

Aspirations Report

LESSONS 1-11

EDSTAR ANALYTICS, INC

Contents

Overview.....	2
Results.....	2
Key Trends.....	4
Greatest Changes.....	4
Areas Needing More Help.....	4
Recommendations.....	5
1. Understanding Complex Financial Aid Processes.....	5
2. Enhancing Career and Skill Matching.....	5
3. Improving Knowledge of College Programs and Costs.....	5
4. Deepening Understanding of Interest Profiles.....	5
5. Navigating Post-Secondary Education Options.....	6
6. Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Specific Subject-Area Majors.....	6
General Recommendations.....	6
Appendix: Results Charts.....	7

Overview

The Aspiration lessons consist of 17 thirty-minute lessons that are designed to teach students about information that is available to them for planning the path to their aspirations. Students will learn to use the websites and will also learn what steps to take to plan their futures.

To date, students have completed 11 of the lessons. The survey results indicate varying degrees of change in students' knowledge and attitudes before and after the lessons.

Results

Table 1. Pre and Post-Test Results for Lessons 1 – 11: Percent Positive Responses

	Pre	Post
Lesson 1: Careers and Skill Matching		
Can name 5 careers that match skills.	50%	71%
Can name a career requiring no formal education	56%	71%
Can name a career requiring HS diploma	53%	76%
Can name a career requiring Post Secondary	41%	59%
Know 5 careers and education level	50%	71%
Know where to get information about careers and job openings	79%	47%
Lesson 2: Careers and Interest Matching		
I can name at least five careers/jobs that are a good match for my interests. (yes)	63%	86%
Could name a career:		
No Formal Education	65%	79%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	47%	71%
College Degree	29%	50%
I know where to get information.	53%	93%
I know my interest profile.	59%	43%
Lesson 3: What's a STEM Career?		
Name Top Cities for STEM Employment	23%	60%

	Pre	Post
Can Name Several STEM Careers	15%	50%
I know the average salary for STEM careers	15%	40%
Lesson 4: Cost of Living		
I know the cost of living where I live compared to other places	18%	75%
I know how to compare the value of a salary in two different cities.	17%	67%
I know the cost of living in my town.	33%	73%
Lesson 5: College Score Card		
I know how to find the graduation rate for any college or university.	57%	90%
I can compare the average salaries of graduates of two colleges or universities.	50%	60%
I know how to find the typical ACT or SAT scores for a college so I can compare to how I might fit in.	57%	70%
Lesson 6: NC Promise and Carolina Covenant		
I know which universities are included in NC Promise.	41%	35%
I know the cost of tuition in NC Promise Tuition Plan.	29%	35%
I know how to qualify for Carolina Covenant Tuition Program.	29%	44%
Lesson 7: Tuition-Free Colleges		
Can name three tuition-free colleges:	5%	0%
I know how to compare attributes of different tuition-free colleges.	48%	67%
I can compare graduation rates of tuition free colleges to other colleges.	33%	50%
I can name one tuition free college.	24%	64%
Lesson 8: FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)		
I know what FAFSA is.	14%	36%
Completing FAFSA by the deadline is important.	21%	42%
There is a difference between a grant, scholarship, and a loan.	29%	50%
Lesson 9: Scholarships		
I have done an online search for scholarships.	60%	100%
I Know how to search for scholarships.	50%	80%
Lesson 10: Pell Grants		

	Pre	Post
Student knows how to find out if they qualify for a Pell Grant	30%	44%
Know the difference between a Pell Grant and Loan	20%	56%
Knows when Pell Grants must be repaid	20%	44%
Lesson 11: College Costs by by Subject-Area Major		
I know what to include when figuring the cost of college.	25%	100%
Can approximate the cost of attending a 4-year college in your state.	75%	100%
Can approximate the cost of attending a 2-year college in your state full time.	75%	100%
I know how to compare the cost of colleges for specific majors.	75%	50%

Key Trends

- **Positive Gains in Knowledge:** Most lessons showed an overall positive trend in students' knowledge and awareness about different aspects of career planning, educational opportunities, and financial aid.
- **Variation Across Lessons:** The degree of change varied across different lessons, indicating that certain topics resonated more effectively with students or were more effectively taught than others.

Greatest Changes

- Some lessons exhibited significant positive changes, particularly those focusing on career matching and understanding financial aid options.
- Lessons related to practical knowledge, such as understanding the cost of living and college expenses, tended to have notable positive impacts, reflecting the relevance of these topics to students.

