

Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship

Lottery Trust Fund Taskforce
10/19/2023



WRKS Background

- Established in June 2019 as an extension of a similar program that began years before through Executive Order 2016-92.
- Administered by KHEAA since 2017-18 academic year.
- According to KRS 164.787, “[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.”

Source: KHEAA, 2021 Annual Report



Work Ready Kentucky Recipients

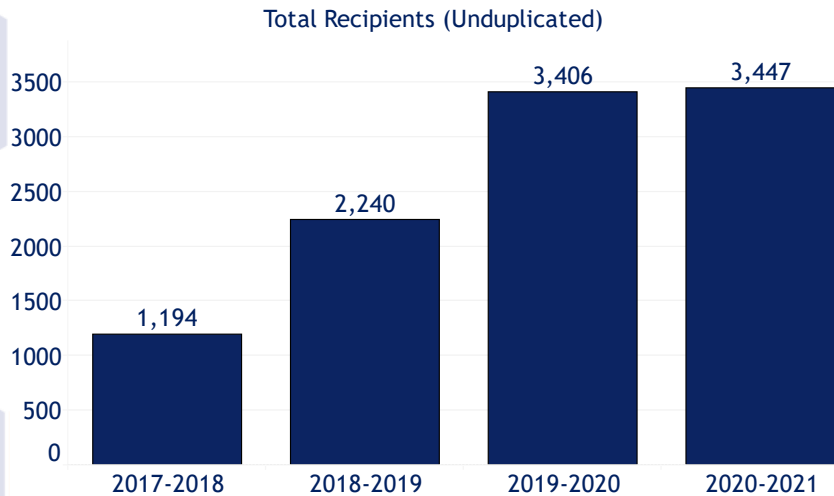


WRKS Requirements

- Available to adults with high school diploma or GED
- No associate degree or higher
- Scholarship for up to 60 credits
- Complete FAFSA
- Approved academic program, concentrates on certain high-demand workforce sectors



WRKS Recipients By the Numbers



Source: KHEAA, 2021 Annual Report



Forming a Comparable Group to WRKS Recipients

- Postsecondary enrollees in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, or 2020-21
- No associate or higher degree already earned
- Pursuing an associate degree, certificate, or diploma
- Not dual credit students



WRKS Recipient Characteristics

Compared to postsecondary population pursuing an associate degree or below, the WRKS students tend to be

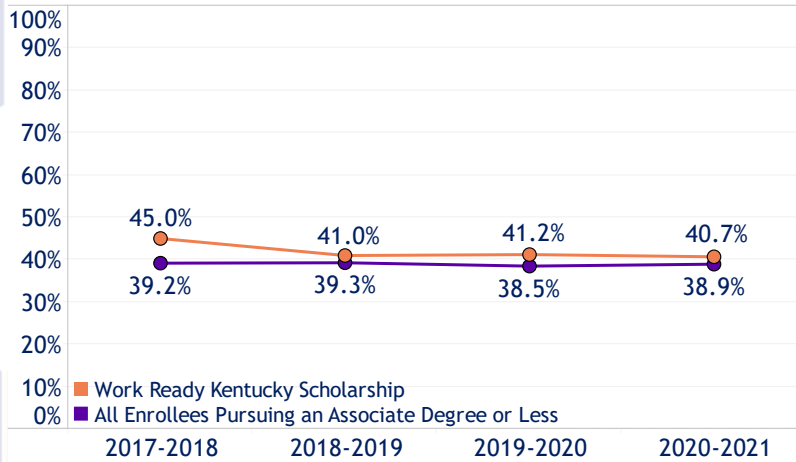
- Adult Learners (Aged 25+)
- Full-time
- Male
- White
- Not a Pell Recipient
- Higher Expected Family Contribution on FAFSA



WRKS Recipients - Adult Learners

41% of WRKS recipients were adult learners compared to 39% of comparable postsecondary enrollees.

