



Beyond High School

The University of Washington Study Newsletter

Winter 2004—2005

Greetings from the University of Washington

Dear Participant,

The University of Washington Beyond High School (UW-BHS) project began with a survey of Tacoma high school seniors in 2000. The project expanded beyond Tacoma in 2003 with the addition of seniors in the Clover Park high schools (Clover Park and Lakes), Mukilteo high schools (Kamiak and Mariner), and three private schools (Bellarmine, Charles Wright, and Life Christian). We are very pleased to have a very strong and positive working relationship with all participating high schools in the UW-BHS project.

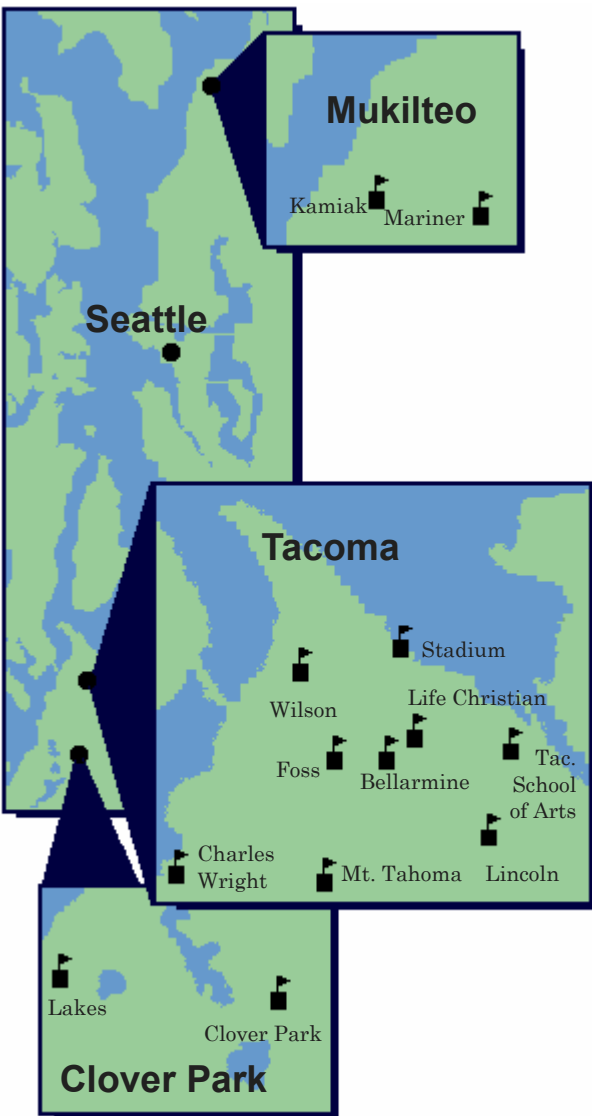
The senior survey, taken in the spring of students' senior year, is our baseline round of data collection. The first follow-up survey is conducted in the year following high school graduation. For those of you who were in the Classes of 2000, 2002 and 2003, we have completed this follow-up survey with about 90 percent of students who completed the senior survey. For those of you in the Class of 2004, we will be contacting you very soon for a 5 minute telephone (or web) survey.

The Class of 2005 senior survey, to be conducted this spring, will be the last senior class to be included in our project. This is not the end of our project, but merely the end of the beginning. With more than 9,000 baseline surveys (from the Class of 2000 to the Class of 2005), our primary efforts will now be devoted to follow-up surveys. Our plan is conduct follow-up surveys every five to 10 years to measure how your lives are unfolding. In the second follow-up survey, about 6 to 7 years after high school graduation, we will inquire about additional schooling and the early stages of your work and family lives. One of the models for our project is the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey of the Class of 1957. This project is still going strong after four decades and the current focus is on retirement.

Filling out a survey may not be the most exciting thing to do, especially if you are a high school senior. But as the years pass, we hope that you will see the UW project as an old friend, who stops by from time to time, to check on how you are doing. We will try to stay in touch with our annual newsletter and our website <<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs>>.

Thanks for participating in our project. We could not do our work without you.

Charles Hirschman
UW Professor of Sociology and UW-BHS Project Director



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Did you know that ...

1. High school seniors, on average, spend more time on sports, extra-curricular activities, and working per week than on homework. (See page 2)
2. The sports which have the most participation by students are track and soccer. (See page 2)
3. Between 3% and 4% of graduates from the classes of 2000, 2002 and 2003 are serving in the U.S. military. (See page 3)
4. Three out of four seniors still live in Western Washington one year after graduation. (See page 4)

Results from the Senior Surveys of 2004

High School Seniors are Very Busy People!

