

Findings from the Fall Course Interest Survey

A brief three-question survey was administered Friday, March 19 to all enrolled undergraduate students. The questionnaire was designed to assess students' preferences in course modality in fall 2021, inventory effective processes established during remote learning, and identify respondents' anticipated levels of family/work responsibilities. As of Thursday, March 25 (at 9 AM), there were 3,344 student responses to the survey. Overall, student demographics by race, including international student representation, first-generation status, low-income, and college affiliation are reflective of the spring 2021 undergraduate population. There is a slight over-representation of low-income students (40% vs. 37%), women (69% vs. 60%) and students from the College of Science (41% vs. 38%). Students from CEAS are also slightly underrepresented (5% vs. 7%) in this survey in comparison to the overall spring population.

Summary of Results

Overall, students are mixed in their preferences for fall 2021 and there is not one clear preference. In terms of students' first choice for preferred instruction mode, students selected the following:

- 28% selected asynchronous, pre-recorded online courses,
- 24% selected "In-person courses between 8 am- 5pm,"
- 21% selected "In-person courses on weekends and evenings,"
- 19% selected synchronous, "live online courses,"
- 11% selected "Hybrid courses,"
- 7% selected "in-person course that is also live-streamed."

Within each response category, similar proportions of students reported both a strong interest (first-choice) and strong disinterest (last choice) in each of the response options. For example, 622 students (24%) selected "in-person courses between 8 am-5 pm" as their first choice and 658 students (25%) selected this as their last choice. This polarization is evident across most response categories (see table below). Results demonstrate that there are students eager to return to campus, there are others who prefer various online instruction modalities.

#	Field	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	In-person courses between 8 am - 5 pm	23.99% 622	13.15% 341	8.99% 233	9.29% 241	19.21% 498	25.38% 658	2593
2	In person courses on weekends and evenings	21.02% 538	12.81% 328	6.95% 178	7.93% 203	17.38% 445	33.91% 868	2560
3	In-person course that is also live-streamed	7.09% 176	14.73% 366	30.27% 752	27.58% 685	12.96% 322	7.37% 183	2484
4	Live online courses (synchronous)	18.74% 504	23.32% 627	12.64% 340	13.80% 371	16.85% 453	14.65% 394	2689
5	Pre-recorded online courses (asynchronous)	27.76% 798	15.65% 450	9.53% 274	10.26% 295	13.67% 393	23.13% 665	2875
6	Hybrid courses (mix of in-person and online)	10.91% 298	12.82% 350	27.17% 742	25.96% 709	13.99% 382	9.15% 250	2731

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As a result of shelter in place, students would like the institution to consider the following options for Fall 2021.

- 24% selected online/zoom options,
- 19% selected flexible assignment deadlines,
- 15% selected flexible course meeting times,
- 15% selected virtual office hours,
- 12% selected group projects/activities that can be completed online,
- 12% selected use of discussion boards.

Lastly, 94% of students reported anticipating the same level or more “family/work responsibilities for fall 2021 compared to my current commitments this academic year.”