Percent of Students that were 25 Years and Older



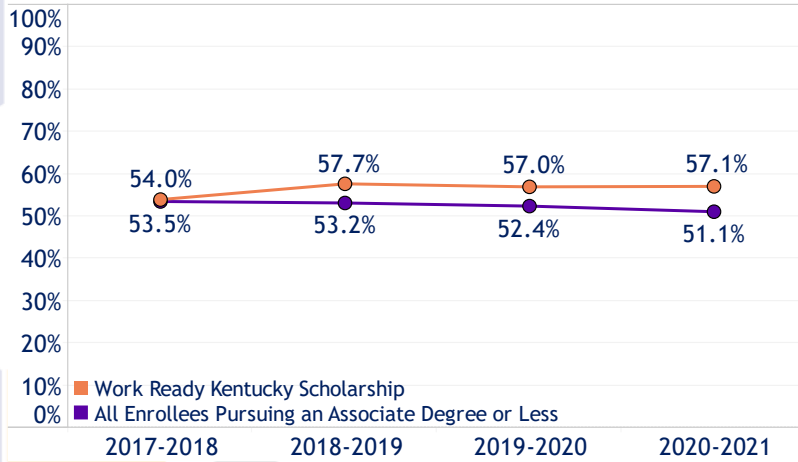
Source: CPE, KLDS



WRKS Recipients - Enrollment

57% of WRKS recipients were enrolled full time as compared to 53% of comparable postsecondary enrollees.

Percent of Students with Full-time Status



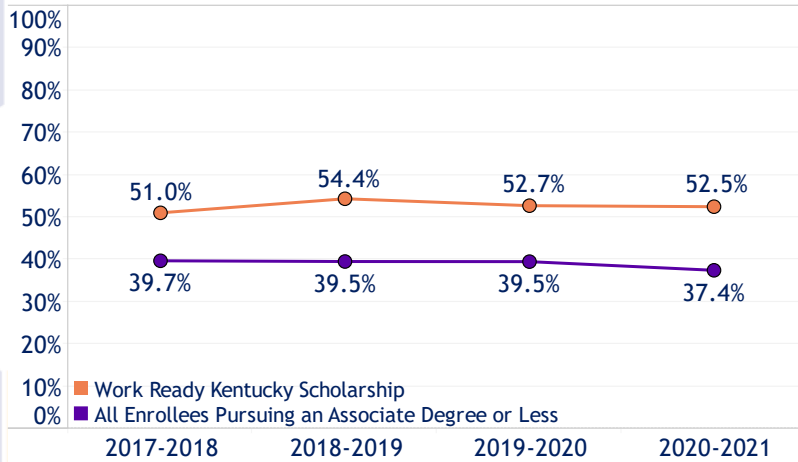
Source: CPE, KLDS



WRKS Recipients - Gender

53% of WRKS recipients were male as compared to 39% of comparable postsecondary enrollees.

Percent of Students that were Male



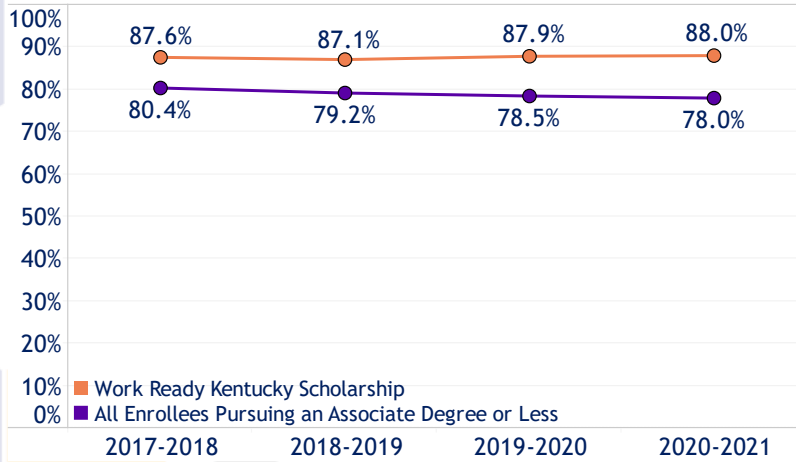
Source: CPE, KLDS



WRKS Recipients - Race

88% of WRKS recipients were white as compared to 79% of comparable postsecondary enrollees.

