

2020-2021

WORK READY KENTUCKY SCHOLARSHIP ANNUAL REPORT



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Introduction and Program History

The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) was established by KRS 164.787 in June 2019 as an extension of a similar program began years before through Executive Order 2016-912. The purpose of WRKS, as expressed in the first section of the statute is *“to ensure that all Kentuckians who have not yet earned a postsecondary degree have affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree”* [Section (1)]. The goal is to increase workforce participation rates by expanding the number of skilled, competitive workers in sectors of the Kentucky economy deemed to be in the highest need and fastest labor force growth areas. These high-demand workforce sectors for the 2020-2021 year were:

- Advanced Manufacturing,
- Business and Information Technology,
- Construction,
- Healthcare, and
- Transportation and Logistics

WRKS provides financial aid resources for Kentuckians who have not yet earned an associate or higher degree in order to make the cost to individuals pursuing credentials in high-demand areas more affordable and thereby opening access to industry-recognized credentials to more people.

The WRKS scholarship amount is designed to pay for the difference in cost between an eligible student’s tuition and fees and their federal and state student aid, with the tuition amount being capped at the in-state tuition and fees rate at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) administers the program in collaboration with the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

During the 2017-2018 year, the first academic year of program administration, funding was limited to students pursuing a certificate or diploma program in one of the top five high-demand workforce sectors. Starting with the 2018-2019 year, several changes were made to the WRKS program in order to provide more flexibility for students and better address workforce needs. These changes include an expansion of the eligible programs of study to include Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, eliminating a grade point average requirement and replacing it with renewal eligibility based on each recipient’s achievement of satisfactory academic progress as determined by their postsecondary institution, and making funds available to high school students who are enrolled in dual credit coursework as part of an approved Career and Technical Education pathway.

The portion of the WRKS program dedicated to high school students, herein referred to as the Work Ready Dual Credit program (WKDC) operates under a different award structure, with award amounts limited to a per credit hour maximum that cannot exceed one-third of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System in-state tuition rate. However, the fiscal year 2021 state budget language temporarily amended the dual credit rate to two-fifths of the KCTCS in-state tuition rate, or \$72 per credit hour, and directed the WKDC portion to be funded through the Dual Credit Scholarship program. WKDC provides up to two free career and technical education dual credit courses per year to high school students in grades 9 through 12.

Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship – Overview

Table 1 summarizes WRKS and WKDC program funds disbursed, the number of individuals receiving those funds and the number of postsecondary credit hours earned for the 2020-2021 academic year. The table lists the postsecondary Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship and the secondary school Work Ready Dual Credit program separately. Per state budget instructions, WKDC disbursements were paid from Dual Credit Scholarship program funds. The postsecondary WRKS accounts for 100% of the Work Ready funds expended in 2020-2021, where 3,447 individuals earned an average of 18.2 college credit hours. Typically, an associate degree requires 60 credit hours, but industry recognized diplomas and certificates generally require fewer credit hours. For instance, some certificates can be completed with as few as 6 credit hours. High school students participating in the Work Ready Dual Credit program are eligible for two career and technical education dual credit courses per academic year. The 10,629 high school students that participated in the WKDC program in 2020-2021 earned slightly more than 4 credit hours per person, on average.

Table 1
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Annual Summary
2020-2021

	Total Disbursed	Unduplicated Recipients	Credit Hours Earned
Dual Credit (WKDC)	\$ 3,110,038	10,629	43,393
Postsecondary (WRKS)	\$ 9,257,247	3,447	62,622
TOTAL	\$ 12,367,285	14,076	106,015

Table 2 compares the first four years of WRKS program activity as it relates to the postsecondary portion of the program. The number of recipients for each year has almost tripled during this time. The number of credit hours earned increased significantly the first few years (57% in the second year and 47% in the third year) but somewhat levels off in the fourth year with a 6% increase. The total disbursed follows a similar trend. The amount nearly doubled in year two, increased by another 52% in year three, and then 8% in year four. Program growth in the early years can be attributed to marketing efforts to make the program more widely known, and the inclusion of AAS degrees as eligible programs of study beginning with the 2018-2019 year. The slower growth in year four suggests the program is maturing operationally and should be consistent provided the program requirements remain the same moving forward.