Areas Needing More Help

- In a few lessons, we observed little progress or minor declines in specific areas. This might be due to students initially not realizing the extent of what they didn't know. They may have thought the subjects were simpler than they are. As they learned more, their awareness of their own knowledge gaps and the complexity of the topics increased.
- Topics that are more complex or abstract, such as understanding detailed financial aid processes or specific college programs, might need more in-depth coverage or follow-up sessions.

Recommendations

1. Understanding Complex Financial Aid Processes

- **Hands-On Workshops:** Organize practical workshops where students fill out mock forms or applications, guiding them through each step.
- **Guest Speakers:** Invite financial aid officers or experts to talk to the students, offering real-world insights and answering questions.

2. Enhancing Career and Skill Matching

- **Interactive Career Exploration Tools:** Use online tools and assessments to help students identify careers that align with their skills and interests.
- **Real-Life Case Studies:** Introduce case studies of individuals in various careers, showcasing the skills and education needed for those roles.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Partner with professionals from various fields to provide mentorship opportunities, giving students a firsthand understanding of different careers.

3. Improving Knowledge of College Programs and Costs

- **Informative Sessions on College Options:** Conduct sessions that detail different types of college programs, focusing on what each offers and their associated costs.
- **Comparative Analysis Exercises:** Have students compare different colleges based on factors like cost, programs offered, and location, to enhance their understanding.
- **College Visits or Virtual Tours:** Arrange for visits to colleges or virtual tours to provide real-life insights into college life and expenses.

4. Deepening Understanding of Interest Profiles

- **Self-Assessment Tools:** Utilize interest and personality assessment tools to help students understand their preferences and aptitudes.
- **Career Path Workshops:** Hold workshops where students explore how their interests can translate into potential career paths.
- **Group Discussions and Activities:** Facilitate group discussions and activities that allow students to explore and share their interests and how they relate to career choices.

5. Navigating Post-Secondary Education Options

- **Informational Sessions on Post-Secondary Paths:** Provide clear information on different post-secondary paths, including vocational training, community colleges, and four-year universities.
- **Alumni Talks:** Invite alumni who have taken different post-secondary paths to share their experiences and advice.
- **Resource Compilation:** Create a comprehensive resource guide detailing various post-secondary options, including the pros and cons of each.

6. Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Specific Subject-Area Majors

- **Subject-Specific Workshops:** Conduct workshops focusing on what studying different majors entails and potential career paths associated with each.
- **Faculty Guest Lectures:** Invite faculty members from local colleges to speak about their subject areas and the opportunities they offer.

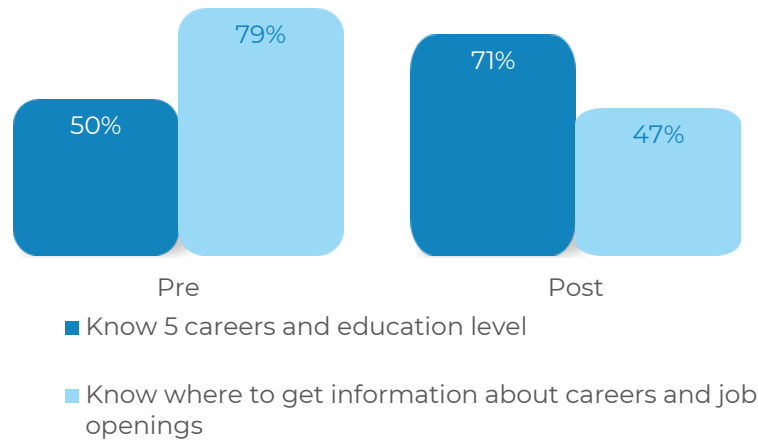
General Recommendations

- **Continuous Feedback Loop:** Regularly solicit feedback from students to understand which areas they find challenging and to adapt the lessons accordingly.
- **Collaboration with Educators:** Collaborate with educators and counselors to provide students with information that is aligned with students' academic and career planning needs.

