

# **GEAR UP student panel**

## **“The Student Journey to College”**

**As part of the Kentucky College Admissions Student Voice Project**

**March 3, 2025**



**PROCESS / PRACTICE**

Study context & scope

## STUDY OVERVIEW

This is a **1-year diary-study** with 30 students to **map their admission journeys** across the 8 Public Kentucky Universities.

The goal of this study is to **better understand the student experience** of the admissions journey all the way through matriculation, following the students' in-the-moment experience.

The project will result in **8 journey maps of the current state experience**. The learnings and artifacts will inform the strategy for the great admission redesign.

## STUDY OBJECTIVE

How might we leverage a deeper understanding of the student experience as a means to alleviate their stresses and elevate their joy throughout the college admission journey?

## STUDY APPROACH

# Digital diary study and co-creation workshops



Tags	14 Oct 2024 - 17:57	20 Oct 2024 - 19:10	23 Oct 2024 - 12:53	25 Oct 2024 - 17:59	30 Oct 2024 - 12:55	30 Oct 2024 - 13:02	31 Oct 2024 - 21:03	7 Nov 2024 - 19:57	14 Nov 2024 - 22:34
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Notes	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...	Add notes...



**Moments**

- 14 Oct 2024 - 17:57**: I want to use college as an opportunity to build the skills for my future career and transition into a degree in Political Science because it fascinates me and would be useful if I...
- 20 Oct 2024 - 19:10**: In the last week or so, I have been accepted into Alice Lloyd College and have been accepted into EKU. My family posted some of their scholarships. I am having trouble completing optional parts of...
- 23 Oct 2024 - 12:53**: I have been accepted into three colleges so far and hope to attend at least one. I am also now considering more schools. I'm very stressed and far behind but also way ahead on everything.
- 25 Oct 2024 - 17:59**: I have applied to several colleges and know I want to study Political Science. I'm also now considering more schools. I'm very stressed and far behind but also way ahead on everything.
- 30 Oct 2024 - 12:55**: I got accepted into Murray State University. I'm also now considering more schools. I'm very stressed and far behind but also way ahead on everything.
- 30 Oct 2024 - 13:02**: I am a little nervous but also very excited for college. I know it will be challenging and require me to take in more responsibility.
- 31 Oct 2024 - 21:03**: I'm working towards end of month deadlines and schoolwork.
- 7 Nov 2024 - 19:57**: I wish the early school deadlines were more consistent between colleges.
- 14 Nov 2024 - 22:34**: I wish the early school deadlines were more consistent between colleges.

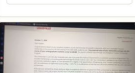


Tags	12 Oct 2024 - 10:07	15 Oct 2024 - 14:22	16 Oct 2024 - 14:05	18 Oct 2024 - 14:19	22 Oct 2024 - 17:10	25 Oct 2024 - 13:53	29 Oct 2024 - 13:15	29 Oct 2024 - 13:19	30 Oct 2024 - 12:20	1 Nov 2024 - 12:17
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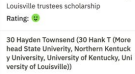
**Moments**

- 12 Oct 2024 - 10:07**: Prior to beginning this work, I intended to explore the potential of college through the state of Kentucky. I wanted to find a college that would be the best for me. I intended college to be a place where I could learn, grow, and explore various fields of study. I wanted to gain better understanding of what each university had to offer. I am very grateful for the resources that are available to me.
- 15 Oct 2024 - 14:22**: This work has been busy with trying to apply for college and various applications. The first early action deadline was on October 15th, so I have been trying to finish my applications to be eligible for some scholarships. I have been trying to look forward to college.
- 16 Oct 2024 - 14:05**: This work has been busy with trying to apply for college and various applications. The first early action deadline was on October 15th, so I have been trying to finish my applications to be eligible for some scholarships. I have been trying to look forward to college.
- 18 Oct 2024 - 14:19**: This work has been busy with trying to apply for college and various applications. The first early action deadline was on October 15th, so I have been trying to finish my applications to be eligible for some scholarships. I have been trying to look forward to college.
- 22 Oct 2024 - 17:10**: I have started the process of applying to colleges, and I have not yet finished all of my applications, which is somewhat stressful. However, I have been very busy with other things I am involved in. On a positive note, I received a great offer from Murray State.
- 25 Oct 2024 - 13:53**: I have started the process of applying to colleges, and I have not yet finished all of my applications, which is somewhat stressful. However, I have been very busy with other things I am involved in. On a positive note, I received a great offer from Murray State.
- 29 Oct 2024 - 13:15**: I have started the process of applying to colleges, and I have not yet finished all of my applications, which is somewhat stressful. However, I have been very busy with other things I am involved in. On a positive note, I received a great offer from Murray State.
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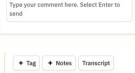
1 Reagan Daniels (16 Ronnie D (Eastern Kentucky University))  
Target Group: Phase 2: all students  
Task: 11. My REFLECTION DIARY (Week 6, 8, 9, November 2024)



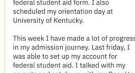
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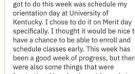
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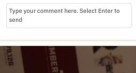
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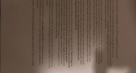
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note from one student who gave my tour thinking me for visiting the campus. I was very happy about this because it made me feel like people at this school were taking time to personally reach out to me.