Table 2
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
By Year of Administration
Postsecondary Program Only

Academic Year	Total Amount Disbursed	Total Recipients (Unduplicated)	Credit Hours Earned
2017-2018	\$ 2,880,881	1,194	25,702
2018-2019	\$ 5,662,645	2,240	40,352
2019-2020	\$ 8,600,549	3,406	59,219
2020-2021	\$ 9,257,247	3,447	62,622

WRKS postsecondary utilization declined slightly between the fall 2020 and spring 2021 academic terms (Table 3), with the clear, but narrow majority of disbursed amounts, students, and credit hours occurring in the fall semester. This fall to spring semester pattern is commonly observed in many postsecondary student financial aid programs. It is generally a hallmark of a program that is reaching operational maturity and no longer on the rapid, exponential growth of a newly initiated program.

Table 3
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Academic Term
2020-2021

Academic Term	WRKS Disbursed	Percent Disbursed	Total Recipients	Percent Recipients	Credit Hours Earned	Percent Credit Hours
Fall 2020	\$ 4,912,516	53.0%	2,725	79.1%	32,777	52.3%
Spring 2021	\$ 4,344,731	47.0%	2,484	72.2%	29,845	47.7%

WRKS Cross-Sectional Analyses

Approximately \$7.98 million in WRKS disbursements (86.2% of the total) were made on behalf of 3,033 students (88.0% of all recipients) to Kentucky’s 16 public two-year community and technical institutions during the 2020-2021 academic year - i.e., Kentucky Community and Technical College System institutions (Table 4). Approximately \$980,000 in program disbursements (10.6%) were made to Kentucky private, not-for-profit colleges and universities on behalf of 10.4% of program recipients. Kentucky’s public four-year universities and all private and proprietary (2-year and 4-year) colleges and schools, which comprised only seven WRKS institutions in total, each received 3.2% of WRKS disbursements for a combined total of 1.6% of WRKS recipients. Table 7 details these statistics for each specific institution.

Table 4
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Postsecondary Summary by Institutional Sector
2020-2021

Institution	Total Applicants	Unduplicated Recipients	Year Total Disbursed	Year Total Credit Hours	Fall 2020 Disbursed	Fall 2020 Credit Hours	Spring 2021 Disbursed	Spring 2021 Credit Hours
TOTAL All Institutions	8,964	3,447	\$ 9,257,247	62,622	\$ 4,912,516	32,777	\$ 4,344,731	29,845
Public 4-year	337	1	\$ 3,012	28	\$ 1,312	13	\$ 1,700	15
Public 2-year	7,527	3,033	\$ 7,979,655	56,208	\$ 4,212,794	29,339	\$ 3,766,861	26,869
Private 4-year	605	359	\$ 981,081	4,555	\$ 604,713	2,848	\$ 376,368	1,707
Proprietary 4-year	388	15	\$ 23,314	175	\$ 3,701	25	\$ 19,613	150
Proprietary 2-year	107	39	\$ 270,185	1,656	\$ 89,996	552	\$ 180,189	1,104

Students' dependency status¹, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is strongly associated with the number of students receiving disbursements, the aggregate amount of disbursed funds, and the number of work ready credits earned. The WRKS scholarship is open to both dependent and independent students. Physical and temporal proximity to postsecondary education institutions likely provided dependent students relatively greater access to information about the WRKS program at least initially, resulting in a 46% greater dependent student utilization rate during the fall term (Table 5; 1,617 dependent students versus 1,108 independent students). In other words, there were 1.46 dependent students receiving WRKS benefits for each independent student. Not only were dependent students enrolling in greater absolute numbers, but their enrollment intensity - as measured by the average number of credit hours earned - was more than two-thirds (69.8%) that of independent students. The ratio was 1.69 credit hours earned for dependent students for each credit hour earned by independent students. There were similar relationships between the number of dependent and independent students and the number of credit hours each group earned during the spring semester, although there was a greater amount of activity in the fall semester over the spring semester.

Table 5
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Academic Term and Dependency Status
Academic Year 2020-2021

	Disbursed	Recipients	Credit Hours Earned
Fall Term	\$ 4,912,516	2,725	32,777
Dependent	\$ 2,862,003	1,617	20,629
Percent	58.3%	59.3%	62.9%
Independent	\$ 2,050,513	1,108	12,148
Percent	41.7%	40.7%	37.1%
Spring Term	\$ 4,344,731	2,484	29,845
Dependent	\$ 2,538,982	1,476	18,699
Percent	58.4%	59.4%	62.7%
Independent	\$ 1,805,749	1,008	11,146
Percent	41.6%	40.6%	37.3%
Academic Year Total	\$ 9,257,247	3,447	62,622
Dependent	\$ 5,400,985	1,924	39,328
Percent	58.3%	55.8%	62.8%
Independent	\$ 3,856,262	1,523	23,294
Percent	41.7%	44.2%	37.2%

Dependent students, owing largely to better and more current information about WRKS in high school, will likely always skew the utilization statistics toward this group. Similarly, independent students who are likely already in the workforce and taking advantage of the WRKS program to increase the value of their human capital can be expected to post more consistent numbers from one semester to the next.

