

**WESTAT  
GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
SCREENER FOR STUDENT FOCUS GROUP  
(MD/DC METRO AREA)**

*Revised September 17, 2015*

**Screener for 2-hour focus group with low-to-moderate income students enrolled in a certificate program at a for-profit school of higher education (i.e., career or vocational school) or enrolled in a vocational or career program leading to a certificate in a 2-year community college**

**INTRODUCTION FOR SHUGOLL, THE RECRUITMENT FIRM:**

Westat, a social science research company in Rockville, MD, is working with the U.S. Department of Education on a project to ensure schools are providing students with important information about their career and training certificate programs. Westat will conduct a focus group with college students enrolled in these programs to understand their experiences at their current school. Students will be asked questions about information that would be most useful to them in selecting an educational program.

Respondents should know that participation in the focus group is important but voluntary and the information collected will be held confidential in that we will not include a respondents name or the name of their school in the study report.

If eligible, the Student will be invited to participate in a focus group to be held at Westat in Rockville, MD on **date [TBD]** at 5:30pm. We are offering a \$75 incentive for participation.

**Requirements to participate:**

- Ages 19-35
- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Enrolled in a pre-baccalaureate certificate program or vocational program leading to a certificate in a for-profit (i.e., career or vocational college—NOT a 4-year college) or a 2-year community college
- Not earned a bachelor’s degree or beyond (e.g., master’s, Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)
- Low-moderate income

**Questions Shugoll should use to ensure that the participant is eligible for the focus group:**

1. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

Under 19 years old.....1 [TERMINATE  
SCREENER]

19 - 35 years old.....2 [CONTINUE] [NOTE: ALL  
PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN PERMISSION FORM AND BRING PHOTO ID TO  
DISCUSSION GROUP TO VERIFY AGE. IF THEY DO NOT BRING A PHOTO ID,  
THEY CANNOT PARTICIPATE]

Older than 35.....3 [TERMINATE SCREENER]

2. Do you have a high school diploma or have you earned a GED?

Yes, high school diploma..... 1 [CONTINUE]

Yes, earned a GED..... 2 [CONTINUE]

No high school diploma or GED ..... 3 [TERMINATE  
SCREENER]

3. What is the name of the school that you currently attend? (Refer to list of institutions  
that meet this criteria)

\_\_\_\_\_ [IF ON LIST, CONTINUE; IF NOT,  
TERMINATE  
SCREENER]

4. In which of the following programs are you currently enrolled?

1-year vocational or career program leading to  
certificate.....1 [CONTINUE]

2-year vocational or career program leading to  
certificate.....2 [CONTINUE]

More than 2-year vocational or career program leading to a  
certificate.....3 [CONTINUE]

Software or hardware certification program (e.g., Microsoft, HP repair).....4  
[TERMINATE SCREENER]

Not enrolled in a certificate program, or don't know .....5  
[TERMINATE SCREENER]

5. In what type of career or training program are you currently enrolled?

[EXAMPLES TO GIVE TO IF FOR-PROFIT SCHOOL: e.g., cosmetology, computer  
technology, nursing aide, etc.]

[EXAMPLES TO GIVE IF COMMUNITY COLLEGE: e.g., medical assistant, automotive  
specialist, computer technician, dental assistant, paralegal, etc.]

Program type: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you ever taken college-level courses at any other schools besides the one you currently attend?

- Yes..... 1 [CONTINUE TO Q7]  
 No..... 2 [SKIP TO Q8]

7. Did you earn a college degree or certificate from your previous education experience?

- Yes..... 1 [CONTINUE TO Q7a]  
 No.....2 [SKIP TO Q8]

7a.what did you receive?

- Certificate..... 1 [CONTINUE TO Q8]  
 Associate's degree ..... 2 [CONTINUE TO Q8]  
 Bachelor's degree or beyond (e.g., master's, J.D., Ph.D., M.D.)..... 3 [TERMINATE]

8. How many people currently live in your household, including you, your spouse, your children and/or parents, brothers or sisters who do not live at home year-round, extended family, and others living in and contributing to the household?

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the following best describes your current annual household income?

<b>Annual Household Income Level (circle response)</b>	<b>Number of people currently living in household (as listed in #8 above) (circle response)</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Less than \$45,000 annually</b>	<b>CONTINUE</b>	
<b>\$45,001 to \$75,000 annually</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>TERMINATE</b>
	<b>2 to 3 people</b>	<b>CONTINUE</b>
<b>\$75,001 to \$95,000 annually</b>	<b>1 to 3 people</b>	<b>TERMINATE</b>
	<b>4 or more people</b>	<b>CONTINUE</b>

<b>\$95,001 to 105,000 annually</b>	<b>1 to 4 people</b>	<b><i>TERMINATE</i></b>
	<b>5 or more people</b>	<b><i>CONTINUE</i></b>
<b>Over \$105,000</b>	<b><i>TERMINATE</i></b>	

10. How many **total** credits OR contact hours have you completed at your current school?

\_\_\_\_\_ Credits..... 1 [CONTINUE]  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Contact hours..... 2 [CONTINUE]

11. Are you enrolled full time or part time at your current school?

Full time .....1 [CONTINUE]  
 Part time .....2 [CONTINUE]

12. Do you have student loans?

Yes .....1 [CONTINUE]  
 No .....2 [CONTINUE]

13. Are you employed?

- Full time.....1 [CONTINUE]
- Part time.....2 [CONTINUE]
- Not currently employed.....3 [SKIP TO Q15]

14. Do you work in a job related to the certificate program in which you are currently enrolled?

- Yes, working in a job related to certificate program.....1 [CONTINUE]
- No, not working in a job related to the certificate program.....2 [CONTINUE]

15. Are you Hispanic or non-Hispanic?

**(Circle 1)**

- Hispanic or Latino.....1 [CONTINUE]
- Not Hispanic or Latino .....2 [CONTINUE]

16. How would you describe your race?

**(Circle all categories mentioned. Respondents may choose multiple categories.)**

- White .....1 [CONTINUE]
- Black or African American ..... 2 [CONTINUE]
- Asian .....3 [CONTINUE]
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander..... 4 [CONTINUE]
- American Indian or Alaska Native .....5 [CONTINUE]

**IF GENDER NOT APPARENT BY NAME OR VOICE OF RESPONDENT, ASK THIS QUESTION:**

17. Please confirm your gender as:

- Female..... 1
- Male..... 2

**If respondent has any questions, they may contact:**

- Molly Hershey-Arista at 301-610-4908 (Westat)

- Amy E. Wilson at 202-502-7689 (U.S. Department of Education)