College and Career Readiness

4-H COMMON MEASURES 2.0, 2019-20

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development Program
**Introduction**

4-H learning experiences are based on the principles and practices of Positive Youth Development (PYD). PYD views young people as vital resources with assets and potentials to be developed rather than as problems to be managed.\(^1\) 4-H programs prepare youth to be successful in college and workforce ready. Addressing the career readiness skill gap in youth, 4-H experience provides youth with learning opportunities to develop skills necessary to thrive in life and prepare for a career after high school. 4-H staff and volunteers create an environment conducive for the youth to explore career paths, learn the skills, practice, and experience the career through activities.\(^1\)

This report summarizes findings from a College and Career Readiness Survey completed by a sample of 4-H members during the 2019-20 program year. The College and Career Readiness Survey is a part of the National 4-H Common Measures 2.0 developed to measure PYD outcomes. The College and Career Readiness Survey focuses on indicators primarily related to professionalism and college and career decision making.

**Participants' 4-H Experience**

**Demographics**

In total, 95 youth completed the College and Career Readiness survey. Youth were between the ages of 14 and 19, with the average age being 15.92 years (standard deviation= 1.41 years). Nearly 86.7% of respondents spent three or more years in 4-H. The sample was 77% female and 23% male. The racial breakdown of the sample was: 61.3% White, 2.7% African American, 6.7% Asian, 10.7% Multiple, 16.0% Hispanic or Latino and 2.7% Undetermined. Youth reported living on farms (17.3%), in rural areas (25.3%), towns (22.7%), suburbs (16%), and city areas (18.7%). Results are shown in the figures that follow. (Percentages may add up to 99% or 101% due to rounding.)

**Professionalism**

- **Have you ever applied for a job?**
  - Yes: 35%
  - No: 65%

- **Do you currently have a job?**
  - Yes: 24%
  - No: 76%

- **Do you have a résumé?**
  - Yes: 45%
  - No: 55%
Is it important to arrive on time for work?

Is it important for you to be trusted by an employer?

Is it important for you to do your job well?

Is it important for you to show respect for others?

Is it important for you to have a professional image on social media?
At 4-H, did you work on your résumé?
- Yes: 33%
- No: 67%

At 4-H, did you learn how to prepare for an interview?
- Yes: 27%
- No: 42%
- Sort of: 31%

At 4-H, did you do a mock interview?
- Yes: 18%
- No: 82%

At 4-H, did you learn how to act professionally?
- Yes: 72%
- No: 9%
- Sort of: 19%

At 4-H, did you talk about how to have a professional image on social media?
- Yes: 44%
- No: 61%
- Sort of: 18%

Have you encouraged your friends to have a professional image on social media?
- Yes: 56%
- No: 42%
- Sort of: 31%
Do you have an idea of what you would like to major in?

- Yes: 60%
- Sort of: 28%
- No: 12%

At 4-H, did you learn about scholarships?

- Yes: 32%
- Sort of: 29%
- No: 39%

At 4-H, did you learn about the college application process?

- Yes: 5%
- Sort of: 10%
- No: 85%

At 4-H, did you learn about colleges that might be a good fit for you?

- Yes: 11%
- Sort of: 14%
- No: 75%

Have you shared what you learned about preparing for college with others?

- Yes: 30%
- Sort of: 30%
- No: 40%

At 4-H, did you research colleges?

- Yes: 13%
- No: 87%

At 4-H, did you tour a college?

- Yes: 19%
- No: 81%

Have you filled out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

- Yes: 11%
- No: 89%
Career Decision Making

When choosing a career, how important is it for you to live where you want?

- Important: 53%
- Somewhat important: 45%
- Not important: 2%

When choosing a career, how important is it to be passionate about the work you do?

- Important: 93%
- Somewhat important: 6%
- Not important: 1%

When choosing a career, how important is your salary?

- Important: 52%
- Somewhat important: 47%
- Not important: 1%

How important is it for you to have a career where you can make a difference in the lives of others?

- Important: 73%
- Somewhat important: 24%
- Not important: 3%
To have the type of career you want, how important is it for you to go to college?

- Important: 82%
- Somewhat important: 16%
- Not important: 2%

**How much has 4-H helped you identify things that you are good at?**
- Not at all: 5%
- A little: 36%
- A lot: 59%

**How much has 4-H helped you explore future career options?**
- Not at all: 21%
- A little: 41%
- A lot: 38%

**How much have you thought about the amount of education you might need in the future?**
- No: 28%
- Sort of: 36%
- Yes: 36%

**As a result of 4-H, have you identified one or more careers that might be a good fit for you?**
- No: 26%
- Sort of: 36%
- Yes: 39%

**As a result of 4-H, do you have a better idea of what you might actually do after high school?**
- No: 26%
- Sort of: 35%
- Yes: 39%
Are you thinking about getting a job in the year after you finish high school?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 13%
- Maybe: 28%

Are you thinking about joining the military in the year after you finish high school?

- Yes: 85%
- No: 38%
- Maybe: 12%

Are you thinking about attending a community college in the year after you finish high school?

- Yes: 27%
- No: 35%
- Maybe: 38%

Are you thinking about attending a vocational or technical college in the year after you finish high school?

- Yes: 60%
- No: 13%
- Maybe: 26%

Are you thinking about attending a 4-year college in the year after you finish high school?

- Yes: 60%
- No: 3%

Are you willing to work hard on something difficult?

- Yes: 83%
- Usually: 17%
- Not really: 0%
- No: 0%

Before making a decision, do you stop to think about your choices?

- Yes: 60%
- Usually: 37%
- Not really: 3%
- No: 0%
Conclusion

Youth-driven 4-H experiences help develop life skills, competencies, and resiliency to address life's challenges to actively contribute to society. The structured learning, encouragement, and adult mentoring that youth receive through their participation in 4-H plays a critical role in assisting them to achieve future life successes. In our dataset, a higher majority (82%) of respondents acknowledged the importance of college education to pursue a career of their choice. Youth who participate in 4-H report better grades, higher academic competence levels, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are also nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college. 4-H programs continue to provide young people with the knowledge necessary for career exploration and the critical skills necessary to succeed in their careers.
References