Percent of Students that were White



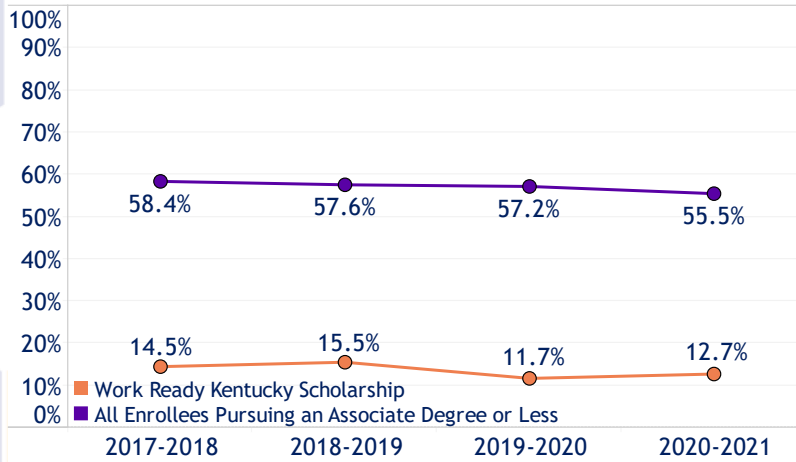
Source: CPE, KLDS



WRKS Recipients - Pell Recipient

13% of WRKS recipients were Pell recipients as compared to 57% of comparable postsecondary enrollees.

Percent of Students that Received a Pell Grant

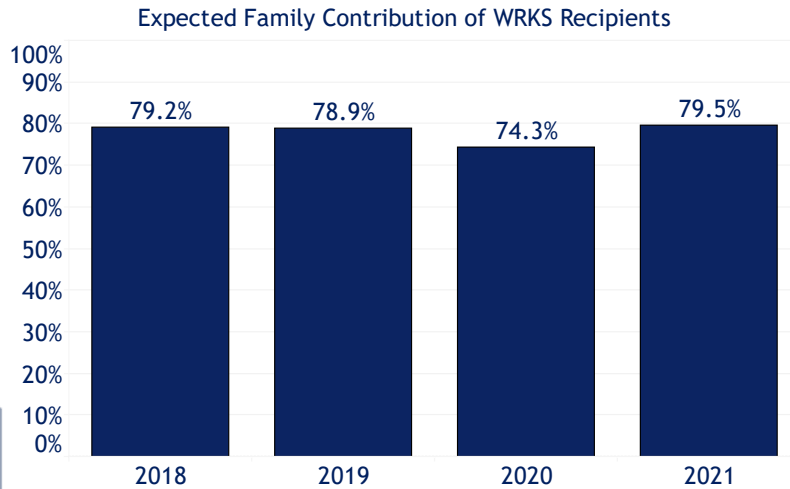


Source: CPE, KLDS



WRKS Recipients - FAFSA by First Year of Enrollment

In examining Expected Family Contribution, 78% of WRKS recipients were in the top quarter.



Source: KLDS, Data only available for public institutions and those who completed the FAFSA.



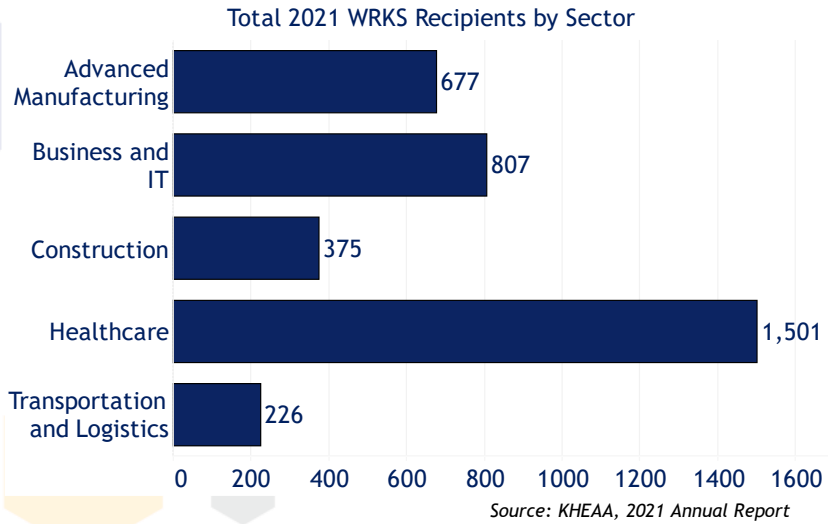
WRKS Workforce Sectors

High-demand workforce sectors of concentration for the 2020-21 academic year:

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



WRKS Workforce Sectors



Work Ready Kentucky Outcomes

- Credential completions
 - Re-enrollment in postsecondary
 - Employment outcomes
-

KYSTATS Data Limitations

- More difficult to look at over time
 - WRKS has only been around since 2017-18 academic year
 - Credential completion and long-term workforce outcomes are more difficult
- Certain metrics are only available for public institutions
- Employment is only known for UI covered employers in Kentucky
- There is not a direct link from academic area to major industry
- Major industry of employment is known, occupation is not



Postsecondary Credential Completion

By 2022, 57% of WRKS recipients earned a postsecondary credential.

Top 6 academic areas of highest credential:

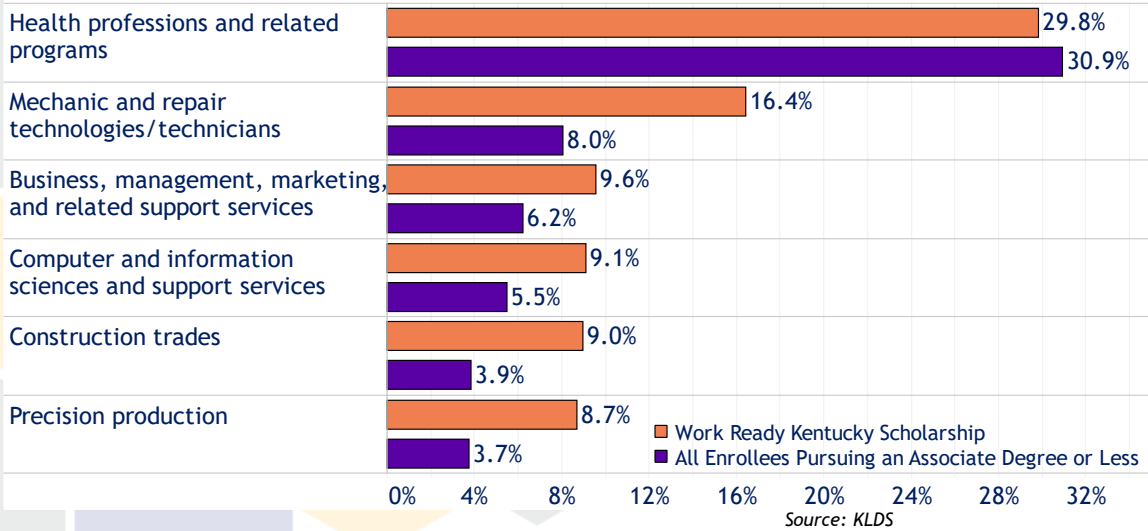
- Health Professions and related programs
- Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians
- Business, management, marketing, and related support services
- Computer and information sciences and support services
- Construction Trades
- Precision Production

Source: KLDS



Postsecondary Credential Completion

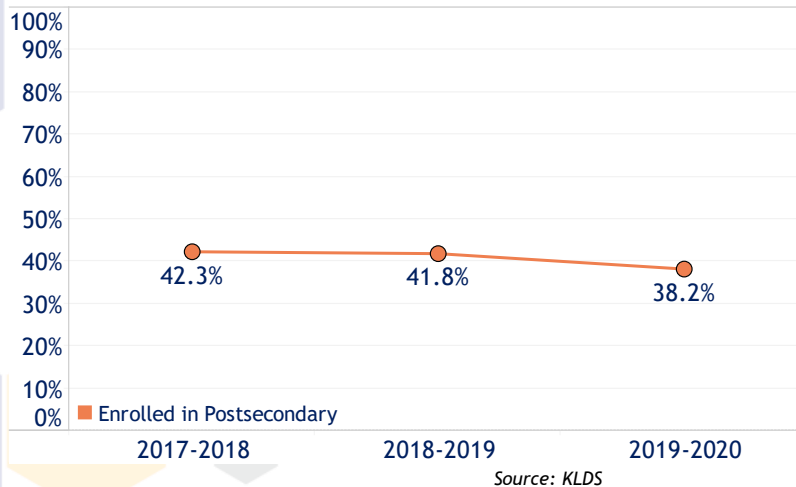
Academic Area of Highest Credential by AY 2021-22



Enrollment After WRKS by Last Year of Award

In the year after last WRKS award, 40% of recipients were still enrolled in postsecondary.