¹ "Dependent" students are those less than 25 years of age and commonly perceived as "traditional" college students pursuing postsecondary education immediately or within a short time, after high school graduation. "Independent" students are 25 years of age or older and are often characterized as "returning adult students."

The primary goal of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program is to increase the number of individuals with industry-recognized credentials who are trained and ready to enter the workforce in five high-demand work sectors identified by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (see page 1).

Analysis of 2020-2021 WRKS utilization by workforce sector (Table 6) shows the greatest number of recipients were in the Healthcare sector ($n= 1,501$, 41.8%), followed by Business & IT ($n= 807$, 22.5%) and Advanced Manufacturing ($n=677$, 18.8%).

Table 6
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Credentials Sought by Workforce Sector
2020-2021

Workforce Sector	Credential Sought	Total Applications	WRKS Recipients Per Sector	Fall 2020 Disbursed	Fall 2020 Credit Hours	Spring 2021 Disbursed	Spring 2021 Credit Hours
Advanced Manufacturing		1,303	677	\$ 1,029,667	7,353	\$ 858,164	6,284
	AAS Degree	720	476	\$ 761,434	5,378	\$ 653,758	4,742
	Certificate	314	109	\$ 147,330	1,084	\$ 109,674	826
	Diploma	269	92	\$ 120,903	891	\$ 94,732	716
Business and IT		2,183	807	\$ 1,067,435	7,010	\$ 974,209	6,847
	AAS Degree	1,391	708	\$ 982,623	6,468	\$ 901,908	6,355
	Certificate	687	87	\$ 77,502	497	\$ 54,955	367
	Diploma	105	12	\$ 7,310	45	\$ 17,346	125
Construction		723	375	\$ 551,295	4,005	\$ 534,590	3,768
	AAS Degree	327	204	\$ 301,204	2,055	\$ 302,026	2,039
	Certificate	145	33	\$ 42,091	290	\$ 31,678	203
	Diploma	251	138	\$ 208,000	1,660	\$ 200,886	1,526
Healthcare		4,691	1,501	\$ 1,932,588	12,211	\$ 1,691,690	10,903
	AAS Degree	2,622	867	\$ 1,061,576	7,617	\$ 1,014,704	7,262
	Certificate	1,566	518	\$ 704,832	3,398	\$ 444,464	2,077
	Diploma	503	116	\$ 166,180	1,196	\$ 232,522	1,564
Transportation and Logistics		491	226	\$ 331,531	2,198	\$ 286,078	2,043
	AAS Degree	222	135	\$ 207,631	1,374	\$ 183,339	1,331
	Certificate	155	37	\$ 37,242	237	\$ 17,337	104
	Diploma	114	54	\$ 86,658	587	\$ 85,402	608

The WRKS program assists students pursuing an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, a diploma, or a certificate in one of the five high demand workforce sectors. Greater than one half of the students pursuing Advanced Manufacturing, Business & IT and Healthcare programs of study declared their intention to seek an AAS degree; while approximately 45% of Construction and Transportation & Logistics students declared a similar intention. Advanced Manufacturing, Business & IT and Healthcare students' second most frequent declared credential were certificates over diplomas. Construction and Transportation & Logistics students took an opposite approach with diplomas being favored over certificates. In general, the trend for students to increasingly prefer to pursue AAS degrees over other credentials has continued to shift in 2020-2021 where the proportion of students pursuing AAS degrees across all sectors represents 66% of the total credentials being sought.

WRKS Activity by Institution

The final level of analysis for the 2020-2021 Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program is by postsecondary institution. The tuition amount considered in the WRKS award calculation is statutorily based on the in-state resident rate at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). WRKS-eligible postsecondary credentials must also be sought at or below the Associate of Applied Sciences degree. Therefore, it reasonably may be anticipated that the vast preponderance of enrolled students (83.9% of applications [$n=7,527$] and 87.9% of enrollments [$n=3,033$]), course credit hours earned ($n=56,208$, 89.7%), and WRKS disbursed funds (86.2%, \$7,979,655) were at KCTCS institutions (Table 7).