In the senior survey, we asked about participation and time spent on activities outside of school, including sports, other extracurricular activities, homework, and work. Here are some results from the Class of 2004. About 3/4 of seniors report that they were tired in class at least 7 or more times during the year. No wonder!



Per week, seniors spend **3 hours 10 minutes** on homework



5 hours 35 minutes on sports



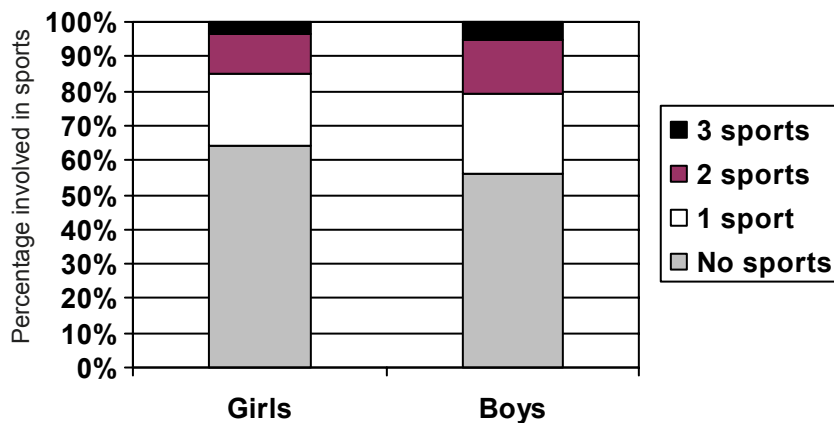
4 hours 7 minutes on other extracurricular activities



and **12 hours 25 minutes** working at a paying job.

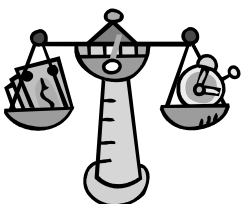
Sports Involvement

Percentage of boys and girls in the Class of 2004 who are involved in 0, 1, 2, or 3 sports.



In the senior survey, students were asked to list any sports they participate in, including intramural as well as varsity sports.

Almost half of boys have at least one extracurricular sport and about one third of girls are involved in sports. This is a real change from the past when few girls were athletes.



Which sports were the most common among 2004 seniors?

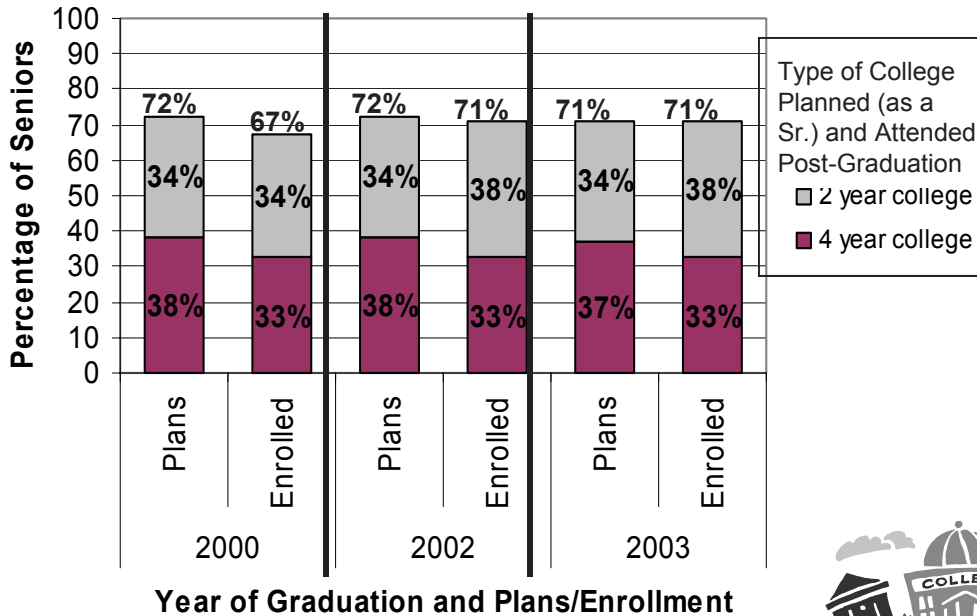
1. Track
2. Soccer
3. Football
4. Basketball
5. Tennis
6. Swimming and Diving
7. Cheer, Dance, Drill, and JROTC Teams
8. (tie) Fast Pitch & Softball
8. (tie) Cross Country
8. (tie) Volleyball

What are some other, less common sports, played by 2004 seniors?