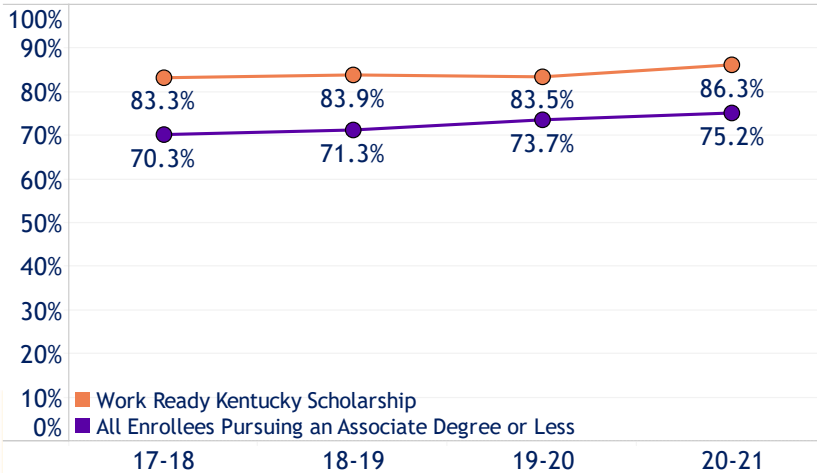
Percent of Recipients Still Enrolled in Postsecondary



Employment After WRKS by First Year of Enrollment

In 2022, 84.4% of WRKS recipients were employed.

