large amounts of new information and learn from it very quickly.” – Cornell Participant
“After not being in school for four years, I want to use this program to get my feet wet with schoolwork.” – Syracuse Participant	“It’s a great stepping stool to school after service.” – Syracuse Participant
“Learn a new way of studying, tactics on how to move through procrastination, meeting new people.” – University of Arizona Participant	“Confidence. I feel that WSP has allowed me to challenge myself in areas that I have not explored since I was last in college 10 years ago. But I know that when I do go back to school, I will succeed.” – University of Arizona Participant
“I hope to learn some things that will allow me to be a better student and learn more about the college experience.” – William & Mary Participant	“I will leave here knowing that college for a veteran is possible. We can learn new skills and colleges are willing and wanting to accept us as students.” – William & Mary Participant

Humanities-Specific Statistics

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

- **97%** of respondents agreed that they understand how writers use evidence to support an argument or claim.
- **97%** of respondents agreed that they understand the process of drafting, revising, and completing college essay assignments.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they have a better understanding of how to analyze the structure and direction of an author's arguments.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they know how to form a thesis statement.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable writing short essays.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable reading and analyzing academic texts.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they are better writers now than they were before the program started.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they know how to prepare for seminars and lectures.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they can write clearly and effectively.
- **90%** of respondents agreed that they know how to annotate an academic text.

STEM-Specific Statistics

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

- **97%** of respondents agreed that they can identify and apply their current skills and existing knowledge to solve problems.
- **96%** of respondents felt that STEM week was worthwhile and they would recommend it to other veterans; **67%** strongly agreed.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that the lectures helped them understand the physics discussed throughout the week.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that the problem solving skills they learned during the STEM program were valuable.
- **95%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable learning and applying mathematical methods to solve problems.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they know how to prepare for STEM lectures and recitations.
- **93%** of respondents agreed that they are comfortable reading STEM textbooks.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that the problem sets were challenging and a good use of their time.
- **91%** of respondents agreed that they are prepared to succeed in a STEM-related college course.
- **91%** of respondents agreed that they are prepared to complete problem sets for a STEM class.

Business & Entrepreneurship-Specific Statistics

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

- **98%** of respondents agreed that they understand the benefits of building a diverse and inclusive business organization.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they can effectively communicate and publicly present their ideas to a group.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they have a good idea of what group dynamics are and how they affect interactions within a team.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they understand what an elevator pitch is and how to develop one.
- **96%** of respondents agreed that they know what kinds of career resources are available on a college campus.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they are familiar with basic entrepreneurship practices.
- **94%** of respondents agreed that they know how to create an effective business-related presentation.

- **94%** of respondents agreed that they feel comfortable interacting and networking with business professionals.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they think they would feel comfortable pitching a business idea to potential investors.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they are familiar with the requirements for entrepreneurship ventures.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they know what it means to be an entrepreneur.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they feel comfortable receiving constructive feedback from others.
- **92%** of respondents agreed that they know their strengths and weaknesses when working with others in a group.
- **90%** of respondents agreed that they think they would do well if they were admitted to a top-tier business school.

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:

- *“I would because it gives veterans access to people that will show them how obtainable a college degree from a well recognized school, and how welcome they will be when they get there.” – Yale Participant*
- *“This program for veterans really teaches you to be more comfortable around other individuals from different backgrounds. The information gained in WSP is highly valuable and can be carried on to everyday life experiences.” – Yale Participant*
- *“I think that WSP is a great program, especially for those early in their college studies. It is great to be aware of the resources available to veterans and the process involved to attain resources. It is also a great opportunity for veterans to attend universities of interest to gauge the landscape, school, and culture, and determine if the university is a good fit for them.” – USC Participant*
- *“First of all, it's free. Second, I personally have never been so productive in one short week in my entire life. I learned so many things that I will take back with me, but most importantly, I learned how much I don't know! In addition, the professors are very knowledgeable and extremely supportive and encouraging. The staff are accommodating, experienced, and super hard-working. In addition, I loved that I networked with so many talented individuals and learned from so many backgrounds. Hands-down one of the most applicable programs that can directly impact veterans' future.” – USC Participant*
- *“5 stars[.] [B]est professional education I have ever received. Very knowledgeable professors and I feel as if I got an entire high school semester's worth of knowledge in 2 weeks.” – Syracuse Participant*
- *“I would recommend it so that other veterans can gain the experience, knowledge, and new connections which they can use to help themselves succeed at a University.” – Syracuse Participant*

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 recommend it because it made me a more informed student and more confident in my abilities to go back to school” – Yale Participant*
- *“WSP has brought me out of my comfort zone and introduced me to amazing people.” – Yale Participant*
- *“I would definitely recommend this program due to having a phenomenal experience, I learned a lot from the Professors and the Fellows.” – Notre Dame Participant*



- *“This was a wonderful experience! I loved the hands on experience I gained from going through the process of the pitch and the morning lecture on Finance was awesome!” – Notre Dame Participant*

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

- *“I had a great experience. Normally I would not have participated in an all women’s Anything but because the STEM field is male dominated I feel it is important for women to be able network and meet likeminded [sic] individuals.” – Yale Participant*
- *“I have learned a lot and will be using all the gained knowledge to the best of my ability.” – Yale Participant*
- *“I grew a lot mentally and as a person attending this program. I explored different mindsets and learned how to take in other people’s opinions. It’s also important to know that I wasn’t alone during this process. I was supported and guided through every step and every long hour.” – Notre Dame Participant*
- *“The different ways to take notes and the public speaking (first items from both weeks) were huge in my ability to both successfully complete the weeks and will stick with me in future endeavors.” – Notre Dame Participant*
- *“Being a women [sic] in the military is something you can’t explain to others. Even other service members. Knowing these other women, no matter the branch, have experienced similar things to me, made it a more comfortable environment where I could open up.” – Notre Dame Participant*