



Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) New Mexico is a seven-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. GEAR UP New Mexico (GUNM), a division of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, is at work in 11 school districts in our state. The mission of GUNM is to increase the number of students going to post-secondary schools, enhance the college-going culture in our communities, and to improve access and opportunities within state colleges and universities. Across the state, GEAR UP New Mexico partners with 8 high schools and 7 middle schools in Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Española, Mountainair, Santa Fe, Socorro, and Taos supporting over 7,500 students.

GEAR UP New Mexico Activities

During the 2021-2022 school year, 87% of students participated in at least one GEAR UP activity during the school year. Highlights from 2021-2022 GUNM activities are provided below.

- Over 500 students visited eleven college campuses in New Mexico and Colorado.
- More than three-quarters (76%) of GUNM students participated in counseling and advising activities focused on 8th grade transition, AVID, college applications, dual enrollment, and college readiness.
- About half of students (47%) participated in GEAR UP workshops to reinforce careers, student success on the SAT, and community service.
- GEAR UP New Mexico hosted its first annual Girls in STEM conference with 55 GUNM girls from across the state. During the conference students learned about careers in the STEM field directly from female professionals in the field.



GEAR UP has helped me fill out my FAFSA...and I was able to get almost \$3000 in financial aid. I've visited many colleges with GEAR UP including Fort Lewis and New Mexico Highlands University...This has really helped me pick which college I would like to go to.

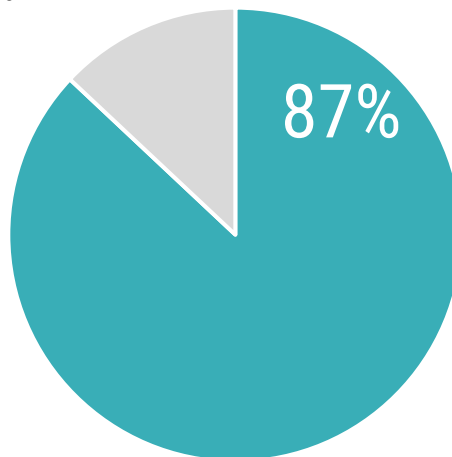
-Class of 2022 GEAR UP Student, Bernalillo HS

Keeping GEAR UP in the school will continue to assist and guide students with what is needed to pursue their college education. It will also give them more knowledge and self-confidence.

-GEAR UP Parent



Most students engaged in at least one GEAR UP New Mexico activity during the 2021-2022 school year.
n=7,576

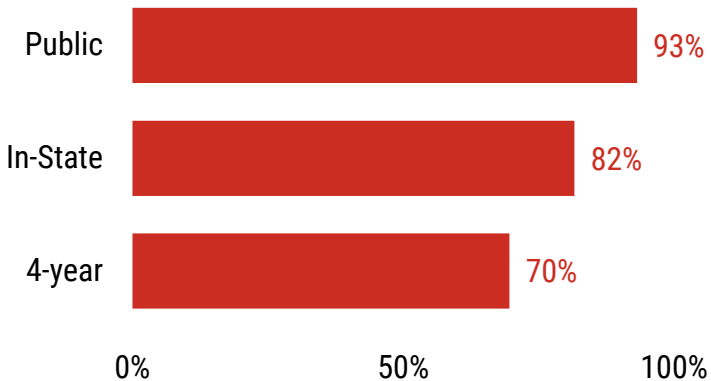




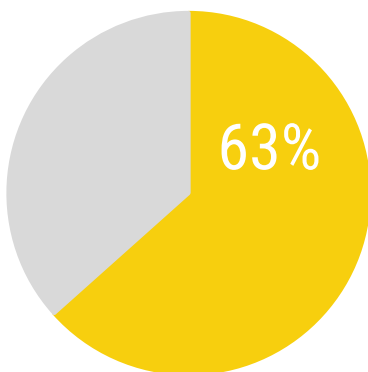
Postsecondary Enrollment

Up from the baseline of 40% for the class of 2021, 44% of (n=1,026) GEAR UP New Mexico graduates from the class of 2022 enrolled in postsecondary in Fall 2022. The top five institutions include UNM, Santa Fe Community College, CNM, Northern NM College, and NMSU.

Most (93%) enrollees (n=425) attended public institutions. Eighty two percent of enrollees attended in-state institutions, and almost three-quarters (70%) of enrollees attended 4-year institutions.



Nearly two-thirds of senior survey respondents plan to continue their education after graduation.
n=429



“ GEAR UP is a national initiative to encourage more young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard and take the right courses to go to college.

-Class of 2022 GEAR Student, Capital High School

I will forever be grateful for this program.

-GEAR UP student ”



FAFSA Completion

FAFSA completion is a strong predictor of postsecondary enrollment particularly among low-income students. Students from the lowest socioeconomic quintile who completed a FAFSA were 127% more likely to be enrolled in the fall following high school graduation than their counterparts without a FAFSA completion (NCAN, 2019).

As of July 31, 2022, thirty eight percent of GEAR UP New Mexico seniors had completed. These data will be updated once the FAFSA window for the class of 2022 is closed.