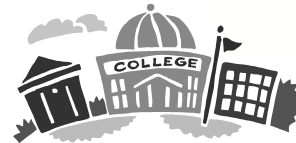
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Ultimate Frisbee | Weight Training |
| Water Polo | Floor Hockey |
| Bowling | Lacrosse |

Results from the Classes of 2000, '02, and '03 Follow-Up Surveys

College Plans of High School Seniors Compared with Actual Enrollment One Year After Graduation



How well do college plans predict college enrollment? In the chart to the left, we compare college plans of high school seniors with actual enrollment one year later. The results are pretty close, although there are some students who thought they were not going to college, but wound up going. And, of course, life sometimes intervenes and some students who planned to attend college have to postpone their college ambitions.

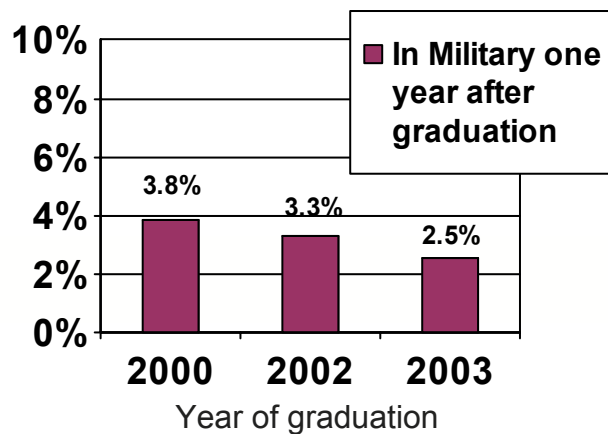


Some Students Go into Military Service After Graduation



About 3 to 4 percent of high school seniors enter military service within a year after high school graduation. See the graph to the right for details.

Approximately 5 to 6 percent of seniors say they have plans to enter the military some time in their lifetime, perhaps after college.

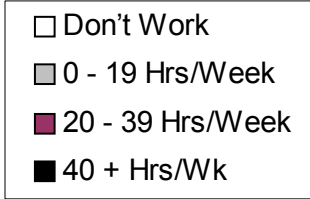


PROMISE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

All of the individual survey responses in our study are treated as strictly confidential. Names and all identifying information are removed from the data files. Our research is focused on averages and overall patterns, not individual responses. We update and store contact information (addresses, telephone number, email address) for each respondent so that we can conduct surveys in future years. This contact information is kept separate from all our other data files.

Results from Senior and Follow-Up Surveys

Comparing Work Hours During High School and After Graduation

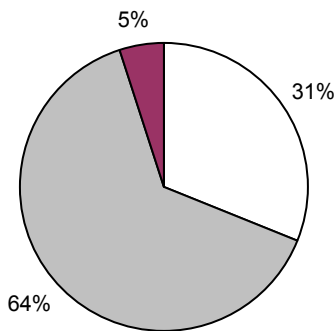


In an average week, 2/3 of high school seniors work up to 20 hours per week, but almost 1/3 do not work at all.

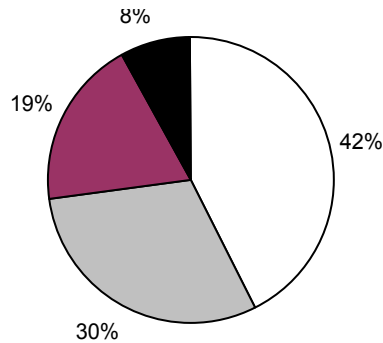
During their first year in college, work patterns change: fewer students work than in high school. But, if they work, college students work more hours than high school seniors.

Almost 1/2 of high school graduates who are not enrolled in college are working full time, 1/4 work between half- and full-time, and only 1/5 are not working at all.

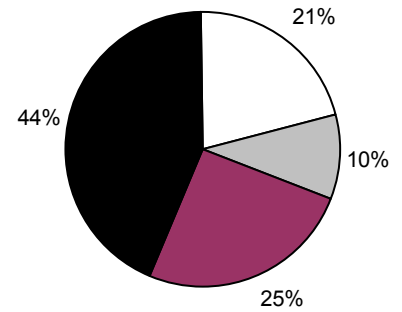
This shows that many non-college-bound high school graduates have become productive members of the workforce.