Campbellsville University and the University of the Cumberlands, the only two private not-for-profit four-year institutions, accounted for 6.7% of applications [$n=605$] and 10.4% of enrollments [$n=359$]), 7.3% of course credit hours earned ($n=4,555$), and 19.8% of WRKS funds disbursed (\$871,562).

The three proprietary institutions participating in the WRKS program, Galen College of Nursing, Sullivan University, and MedQuest College, accounted for 5.5% of applicants [$n=495$] and 1.5% of enrollments [$n=54$], 2.9% of course credit hours earned [$n=1,831$], and 3.1% of WRKS funds disbursed (\$293,499).

Applicants from four public four-year institutions accounted for 3.7% of the total applicants [$n=337$]. However, only one public four-year institution (Eastern Kentucky University) had a student receive funding.

Table 7
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Institution and Academic Term
2020-2021

Institution	Total Applicants	Unduplicated Recipients	Fall 2020 Disbursed	Fall 2020 Credit Hours	Spring 2021 Disbursed	Spring 2021 Credit Hours
Public 4-year						
Eastern Kentucky University	78	1	\$ 1,312	13	\$ 1,700	15
Northern Kentucky University	35	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0
University of Kentucky	94	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0
Western Kentucky University	130	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0
Public 2-year						
KCTCS - Ashland	338	184	\$ 268,439	2,112	\$ 238,344	1,816
KCTCS - Big Sandy	280	100	\$ 143,491	1,070	\$ 129,253	982
KCTCS - Bluegrass	1,029	328	\$ 443,570	2,901	\$ 442,583	3,004
KCTCS - Elizabethtown	919	480	\$ 736,395	5,034	\$ 600,904	4,185
KCTCS - Gateway	748	396	\$ 544,005	3,399	\$ 474,568	3,033
KCTCS - Hazard	320	107	\$ 121,279	871	\$ 117,978	958
KCTCS - Henderson	59	19	\$ 25,994	172	\$ 15,045	137
KCTCS - Hopkinsville	132	25	\$ 31,522	226	\$ 29,074	187
KCTCS - Jefferson	780	242	\$ 328,495	2,271	\$ 282,205	2,057
KCTCS - Madisonville	408	207	\$ 260,188	1,782	\$ 241,042	1,656
KCTCS - Maysville	347	154	\$ 227,453	1,620	\$ 213,738	1,608
KCTCS - Owensboro	542	246	\$ 322,192	2,338	\$ 295,636	2,260
KCTCS - Somerset	609	202	\$ 242,636	1,866	\$ 241,704	1,794
KCTCS - Southcentral	484	173	\$ 283,265	1,902	\$ 258,819	1,806
KCTCS - Southeast	194	50	\$ 50,076	461	\$ 46,936	359
KCTCS - West KY	338	120	\$ 182,794	1,314	\$ 139,042	1,027
Private 4-year						
Campbellsville University	563	357	\$ 602,871	2,830	\$ 374,172	1,680
University of the Cumberlands	42	2	\$ 1,842	18	\$ 2,196	27
Proprietary 4-year						
Galen College of Nursing	202	1	\$ 0	0	\$ 3,759	21
Sullivan University	186	14	\$ 3,701	25	\$ 15,854	129
Proprietary 2-year						
MedQuest College	107	39	\$ 89,996	552	\$ 180,189	1,104

Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship - Overview

The Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship (WKDC) marked its third year of administration with the 2020-2021 year. Although WKDC functioned separately from the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS), the WKDC target population could be considered a conceptual feeder to the WRKS program. WKDC provides financial assistance for up to two dual credit courses per academic year taken by high school students as part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway approved by the Kentucky Department of Education. Table 8 compares WKDC activity for the first three years of program administration.

Table 8
Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship
By Year of Administration

Academic Year	Total Recipients (Unduplicated)	Credit Hours Earned	Total Amount Disbursed
2018-2019	4,821	18,313	\$ 1,023,732
2019-2020	10,994	44,532	\$ 2,580,717
2020-2021	10,629	43,393	\$ 3,110,038

Table 9 displays summary information on the number of students, courses, earned credit hours, and total funds disbursed through the WKDC program in academic year 2020-2021.