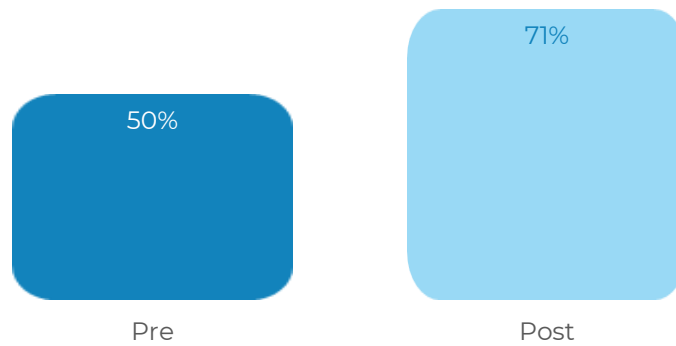
Appendix: Results Charts

Lesson 1: Skills Matcher

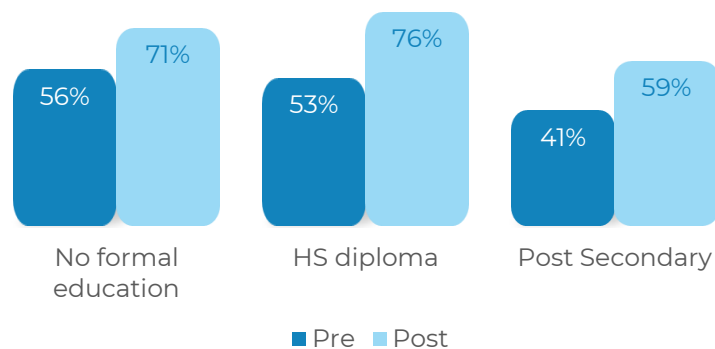
Percentages of Students Who Agree or Strongly Agree,
N = 34



Percentages of Students Who Can Name 5 Careers
That Match Their Skills, N = 34

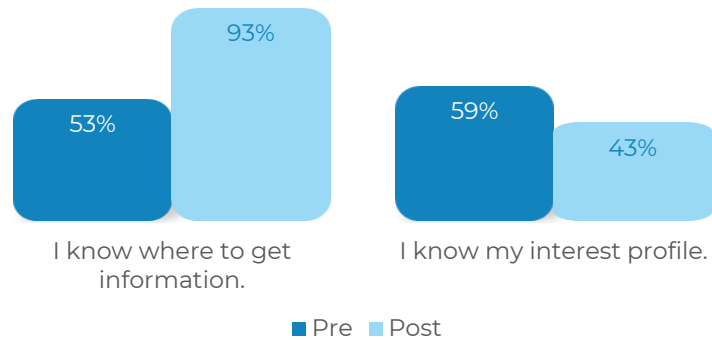


Percentages of Students Who Could Name a Career
That Matched Their Skills, by Education Level, N = 34

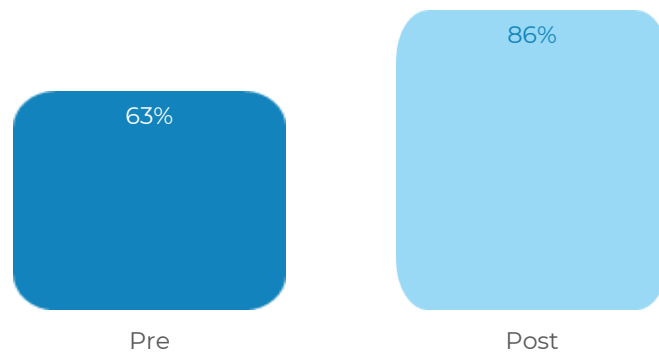


Lesson 2: Careers Interest Matching Survey Outcomes

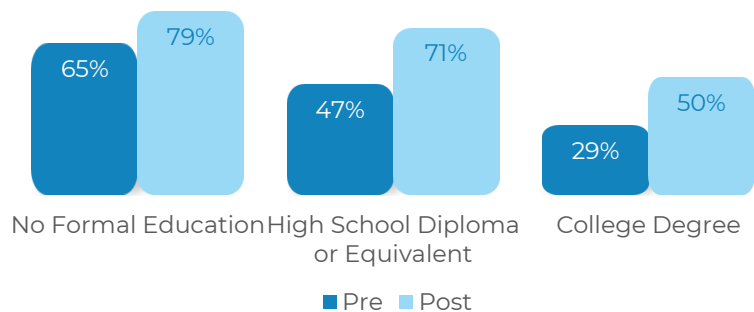
Percentages of Students Who Agree or Strongly Agree,
N = 17



