In the spring of 2020, NEBHE, in collaboration with Maguire Associates, administered a survey to adult learners currently living in New England who were over the age of 25 and had achieved a minimum education level of a high school diploma or GED, but did not hold a Bachelor’s degree. We received 2,031 valid responses from a sample representative of the populations of the six New England States. Here is what we discovered about New England adults’ experiences with higher education.

**Valid response counts**
- Massachusetts: 959 (47%)
- Connecticut: 490 (24%)
- New Hampshire: 176 (9%)
- Maine: 173 (9%)
- Rhode Island: 146 (7%)
- Vermont: 87 (4%)

**Income level**
- Prefer not to say: 5.9%
- > $25,000: 21.8%
- $25,000-$49,999: 27.7%
- $50,000-$74,999: 19.8%
- $75,000-$99,999: 12.9%
- $100,000-$149,999: 8.9%

**Employment status**
- Employed full-time: 47%
- Employed part-time: 15%
- Unemployed, seeking employment: 12%
- Unemployed, not seeking employment: 17%
- Full-time student: 1%
- Retired: 7%

**Higher Education Experience**

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**
- Associate’s degree: 24%
- High school diploma/GED: 35%
- Some college: 41%

**How many prior college or university credits have you earned?**
- Not sure: 16%
- 0 credits: 29%
- 1-11 credits: 21%
- 12-29 credits: 12%
- 30+ credits: 22%

**Did you know...**
Over half of respondents who are currently in an associate’s degree program plan to continue on to a bachelor’s degree program.
Have you ever taken courses for credit at a college/university?

Yes: 60%

Those with college experience are more likely to be female (72%) than those without.

No: 40%

28% of those who have never taken a course for credit report incomes below $25,000. This compares to only 18% amongst those with some past credit-taking behavior.

Where have you taken courses for credit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Most commonly cited institution(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Gateway Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>UMaine Augusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Southern Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Bristol Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Shore Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Hesser College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Hampshire Technical Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Community College of Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Community College of Vermont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For those with some college experience, what were the main reasons you decided to stop taking courses in the past?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford to attend</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too hard to balance school work with other obligations</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Started a family</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had to deal with a family issue/emergency</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes were too challenging</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents who are considering taking courses in the future cited reasons including:
- Want to finish what I started
- Will make me and my family more financially secure
- Will make me eligible for new job opportunities

Follow us...more coming soon!