Percent Employed in 2022

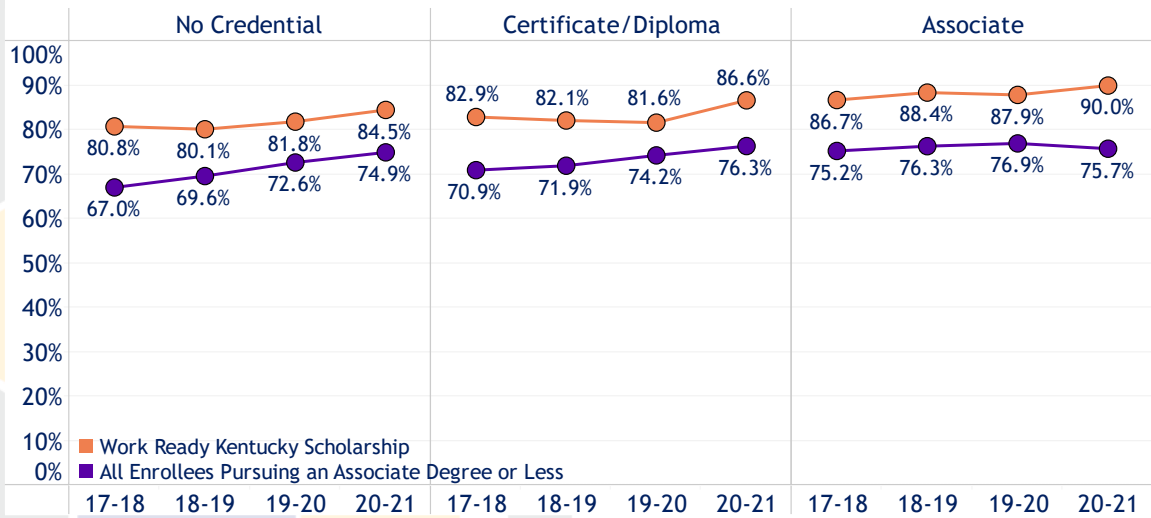


Source: KLDS



2022 Employment After WRKS by First Year of Enrollment

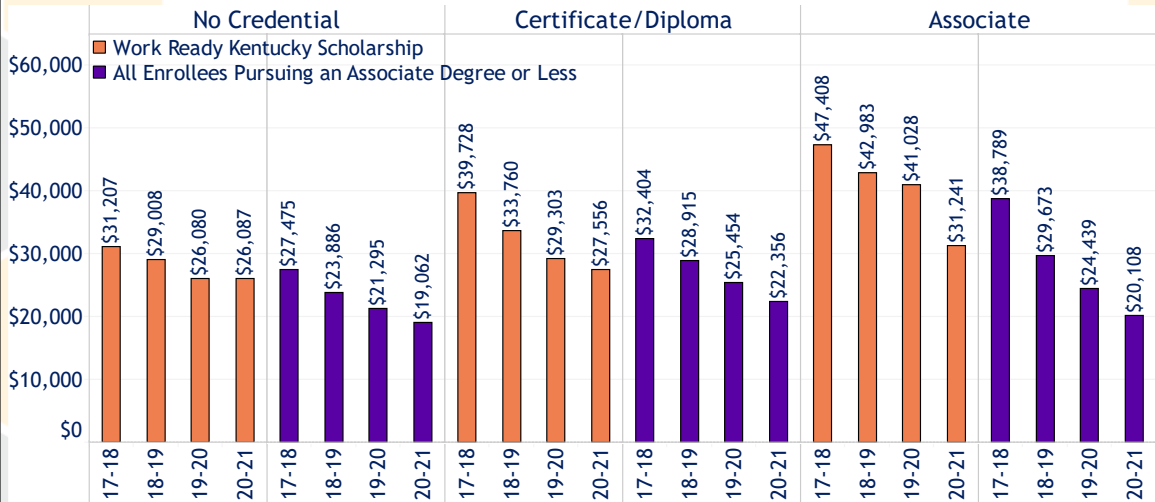
Percent Employed in 2022 by Credential



Source: KLDS



Median Earnings in 2022 by First Year of Enrollment



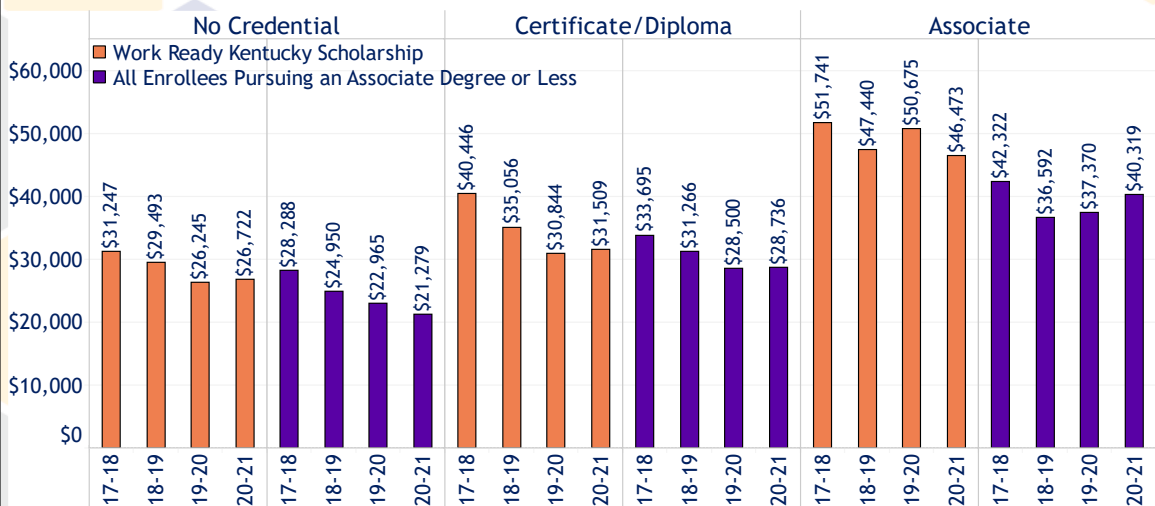
For 2017-18 students, the wages are 4 years after first enrollment.
For 2018-19 students, the wages are 3 years after first enrollment.

For 2019-20 students, the wages are 2 years after first enrollment.
For 2020-21 students, the wages are 1 year after first enrollment.