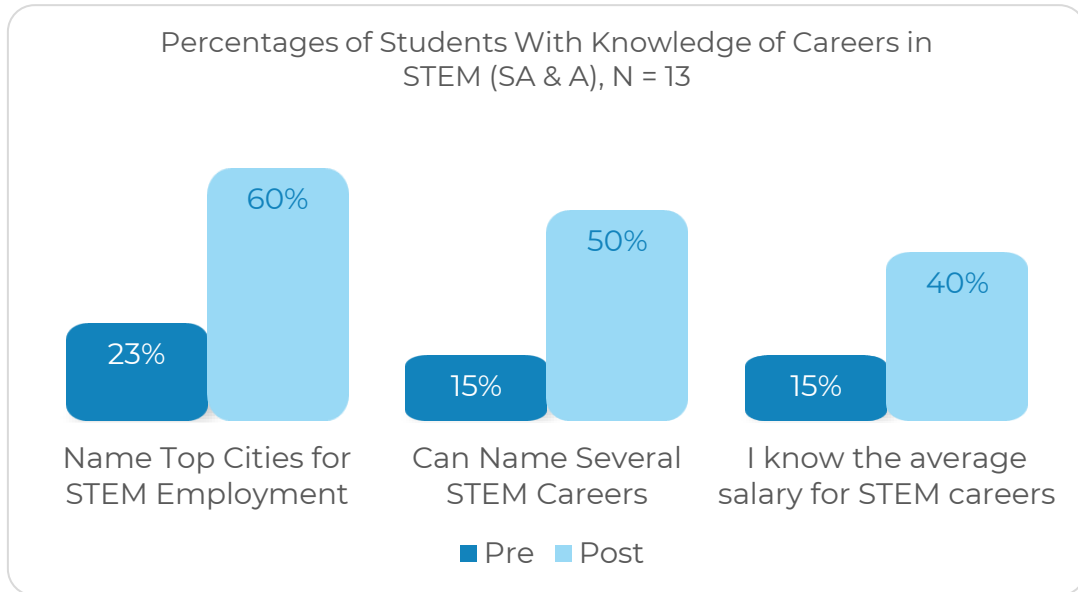
Percentages of Students Who Can Name 5 Careers That
Match Their Interests, N = 17



Percentages of Students Who Could Name a Career That
Matched Their Interests, by Education Level, N = 17

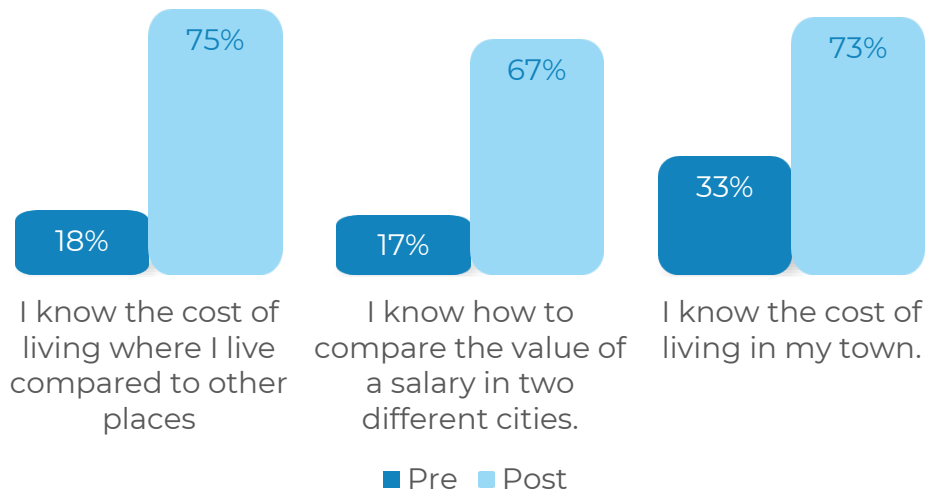


Lesson 3: What's a STEM Career?