Table 9
Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship
Summary by Academic Term
2020-2021

Academic Term	Unduplicated Recipients	Courses & Labs Paid	Credit Hours Earned	Total Amount Disbursed
Fall	7,098	8,361	25,120	\$ 1,802,342
Spring	5,347	6,144	18,273	\$ 1,307,696
TOTAL	10,629	14,505	43,393	\$ 3,110,038

On the surface, fall to spring WKDC utilization exhibits approximately one quarter decline across all four measures. The number of students declined 24.7%; the number of courses and labs declined by 26.6%; the number of credit hours earned declined by 27.3%; and, total program funds disbursed declined by 27.4% from the fall semester to the spring semester. However, these utilization figures accurately reflect how courses are being offered to students, with the majority in the fall term, including yearlong courses that are attached to the fall term due to postsecondary billing processes. Compared to the previous year, all of these figures represent a decline in the fall to spring changes, where the percentage fall-off from the fall semester to the spring semester was closer to one third.

Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship – Cross-Sectional Analyses

Students receiving awards under the Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship program attended Kentucky’s public 4-year and 2-year institutions and private, not-for-profit 4-year colleges and universities. Kentucky Community and Technical College System institutions accounted for 80.2% of all WKDC student enrollments and 81.9% of WKDC earned credit hours. This was primarily due to the career and technical dual credit course offerings that were in existence through KCTCS when the WKDC program began. Public 4-year universities accounted for 16.5% of student recipients and 15.2% of earned credit hours. Private 4-year institutions, accounted for 354 WKDC students (3.3% of the total) and 1,250 of earned credit hours (2.9%). These ratios between postsecondary sectors are consistent for number of courses and WKDC disbursed funds and relatively consistent for breakdowns by academic term. On average, each WKDC student enrolled in 1.35 courses and earned 4.0 credit hours in 2020-20201.

Table 10
Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship
Summary by Postsecondary Sector
2020-2021

	Recipients	Number Courses & Labs	Year Total Disbursed	Year Total Credit Hours	Fall 2020 Disbursed	Fall 2020 Credit Hours	Spring 2021 Disbursed	Spring 2021 Credit Hours
TOTAL All Institutions	10,740	14,505	\$ 3,110,038	43,393	\$ 1,802,342	25,120	\$ 1,307,696	18,273
Public 4-year	1,770	2,226	\$ 464,024	6,592	\$ 233,182	3,296	\$ 230,842	3,296
Public 2-year	8,616	11,863	\$ 2,557,800	35,551	\$ 1,515,744	21,070	\$ 1,042,056	14,481
Private 4-year	354	416	\$ 88,214	1,250	\$ 53,416	754	\$ 34,798	496

Examining the distribution of WKDC students, courses and disbursed funds within each sector (Table 11) shows a significant amount of variation among the individual colleges and universities. Murray State University enrolled over one-third (35.7%) of all WKDC students at public 4-year institutions during 2020-2021 with the University of Louisville being second at 20.5%. Western Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, and Kentucky State University each enrolled between 10.4 – 13.9% of public 4-year WKDC students. Eastern Kentucky University and Morehead State University each had less than 3.8%. Murray State University, the University of Louisville, and Northern Kentucky University hold the top three positions for public 4-year institutions when comparing the percentages for number of courses, credit hours earned, and disbursed dollars.

KCTCS institutions enrolled nearly five times the number of students (80.2% of the statewide WKDC enrollment) that were enrolled in WKDC at the public 4-year institutions. Here, the distribution of enrollments among KCTCS campuses closely followed the size of each campus.

Midway University, Spalding University and Campbellsville University led the 2020-2021 WKDC enrollment for the private 4-year universities, with the private sector having a total of 354 WKDC students (3.3% of the statewide total) during the academic year.

Table 11
Work Ready Dual Credit
By Sector and Postsecondary Institution
2020-2021