Source: KLDS



Median Earnings in 2022 by First Year of Enrollment Not Enrolled in Postsecondary



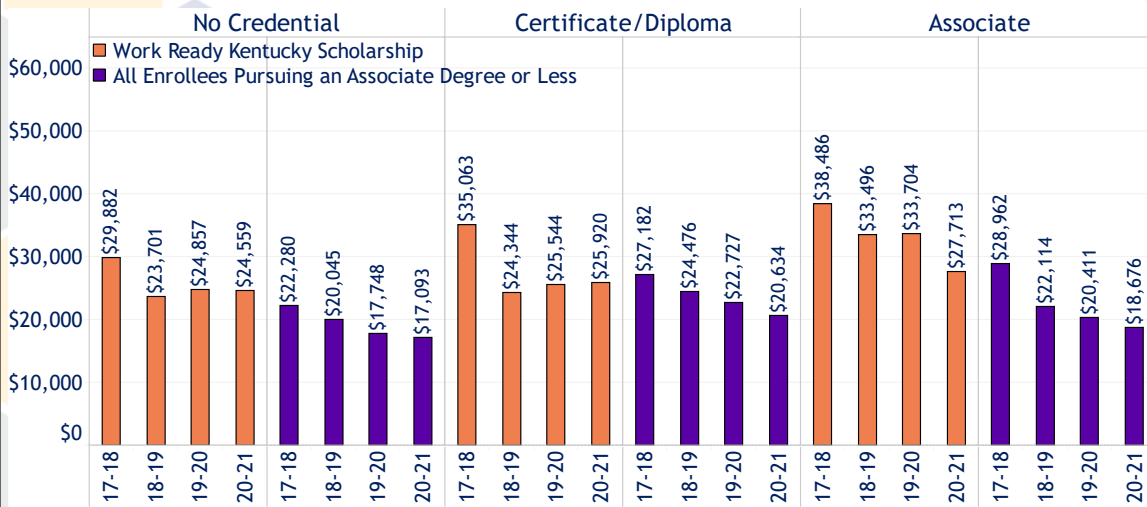
For 2017-18 students, the wages are 4 years after first enrollment.
For 2018-19 students, the wages are 3 years after first enrollment.

For 2019-20 students, the wages are 2 years after first enrollment.
For 2020-21 students, the wages are 1 year after first enrollment.

Source: KLDS



Median Earnings in 2022 by First Year of Enrollment Enrolled in Postsecondary



For 2017-18 students, the wages are 4 years after first enrollment.
For 2018-19 students, the wages are 3 years after first enrollment.

For 2019-20 students, the wages are 2 years after first enrollment.
For 2020-21 students, the wages are 1 year after first enrollment.

Source: KLDS



2022 Employment After WRKS by First Year of Enrollment

Top Industries of Employment in 2022 and Median Earnings

First Year of WRKS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$32,664	\$33,863	\$31,948	\$28,117
Manufacturing	\$61,033	\$54,800	\$50,245	\$42,244
Retail Trade	\$25,224	\$23,882	\$19,734	\$17,977

Other years varied between the next couple of top industries between Construction, Transportation and Warehousing, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, and Accommodation and Food Services.

For 2017-18 students, the wages are 4 years after first enrollment.
For 2018-19 students, the wages are 3 years after first enrollment.

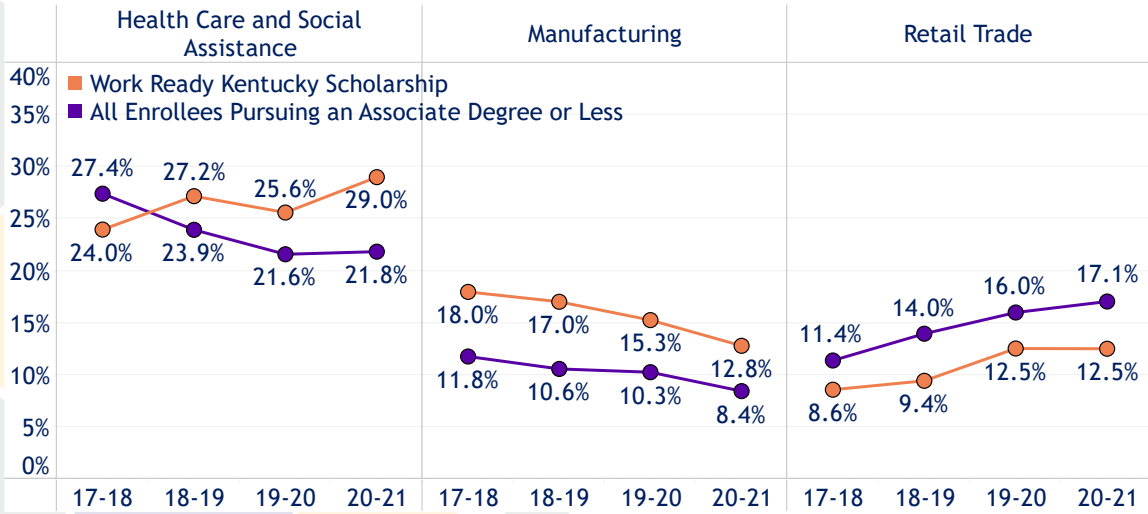
For 2019-20 students, the wages are 2 years after first enrollment.
For 2020-21 students, the wages are 1 year after first enrollment.