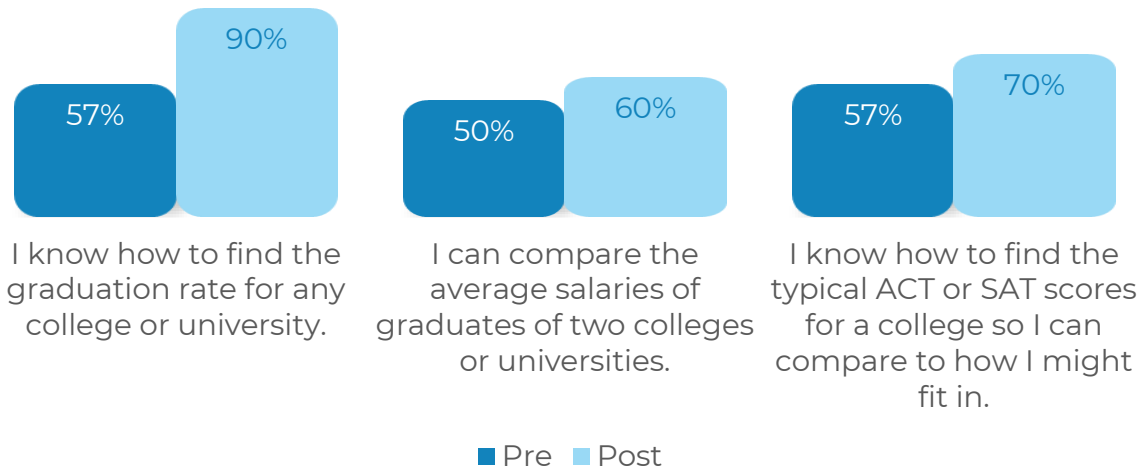
Lesson 4: Cost of Living

Percentages of Students With Knowledge of the Cost of Living (SA & A), N = 11

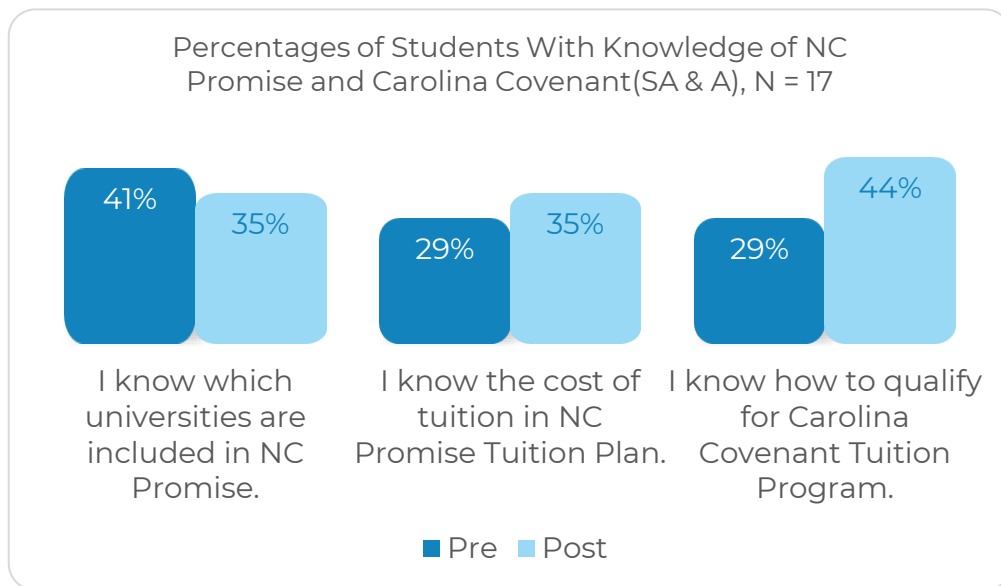


Lesson 5: College Score Card

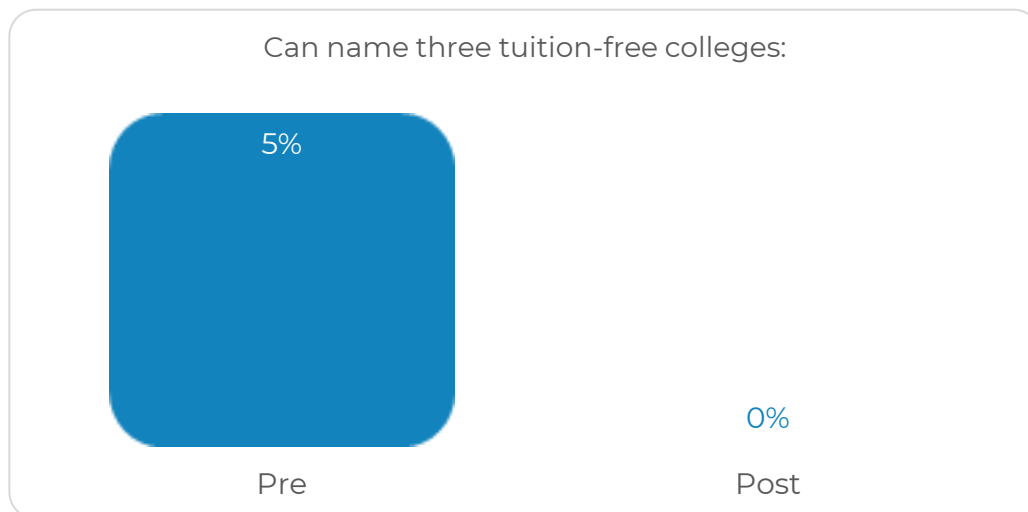
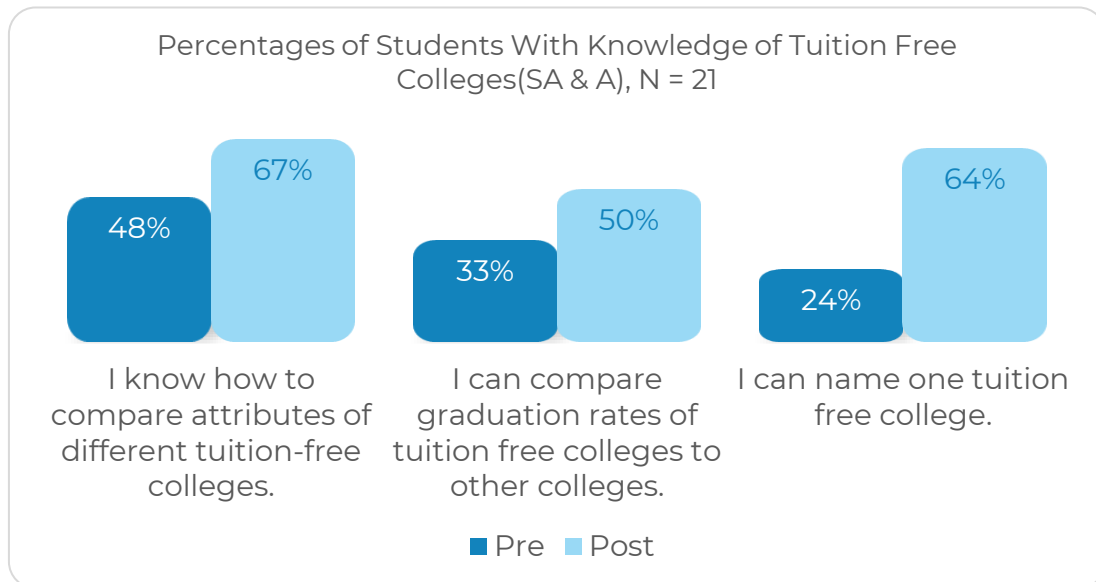