High School Seniors



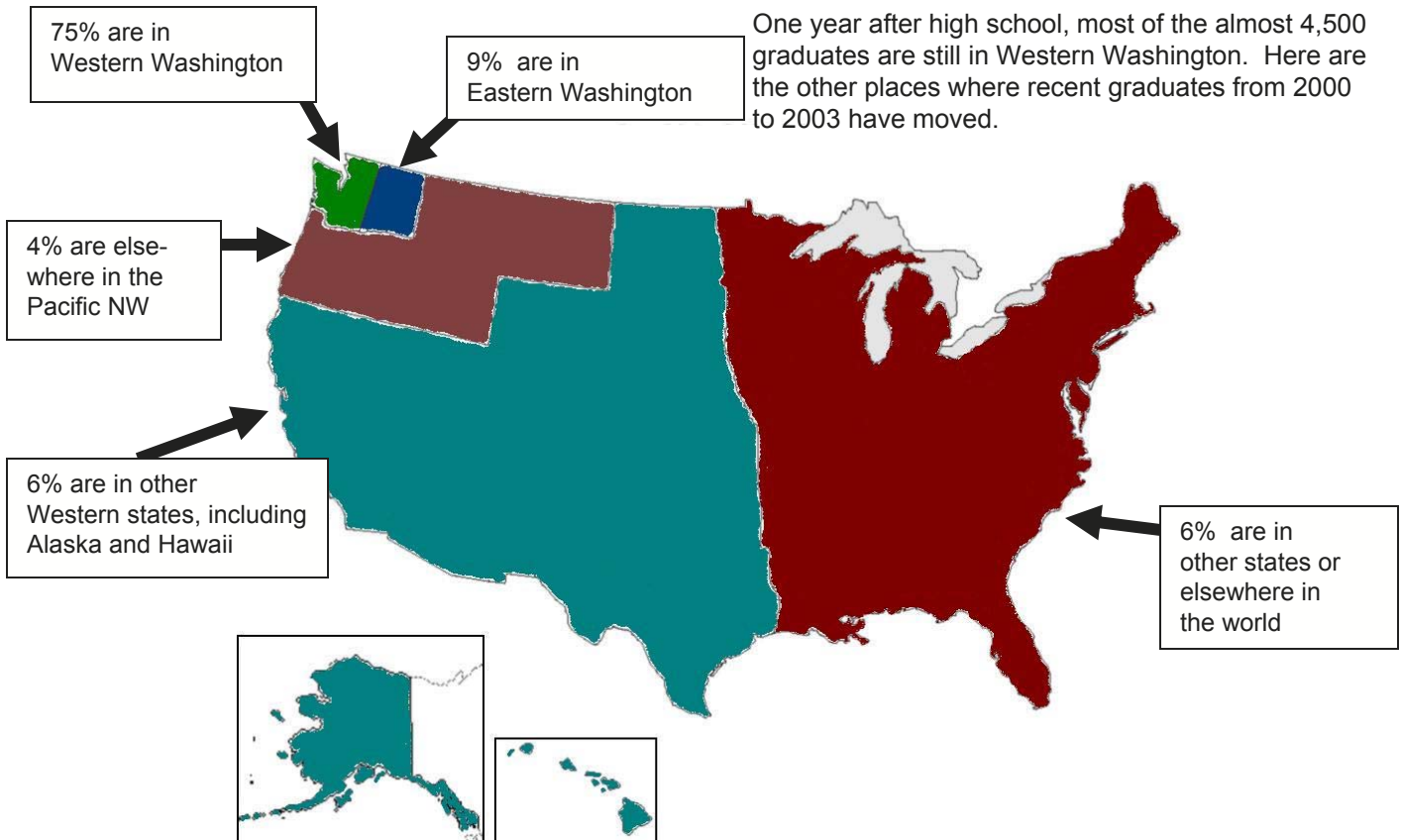
College Freshmen



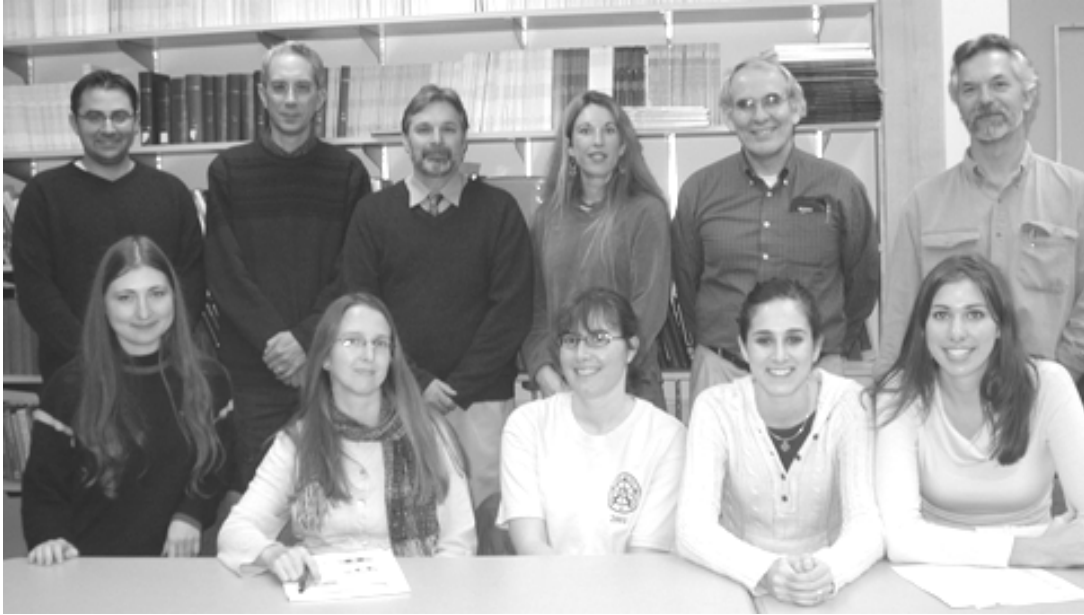
Recent HS Grads, Non-Students

Where are Recent Graduates Now?

One year after high school, most of the almost 4,500 graduates are still in Western Washington. Here are the other places where recent graduates from 2000 to 2003 have moved.



Something about us: the UW Project Team



2003-04 Project Team Where are they now?

Cara Biddlecom—Graduate student at the University of North Carolina

Amon Emeka—Professor at University of Southern California

Tope Fashola—Graduate student at Indiana University

Duc Ngo—Graduate student at Northwestern University

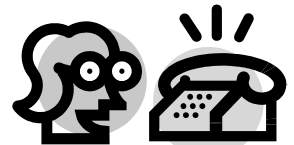
Kia Sorensen—Graduate student at University of Wisconsin

Since we are asking about you, you might wonder who we are. Currently, the UW Beyond High School research team has a busy staff of 20. Some of us are pictured, above. Our team includes people from this area, as well as people from all over the world. We have people from Fife, Everett, and Mukilteo, WA, as well as from Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Nepal, and Ukraine. Our team includes a former high school teacher, a former social worker, a former soldier, and a former volunteer for the Peace Corps. See the BHS staff box on the last page for individual names. We all feel lucky to work on this project with such wonderful people.

We especially appreciate you — our respondents.

❖ REMEMBER US?! ❖

Many of the 2002 and 2003 high school graduates in our study were interviewed by Gioia or Ashley for the one year follow-up interview. They look forward to interviewing the Class of 2004 in a few months. When the University of Washington calls, be sure to answer.



Gioia

University of Washington - Class of 2004

Gioia, a recent graduate in Sociology and Public Health, came to project 2 years ago after taking a research methods class.