Source: KLDS



2022 Employment After WRKS by First Year of Enrollment

Percentage of Employed Individuals in Top Industries Among All Employed

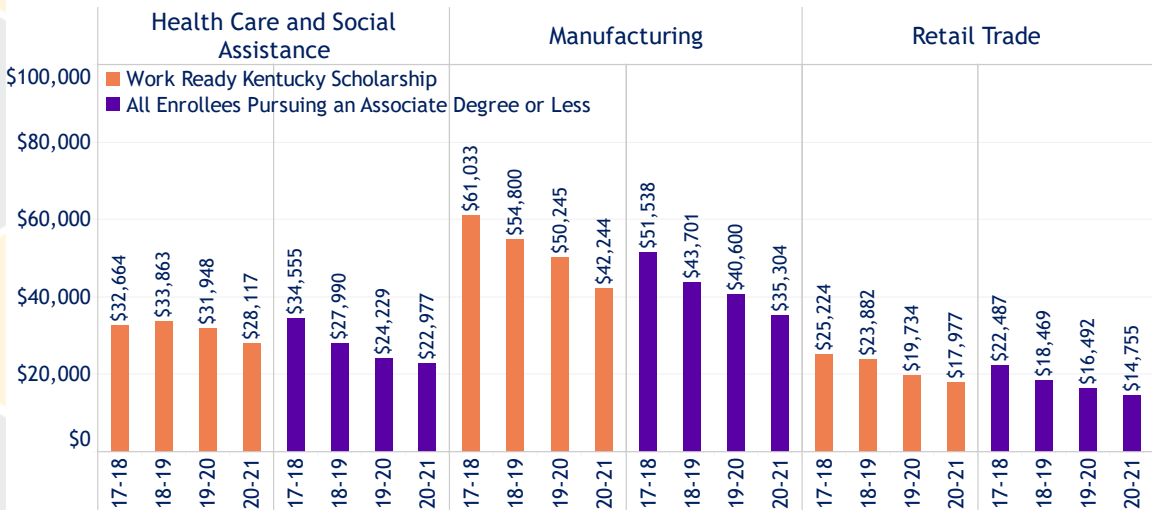


Source: KLDS



2022 Employment After WRKS by First Year of Enrollment

Top Industries of Employment in 2022



For 2017-18 students, the wages are 4 years after first enrollment. For 2018-19 students, the wages are 3 years after first enrollment. For 2019-20 students, the wages are 2 years after first enrollment. For 2020-21 students, the wages are 1 year after first enrollment.

Source: KLDS



Takeaways

- Overall, WRKS recipients had a **higher percentage of students that were adult learners, male, white, and full-time** compared to associate, credential, or diploma seekers overall. They were **less likely to be low income**.
- Workforce sectors of concentration are **advanced manufacturing, business and IT, construction, healthcare, and transportation and logistics**.
- Academic areas with greatest credentials were **Health Professions and related programs, Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians, Business, management, marketing, and related support services, Computer and information sciences and support services, Construction Trades, and Precision Production**.
- 40% were still enrolled after their last WRKS scholarship.
- In 2022, **84.4%** of WRKS recipients were employed. Top industries of employment were **healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, and retail trade**.



Ready to Learn More?

Visit us at kystats.ky.gov



Scan the tag to join our mailing list!

Matt Berry, PhD
Executive Director
matt.berry@ky.gov

Beth Kelly, PhD
Research Director
beth.kelly@ky.gov