Percentages of Students Who Have Knowledge of College Scores, N
= 14



Lesson 6:
NC Promise and Carolina Covenant



Lesson 7: Knowledge of Tuition-Free Colleges

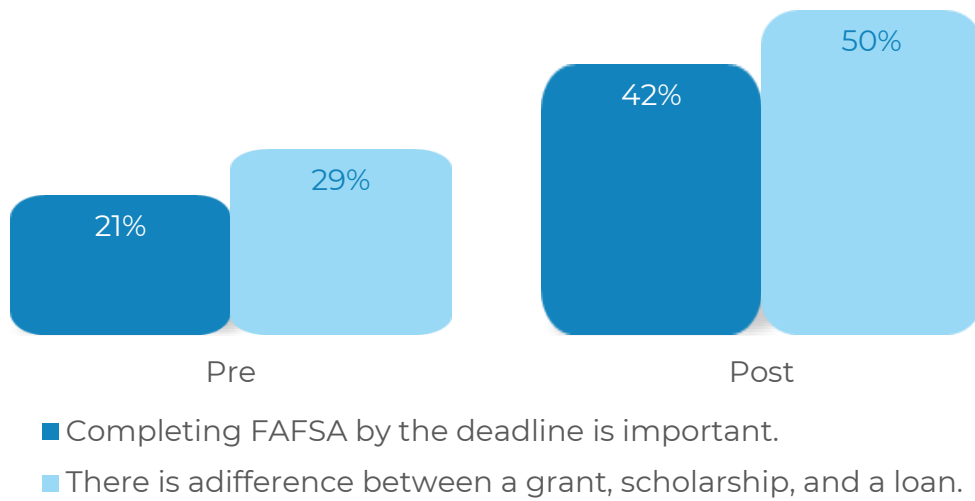


*Although 64% students said they could name one tuition-free college, the colleges that they named were not tuition-free.

