2020 Academic Boot Camp Post-Course Survey Highlights

Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP) empowers servicemembers and veterans in their pursuit of undergraduate education. We host immersive, one- and two-week academic boot camps in collaboration with the nation’s top colleges and universities. This report highlights select feedback and data from the post-course surveys for summer 2020 service sites. For more information, we invite you to read student interviews from 2020 courses.

General Feedback

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

- “It's a great way to build confidence in your academic abilities with a group of people who are all starting or already in it. The tools are invaluable, as is the experience.”
- “Although online, the Warrior Scholar Project met my expectations to instill academic confidence, effective learning skills, and sparked my desire to reach my limits in my education. I think anyone who is unsure about their abilities would benefit from what the staff of WSP have provided in the last two weeks.”
- “The program vastly exceeded my expectations and I feel very fortunate to have had an opportunity to attend. The switch to virtual environment was superbly executed.”
- “I would recommend it because it is a great program for veterans to begin to expand their minds and look past traditional post-military options and to be plugged into a network of people who are driven and supportive.”
- “I would absolutely recommend this program. It has given me the confidence to succeed in the academic world, and push the self-imposed boundaries I had previously set for myself.”
- “This program helped me feel more confident in college all across the board. My writing has improved drastically, I feel more connected with the college community, and overall I feel confident going into the college world. Before I was unsure but the confidence this course has given me into pursuing higher education has been invaluable.”
- “WSP Fellows and staff genuinely care about the success of veterans and it makes me feel more confident in my academic abilities.”
- “Incredibly well done; the fellows must receive some very pertinent training. I cannot say enough great things from start to finish.”
- “The mentorship I received was AMAZING. Everyone was great and I learned some great skills which will definitely give me an edge when I go back to school. Also, the networking will help so much not just academically but for my career. I look forward to becoming a mentor in the future.”
- “The skill and confidence acquired in such a short time. Everyone was personable and professional. The professors’ involvement. Not just because they're experts on the subjects but because they have so much knowledge of what to do to be successful and, maybe more importantly, what not to do.”
- “I would recommend WSP to any veteran because it challenges you to become a better version of yourself. It forces you to get over barriers that I'm sure many service members face during transition to academia.”
- “The majority of veterans I know have a degree of listlessness since their separation from the service, myself included. This feeling penetrates our opportunity to succeed in all parts of life, but most often in our education. Even though I have done very well in school thus far, I constantly feel like I'm not good enough, that I should drop out, or that I won't amount to anything even with a degree. While WSP alone cannot help us conquer the demons we carry out of the service, it is a strong guide into feeling confidence in ourselves, both as students and
as veteran leaders. Even just the six days we’ve spent here on Zoom have given me the most confidence and sense of direction I’ve felt in years.”

- “I think veterans sometimes sell themselves short. Especially in the enlisted community where many of us join because we don’t have a clear path to higher education immediately available after high school. Aside from offering crucial study habits and tools that veterans need to succeed, it lets us know that we can aim high too.”
- “I would definitely recommend WSP to my fellow service members because it broadens your ideas on what is possible. I would’ve never imagined I could have a chance at getting into Yale or Harvard yet seeing is believing and actually talking to those peers and hearing schools express their desire to have us in their programs was an eye-opening experience and I believe every veteran should have that opportunity.”

When asked to name the most important takeaway from the programming, participants responded:

- “The most important thing that I will take away from the WSP program is a methodical ability to approach difficult questions and problems and solve them. WSP has taught me the techniques necessary to make sense of difficult material without getting overwhelmed.”
- “This is my first time interacting with veterans since separating from the military and I feel a new pride of that being a part of my identity. Also, confidence that I can accomplish whatever I apply myself to academically.”
- “Just the fact that I can do so much more. And that there are so many other people like me, who are trying to better themselves. It's pure motivation.”
- “The biggest takeaway for me is realizing that veterans are not alone as we transition out of the military. Learning to be an advocate for ourselves is the most important tool we have. Just being in WSP, I was able to meet and connect with a bunch of Vets who have similar ambitions.”
- “Confidence! I now have more confidence in my ability to analytical read, write coherently, and know that I will fit into the academic world.”
- “The confidence in my decision to go back to school. This week and the program content really reignited my thirst for learning.”
- “That even as a veteran, you have the ability to accomplish any academic goal you set for yourself if you're willing to put in the work.”
- “I can do this!!! That’s the most genuine feeling I can share. My self-esteem received a really good boost and I'll ride on this momentum on my way to college this fall.”
- “Analytical reading!! This skill is something I wish I had been taught much earlier on in my academic career.”
- “Every lecturer said it: perseverance. I will continue to draw from this experience when I am in a slump and know that I am not alone and I can push through.”
- “First off, I've never taken a day of physics in my life, but really enjoyed what we did here, so I'll say I've taken an interest and possible minor in physics from the program. Second of all however, and more importantly, I think the program is helping me to reorient who I am as a person. I have really conflicted views of my time in service, having grown to disagree with a lot of the work I did while serving. It has made me feel a difficult balance of shame and pride, as I still know that I was good at what I did and at the very least was a good NCO for my peers. This course reminded me that it's okay to be proud of my service while still moving on from it, as well as rebuilding a sense of what it is to be a leader among peers.”
- “This program helped me realize that the next several years of my academic journey is not going to be easy, but with a right mind set, it is attainable.”
- “How to better study for STEM classes and now that i've gotten an immersion course for programming (the Python programming language tutorial) I will continue to learn how to code.”
General Humanities/STEM Statistics

Of the subset of participants who completed a WSP humanities or STEM course and submitted a post-course survey:

- 99% agreed that the WSP learning environment is supportive and inclusive
- 98% agreed that they are prepared to achieve their academic goals
- 98% agreed that they feel better equipped for the expectations of college
- 97% agreed that they are more informed consumers of higher education
- 97% agreed that they are more confident they will succeed in college
- 97% agreed that they are more confident they will complete a Bachelor’s degree
- 96% agreed that they are more prepared to transition from the military to college
- 96% agreed that they are more prepared for the academic rigor of college
- 96% agreed that they are capable of more than they thought before attending WSP
- 93% gained the confidence to apply to colleges they previously thought were out of reach
- 93% agreed that they have new strategies to take care of their physical/mental health

Humanities-Specific Statistics

Of the subset of participants who completed a WSP humanities course and submitted a post-course survey:

- 99% agreed that the feedback from writing instructors/tutors was helpful
- 98% agreed that they have a better understanding of how to structure an essay
- 98% agreed that they can break down an academic text’s main ideas into parts in order to understand the meaning of the text
- 98% agreed that they understand how writers use evidence to support an argument or claim
- 98% agreed that they have improved their ability to organize their ideas about a text they’ve read and write about them
- 98% agreed that they have a better understanding of how to improve their writing through revision
- 97% agreed that the analytical reading process makes sense and they applied it to the assigned readings

STEM-Specific Statistics

Of the subset of participants who completed a WSP STEM course and submitted a post-course survey:

- 100% agreed that they know how to use logical and organized reasoning to solve problems
- 99% agreed that the problem solving skills they learned during their WSP STEM course are valuable
- 97% agreed that STEM week was worthwhile and would recommend it to other veterans
- 96% agreed that they are more confident they will complete a STEM-related degree

BUS-Specific Statistics

Of the subset of participants who completed a WSP BUS course and submitted a post-course survey:

- 95% agreed that they would recommend the WSP Business & Entrepreneurship program to other veterans and servicemembers
- 95% agreed that they feel comfortable receiving constructive feedback from others
- 90% agreed that they have a better understanding of how they can utilize their military experience in order to be successful in a business-related field
- 90% agreed that they are more interested in taking business-related courses in college
- 90% agreed that they are more confident they will succeed in a business-related degree program
- 90% agreed that they know how to create an effective business-related presentation