Intrigued by the broader questions asked in sociology, Gioia wanted to directly participate in a project that found answers to issues that affect both individuals and the worlds they live in and then actively work to solve the problems:

“I am constantly impressed by the project’s mission and effort to find and promote the positive influences that allow today’s youth to reach their potential.”



Ashley

University of Washington - Class of 2004

Ashley, a recent graduate in Sociology and Political Science, joined the project in winter of 2004 after taking a class with Professor Hirschman.

The opportunity to engage in current sociological research was an exciting prospect for Ashley after a college career spent reading about the work of others in similar studies:

“In college I was so used to simply reading the results of others’ research but here I am able to participate in the process of unmasking these findings.”

UW Beyond High School Research Project

Surveys of High School Seniors, Classes of 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004:

Thank you for participating, Seniors!

Future Follow-up Surveys:

Classes of 2000, 2002, and 2003

Our plans are not definite, but we hope to conduct our second follow-up survey in the next few years, perhaps 6 to 7 years after your high school graduation.

Class of 2004

Sometime in early 2005, you can expect to hear from one of the friendly voices of the UW-BHS team to ask you a short list of "follow-up" questions to find out about what you're doing now that you've graduated. The phone survey only takes about 5 minutes.

Take a Look at Our
Website



<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs>

The Beyond High School Project Team

Professors: Charles Hirschman, Gunnar Almgren, Jerald Herting, Stewart Tolnay **Project Staff:** Patricia Glynn, Julie Miller
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