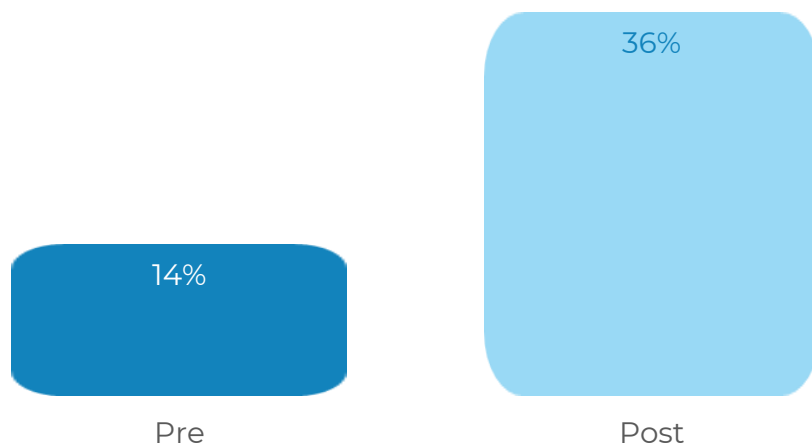


Lesson 8:
FAFSA

Percentages of Students With Knowledge of FAFSA(SA & A), N = 12

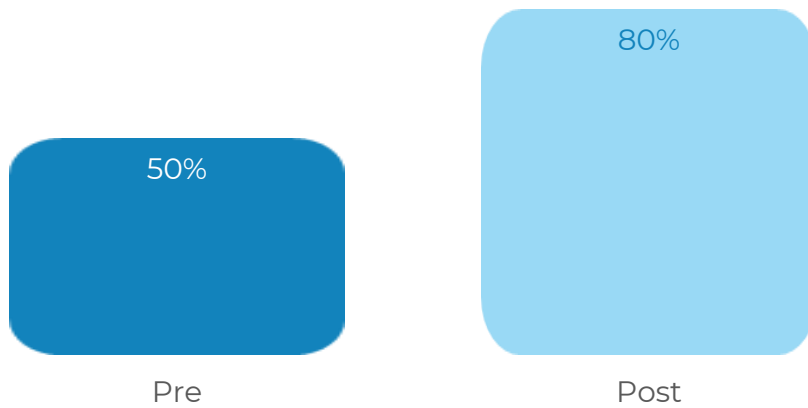


Knowledge of FAFSA, N = 12

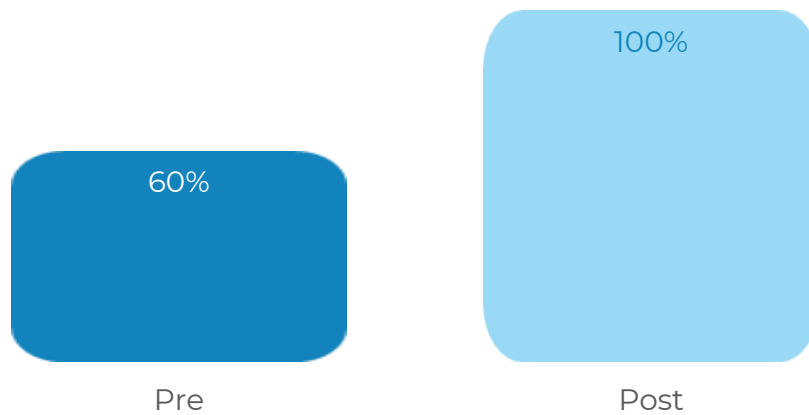


Lesson 9: Scholarships

Percentages of Students With Knowledge of
Scholarships (SA & A), N = 10

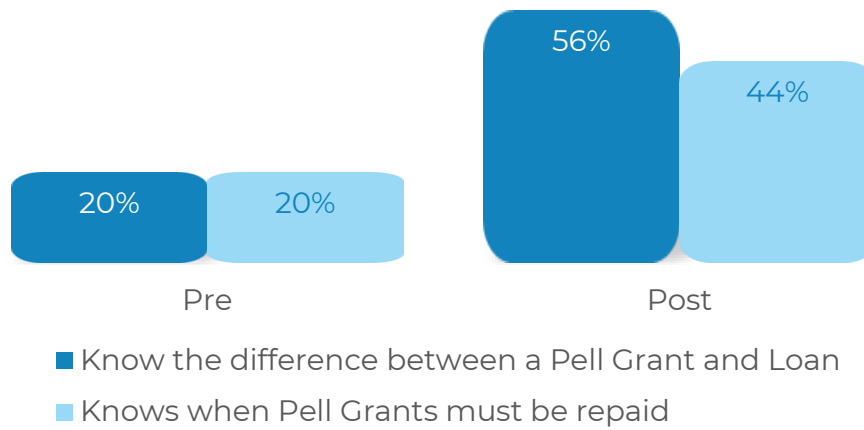


I have done an online search for scholarships, N = 10

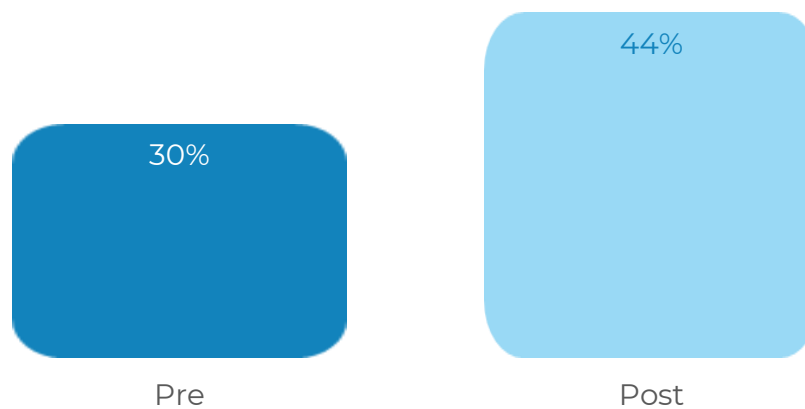


Lesson 10: Pell Grants

Percentages of Students With Knowledge of Pell Grants
and Loans(SA & A), N = 9