Institution	Academic Year 2020-2021 Total				Fall 2020			Spring 2021		
	Student Count	Courses & Labs	Credit Hours	Disbursed	Courses & Labs	Credit Hours	Disbursed	Courses & Labs	Credit Hours	Disbursed
Eastern Kentucky	66	98	288	\$ 20,736	50	144	\$ 10,368	48	144	\$ 10,368
Kentucky State	184	236	719	\$ 51,768	85	277	\$ 19,944	151	442	\$ 31,824
Morehead State	53	55	165	\$ 11,880	34	102	\$ 7,344	21	63	\$ 4,536
Murray State	633	866	2,569	\$ 184,968	452	1,338	\$ 96,336	414	1,231	\$ 88,632
Northern Kentucky	225	283	808	\$ 58,176	126	363	\$ 26,136	157	445	\$ 32,040
University of Louisville	363	430	1,290	\$ 92,880	259	777	\$ 55,944	171	513	\$ 36,936
Western Kentucky	246	258	753	\$ 43,616	101	295	\$ 17,110	157	458	\$ 26,506
Public 4-Year	1,770	2,226	6,592	\$ 464,024	1,107	3,296	\$ 233,182	1,119	3,296	\$ 230,842
KCTCS - Ashland	197	262	770	\$ 55,440	129	377	\$ 27,144	133	393	\$ 28,296
KCTCS - Big Sandy	19	24	54	\$ 3,888	14	42	\$ 3,024	10	12	\$ 864
KCTCS - Bluegrass	493	658	2,135	\$ 153,504	384	1,206	\$ 86,616	274	929	\$ 66,888
KCTCS - Elizabethtown	1,156	1,434	4,543	\$ 326,664	654	2,091	\$ 150,228	780	2,452	\$ 176,436
KCTCS - Gateway	253	432	1,191	\$ 85,752	225	604	\$ 43,488	207	587	\$ 42,264
KCTCS - Hazard	427	556	1,735	\$ 124,920	340	1,028	\$ 74,016	216	707	\$ 50,904
KCTCS - Henderson	289	430	1,071	\$ 77,112	372	896	\$ 64,512	58	175	\$ 12,600
KCTCS - Hopkinsville	82	108	331	\$ 23,832	52	154	\$ 11,088	56	177	\$ 12,744
KCTCS - Jefferson	2,410	3,275	9,743	\$ 701,496	1,780	5,464	\$ 393,408	1,495	4,279	\$ 308,088
KCTCS - Madisonville	527	824	2,450	\$ 176,184	572	1,800	\$ 129,492	252	650	\$ 46,692
KCTCS - Maysville	899	1,315	3,750	\$ 269,676	1,091	3,172	\$ 228,060	224	578	\$ 41,616
KCTCS - Owensboro	531	751	2,523	\$ 181,512	479	1,631	\$ 117,432	272	892	\$ 64,080
KCTCS - Somerset	422	653	1,882	\$ 134,964	368	1,011	\$ 72,468	285	871	\$ 62,496
KCTCS - Southcentral	733	889	2,619	\$ 188,568	494	1,447	\$ 104,184	395	1,172	\$ 84,384
KCTCS - Southeast	61	83	245	\$ 17,640	23	71	\$ 5,112	60	174	\$ 12,528
KCTCS - West KY	117	169	509	\$ 36,648	26	76	\$ 5,472	143	433	\$ 31,176
Public 2-Year	8,616	11,863	35,551	\$ 2,557,800	7,003	21,070	\$ 1,515,744	4,860	14,481	\$ 1,042,056
Campbellsville	101	136	410	\$ 28,700	99	298	\$ 20,860	37	112	\$ 7,840
KY Christian University	12	19	57	\$ 4,104	11	33	\$ 2,376	8	24	\$ 1,728
Midway University	103	122	366	\$ 26,352	83	249	\$ 17,928	39	117	\$ 8,424
Spalding University	120	120	360	\$ 25,920	50	150	\$ 10,800	70	210	\$ 15,120
Thomas More College	5	5	15	\$ 1,080	4	12	\$ 864	1	3	\$ 216
Univ. of the Cumberlands	13	14	42	\$ 2,058	4	12	\$ 588	10	30	\$ 1,470
Private 4-Year	354	416	1,250	\$ 88,214	251	754	\$ 53,416	165	496	\$ 34,798
Grand Total	10,740	14,505	43,393	\$ 3,110,038	8,361	25,120	\$ 1,802,342	6,144	18,273	\$ 1,307,696

The distribution of WKDC students, courses, earned credit hours, and disbursed dollars for the KCTCS institutions allows them to be roughly grouped into four categories based on the proportion of KCTCS WKDC enrollment. The upper category, composed of the Jefferson, Elizabethtown, and Maysville campuses, accounts for 51.8% of all WKDC students attending public 2-year colleges. The middle category, includes the Southcentral, Madisonville, Owensboro, Bluegrass, Somerset, and Hazard campuses, each of which accounts for between 5.0% and 8.5% of the KCTCS students enrolled

WKDC coursework, and 36.3% of the public 2-year sector as a grouping. The third group composed of the Gateway, Henderson, Ashland campuses reported between 2.3% and 2.9% of public 2-year students at each of these campuses. The lowest enrollment category, defined as less than 2% of public 2-year WKDC students includes the West KY, Hopkinsville, Southeast, and Big Sandy campuses. These relative rankings are highly variable from year-to-year and are largely dependent upon the high schools' ability to offer career and technical education coursework to students due to facility, equipment and instructor availability in their local areas. The percentage of courses taken, credit hours earned and WKDC funds disbursed closely approximates the percentage of students enrolled.

Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship – Course Enrollment Analyses

The WKDC program does not have a component similar to the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program requiring students to enroll in a program of study related to a specific workforce sector. Instead, the scholarship program simply pays for up to two dual credit courses that are part of a career and technical education (CTE) pathway that has been approved by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). There are numerous CTE pathways in existence, some of which are unique to a school district or location, affording students an opportunity to explore multiple career options while in high school. For ease of reference, KHEAA independently developed a broad course categorization system based upon 2020-2021 WKDC course enrollments. Table 12 lists these course categories and shows the number of courses taken by WKDC students with the number of credit hours earned and WKDC funds disbursed. The list is organized by the highest course counts to the lowest.

Table 12
Work Ready Dual Credit
Course Enrollment by Category
2020-2021

Work Ready Dual Credit Category	Academic Year 2020-2021		
	Courses & Labs	Credit Hours	Disbursed
Healthcare	4,739	14,162	\$ 1,018,108
Information Technology	2,158	6,595	\$ 474,150
Business	1,968	5,904	\$ 417,669
Advanced Manufacturing	1,395	3,665	\$ 263,388
Construction	1,001	2,969	\$ 213,624
Agriculture	771	2,282	\$ 164,304
Education	758	2,236	\$ 159,000
Engineering	450	1,795	\$ 129,240
Transportation	448	1,277	\$ 91,944
Criminal Justice	382	1,146	\$ 80,547
Culinary	211	556	\$ 40,032
Firefighting	51	219	\$ 15,768
Media Arts	69	207	\$ 14,904
Early Childhood Education	66	198	\$ 14,256
Cosmetology	14	106	\$ 7,632
Cinematography	11	34	\$ 2,448
Equine	10	30	\$ 2,160
Energy Technologies	3	12	\$ 864
Grand Total	14,505	43,393	\$ 3,110,038

The course categories listed in Table 12 may be subdivided into three general groups based upon popularity with students as defined by the frequency with which students enrolled. It should be recognized at this point that WKDC students are primarily following Career and Technical Education pathways toward high school graduation. The WKDC program provides this group of students an opportunity to simultaneously earn high school and college credit through dual credit enrollment.

The largest group, comprising 61.1% of 2020-2021 enrolled WKDC students, is composed of just three categories - Healthcare (32.6% of all WKDC students), Information Technology (14.8% of students), and Business (13.6% of students). These categories broadly represent two of Kentucky's high need occupational areas as defined for the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program. Over 8,850 WKDC students were enrolled in, completed coursework in, and earned college credit hours in these course categories in 2020-2021.

The second group of WKDC course categories consists of four academic areas. The proportion of all WKDC students enrolled in these areas is included parenthetically: Advanced Manufacturing (9.6%), Construction (6.9%), Agriculture (5.3%), and Education (5.2%). Together, these four sectors accounted for one quarter of all WKDC enrolled students (27.0%).

The final group of educational course sectors is comprised of the remaining eleven academic areas, collectively accounting for 11.8% of WKDC enrollment. These courses were in Engineering (3.1%), Transportation (3.1%), Criminal Justice (2.6%), Culinary (1.4%), and Firefighting, Media Arts, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, Cinematography, Equine, and Energy Technologies (less than 1% each).

The WKDC program, by encouraging students to make the most of their high school educational opportunities and complete dual credit courses, is an important step laying the foundational groundwork for subsequently earning postsecondary education credentials, i.e., additional diplomas, certifications, Associate of Applied Sciences degrees, and more.

Table 13 presents a more granular perspective to identify the specific courses WKDC students took within the top course enrollment categories. Within the most popular course category, Healthcare, the course most frequently taken, by a factor of 2 to 1 was Medical Terminology. The second and third most popular Healthcare courses were Nursing Assistant Skills I and Introduction to Health Occupations.

In the Information Technology course category, which was the second most popular course category overall, two of the most popular courses were fundamental introductory courses while the third was Computer Hardware and Software. The third most popular course category was Business. Personal Finance and Introduction to Business were the top two most popular Business courses taken during the 2020-2021 year.