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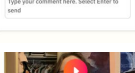
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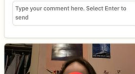
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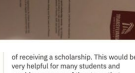
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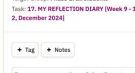
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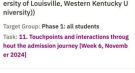


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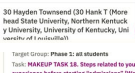
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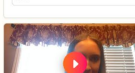
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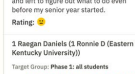
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## STUDY TIMELINE

Students began completing weekly tasks and reflection diaries in the study platform Indeemo on October 1st. Phase 1 concludes in May 2025 when 24 students will be selected to move into Phase 2. The diary study concludes in August and the final deliverables will be completed by October 2025.

**Sept 1 - Oct 1 2024**

### **Planning and recruiting**

Study planning, identify screening criteria, incentives and kick off participant recruiting. Complete technical setup in Indeemo Diary study tool.

**Oct 1, 2024 - May 1, 2025**

### **Phase 1 diary study / Pre-admission**

30 students submit weekly digital diary entries in an online platform for 7 months and participate in a digital workshop with other students.

**May 1 - August 1, 2025**

### **Phase 2 diary study / Post-admission**

24 students submit weekly digital diary entries in an online platform for 4 months and participate in a digital workshop with other students.

**Aug - Oct 2025**

### **Sense-making and reporting**

Synthesize what we learned and create insights artifacts and Student Journey maps to inform the broader Admission redesign work.

## PARTICIPANTS / PHASE 1

High School	# of students
Augusta Independent	4
Bath County	4
Bourbon County	1
Fleming County	7
Frankfort	2
Holmes	1
Marion County	1
Mercer County	1
Paris	5
Pendelton County	2
Robertson	2

## PHASE 1: October 2024 - May 2025

We currently have **30 High School Seniors** representing **11 different High Schools** participating in Phase 1: Augusta Independent School, **Bath County**, Bourbon County, Fleming County, Frankfort, Holmes, Marion County, **Mercer County**, **Paris**, Pendelton County, and **Robertson County**.

Each of them is **applying to at least one of these eight different Public Kentucky Universities**: Western Kentucky University, Murray State University, Kentucky State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville.

	FRPL Full price	Gifted/ Talented	First Gen	Dual credit
# of students	23	11	8	30

Race	White	Black / African American	Others
# of students	25	5	NA

Gender	Female	Male
# of students	22	8

## **PHASE 2: May - August 2025**

In phase 2 we are aiming for 24 participants total, representing a diverse body of students. We will start with the existing pool and recruit additional students as needed.

The goal is to have 3 students per journey across the **eight different Public Kentucky Universities:**

- Western Kentucky University
- Murray State University
- Kentucky State University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Morehead State University
- Northern Kentucky University
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville



The students' journey so far

The students' journey so far (Oct - Jan 2025)

October

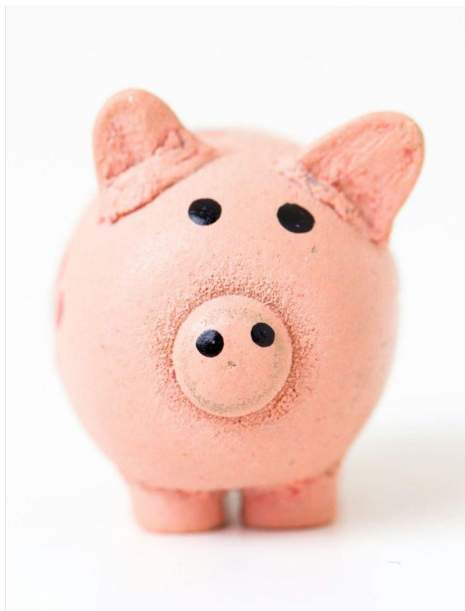
January

Dreaming & researching

Figuring out what's possible

Applying & weighing options

Waiting & making a choice



## INTRODUCTION: OUR STUDENT PANELISTS

### Raegan Daniels

Mercer County Senior High School



Raegan Daniels is a senior at Mercer County Senior High School. She is involved in Beta Club, National Honor Society, Educators Rising, and First Priority. Raegan is looking forward to pursuing postsecondary education to study middle grades education.

### Kate Buckler

Robertson County High School



Kate Buckler is a senior at Robertson County High School in Robertson County. She is involved in Academic Team, Art Club, Library Peer Tutoring, and Beta Club, and is looking forward to pursuing postsecondary education in political science.

### Hayden Townsend

Bath County High School



Hayden Townsend is a senior at Bath County High School in Bath County. He is involved in TSA and Skills USA and is looking forward to pursuing postsecondary education to study Computer Engineering.

### Katie Davis

Paris High School



Katie Davis is a senior at Paris High School in Bourbon County. She is involved in National Honors Society, dual credit classes, and is valedictorian of her school. She is looking forward to pursuing post secondary education to study business or psychology.