Percentage of Students Who Know How to Find Out If
They Qualify for Pell Grants, N = 9

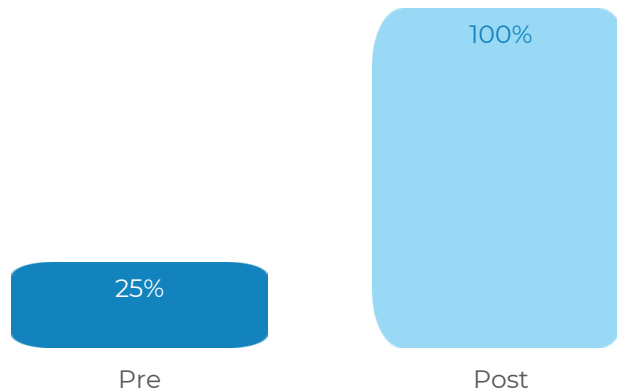


Lesson 11:
College Costs

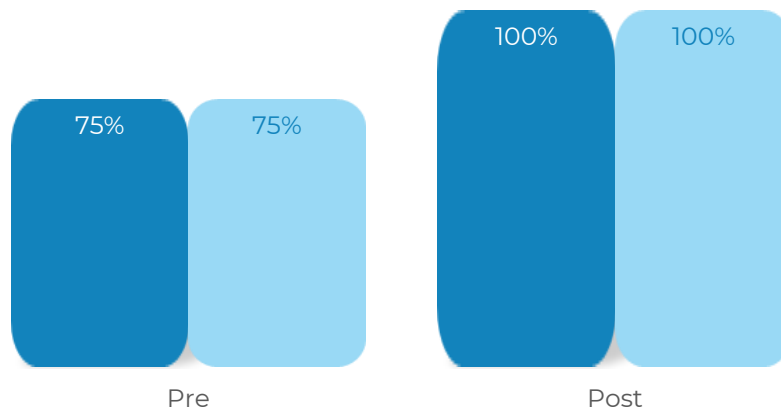
Percentage of Students Who Know How to
Compare the Cost of Colleges for Specific Majors, N
= 4



Students Who Know How to Figure Out College
Cost, N = 4



Percentages of Students Who could Approximate the Cost
of Attending 4 or 2 Year Colleges, N = 4



- Approximate the cost of attending a 4-year college in your state.
- Approximate the cost of attending a 2-year college in your state full time.

