Jillian Jinelle Morrison* (jillian.morrison@wsu.edu), 1615 NW DEANE ST, Pullmam, WA 99163. Student's Perceived Barriers to Higher Education in Belize.

Belize is located in Central America and has a population of 331,900 in 2013 according to the World Bank. As of 2014/2015, there were 21,004 (4,135 in form 4) students enrolled in Secondary Schools and 8562 students enrolled in a Junior College or University according to the Ministry of Education of Belize. There is not data on how many of these students continue on to Tertiary level institutions, but, the MOE notes that many of the students are not pursuing higher education. For a preliminary/pilot study, ordinal data has been collected from form 4 students from 2 high schools in Belize based on students perceived barriers to higher education in Belize. The proportional odds model, likert scale and the Generalized Quasi Likelihood Model were all applied to the data. Results from all three models were similar in that most students claimed to be most likely or definitely sure that they would attend a tertiary level institution. This conclusion is likely to change once the entire data set has been collected. (Received February 28, 2017)