The second group of categories for course enrollment classification, Advanced Manufacturing, Business, Construction, Agriculture, and Education accounted for 27.0% of all WKDC student enrollments. The top two courses in Advanced Manufacturing were welding related courses. The top two courses in Construction were Circuits and Drafting Fundamentals. The top Agriculture courses were heavily weighted to animal and veterinary sciences and secondarily toward plant sciences. Top Education related courses were introductory to the teaching profession.

The most popular of the third and widest, most varied category of courses which attracted the remaining 11.9% of all WKDC enrollees was the group of eleven leading off with Engineering, Transportation, and Criminal Justice. The remaining eight categories of educational offerings, Culinary, Firefighting, Media Arts, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, Cinematography, Equine, and Energy Technologies, were each comprised of 1% or less of the total student WKDC population in 2020-2021.

As this is but the third year of the Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship program, this report is preponderantly descriptive in nature. As more data becomes available over time, it will be possible to create a more extensive profile of the high school students accessing this program.

Work Ready Dual Credit
Top Courses Taken by Course Category
2020-2021

Category	Course Name	Student Count	Number Courses/Labs	Credit Hours	Disbursed
Healthcare	Medical Terminology	1,932	1,932	5,694	\$ 409,032
Healthcare	Nursing Assistant Skills I	904	904	2,712	\$ 195,048
Healthcare	Intro to Health Occupations	419	419	1,257	\$ 90,396
Healthcare	Healthcare Delivery and Management	297	297	894	\$ 64,368
Healthcare	Principles of Biomedical Science	164	164	656	\$ 47,232
Information Technology	Intro to Computers	1,319	1,319	3,957	\$ 284,904
Information Technology	Intro to Information Systems	139	139	417	\$ 30,024
Information Technology	Computer Hardware and Software	77	78	312	\$ 22,464
Information Technology	Digital Literacy	97	97	291	\$ 20,952
Information Technology	Application Software	92	92	276	\$ 19,665
Business	Personal Finance	758	758	2,274	\$ 159,282
Business	Intro to Business	659	659	1,977	\$ 140,841
Business	Principles of Management	103	103	309	\$ 22,248
Business	Principles of Marketing	73	73	219	\$ 15,768
Business	Foundations in Personal Finance	70	70	210	\$ 15,120
Advanced Manufacturing	Shielded Metal Arc Welding & Lab	114	114	546	\$ 39,312
Advanced Manufacturing	Gas Metal Arc Welding & Lab	90	90	417	\$ 30,024
Advanced Manufacturing	Cutting Processes & Lab	58	58	254	\$ 18,288
Advanced Manufacturing	Basic Blueprint Reading	63	63	189	\$ 13,608
Construction	Circuits	78	78	390	\$ 28,080
Construction	Drafting Fundamentals	50	50	200	\$ 14,400
Construction	Intermediate Computer Aided Drafting	48	48	192	\$ 13,824
Construction	Intro to Construction	62	62	186	\$ 13,392
Agriculture	Animal Science	289	289	867	\$ 62,424
Agriculture	Intro to Veterinary Science	214	214	642	\$ 46,224
Agriculture	Plant Science	88	88	264	\$ 19,008
Agriculture	Contemporary Issues in Agriculture	85	85	255	\$ 18,360
Education	Teaching Profession	221	221	663	\$ 47,736
Education	Foundations of Instruction	104	104	312	\$ 22,464
Education	Human Development and Learning	77	77	231	\$ 16,632
Education	Intro to Teaching	69	69	207	\$ 14,490
Engineering	Intro to Engineering Design	212	212	848	\$ 61,056
Engineering	Principles of Engineering	67	67	268	\$ 19,296
Engineering	Civil Engineering and Architecture	61	61	244	\$ 17,568
Engineering	Aerospace Engineering	35	35	140	\$ 10,080
Transportation	Basic Automotive Electricity w/ lab	43	43	215	\$ 15,480
Transportation	Painting and Refinishing w/ lab	16	16	192	\$ 13,824
Transportation	Suspension and Steering w/ lab	25	25	125	\$ 9,000
Criminal Justice	Intro to Criminal Justice	249	249	747	\$ 51,927
Criminal Justice	Criminal Investigations	41	41	123	\$ 8,856
Criminal Justice	Intro to Criminalistics	16	16	48	\$ 3,456