

Southwestern University
Fall 2020 “How’s It Going?” Student Survey
Analysis by Student Classification Year (First-Year, Sophomore, Junior, Senior)

Southwestern University administered a survey to all undergraduate students to collect feedback on how the Fall 2020 semester was going so far. The survey opened on September 21, 2020 and was closed to new responses on the evening of September 28, 2020. The survey asked about student’s learning experiences, involvement in campus activities, and satisfaction with campus changes due to COVID-19. Students were also able to request additional information from various campus offices. Some questions were adapted from questions used on the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) consortium *Fall 2020 COVID-19 Student Survey*. 1,506 students were invited via email to participate in the survey. 507 students answered at least one question for a response rate of about 34%. Due to survey flow and skip patterns, not all students answered every question in the survey. Totals of percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

What best describes where you are living this term?

	On Campus	Off Campus, Able to Commute	Off Campus, Unable to Commute	Out of Country
Overall (507)	55%	38%	6%	1%
First-Year (97)	88%	8%	2%	2%
Sophomore (113)	65%	27%	7%	0%
Junior (109)	44%	53%	2%	1%
Senior (108)	27%	62%	11%	0%
Unknown (80)	55%	38%	5%	3%

What best describes how your classes are being taught this term?

	Entirely In-Person	Primarily In-Person	Roughly Even	Primarily Online	Entirely Online
Overall (506)	1%	13%	38%	30%	17%
First-Year (97)	2%	19%	45%	27%	7%
Sophomore (113)	0%	11%	44%	32%	13%
Junior (109)	2%	14%	39%	33%	12%
Senior (108)	2%	11%	24%	30%	33%
Unknown (79)	1%	13%	38%	29%	19%

Was it your decision to attend classes entirely online this semester?

	Yes	No
Overall (72)	61%	39%
First-Year (7)	57%	43%
Sophomore (15)	67%	33%
Junior (13)	77%	23%
Senior (36)	56%	44%
Unknown (1)	0%	100%

Note: This question was intended to elicit information from students on what mode of instruction they were experiencing in their classes. Some students responded by providing information on how the classes were designed rather than what they were experiencing. For this reason, 11 student responses were recoded. If a student responded that they lived ‘Off Campus, too far to commute’ their answer to the next question was recoded to ‘Entirely online’ since they could not be receiving face-to-face instruction. For these students, responses to if it was their ‘decision to attend classes entirely online’ remained blank.

On average, how many hours a day do you spend on your computer for your classes and course work?

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Overall (430)	0.2%	6%	45%	32%	17%
First-Year (96)	0%	3%	55%	30%	11%
Sophomore (113)	0%	9%	42%	30%	19%
Junior (109)	1%	6%	44%	38%	12%
Senior (107)	0%	6%	40%	30%	24%
Unknown (5)	0%	0%	60%	20%	20%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about your classes this fall at Southwestern:

<i>Agree is a positive response</i>	Agree	Neither	Disagree
I understand course meeting and assignment expectations (431)	88%	8%	4%
First-Year (97)	93%	7%	0%
Sophomore (113)	88%	9%	3%
Junior (108)	88%	9%	3%
Senior (108)	85%	8%	6%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%
I know how to contact my course instructors (432)	98%	2%	0.5%
First-Year (97)	100%	0%	0%
Sophomore (113)	97%	2%	1%
Junior (108)	97%	3%	0%
Senior (108)	96%	3%	1%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%
I have the equipment and resources I need to complete coursework (428)	86%	11%	3%
First-Year (97)	95%	5%	0%
Sophomore (113)	86%	12%	2%
Junior (108)	82%	14%	4%
Senior (105)	82%	11%	7%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about Southwestern:

<i>Agree is a positive response</i>	Agree	Neither	Disagree
I am able to participate in student activities that interest me (387)	47%	28%	25%
First-Year (89)	40%	40%	19%
Sophomore (103)	50%	25%	24%
Junior (96)	54%	23%	23%
Senior (94)	44%	27%	30%
Unknown (5)	20%	20%	60%
I am aware of programs taking place in my residence hall (226)*	48%	25%	27%
First-Year (84)	63%	26%	11%
Sophomore (71)	35%	24%	41%
Junior (46)	48%	22%	30%
Senior (25)	32%	32%	36%
I feel socially connected to campus (418)	21%	26%	53%
First-Year (97)	31%	32%	37%
Sophomore (111)	22%	27%	51%
Junior (102)	21%	24%	56%
Senior (103)	14%	20%	66%
Unknown (5)	0%	20%	80%
I know how to socially connect with others on campus (413)	37%	32%	31%
First-Year (97)	38%	31%	31%
Sophomore (109)	39%	31%	30%
Junior (100)	44%	25%	31%
Senior (102)	29%	40%	30%
Unknown (5)	20%	40%	40%

*Of students responding that they lived on campus

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about Southwestern:

<i>Agree is a positive response</i>	Agree	Neither	Disagree
I am aware of campus departments available to assist students (422)	83%	11%	6%
First-Year (96)	79%	16%	5%
Sophomore (111)	82%	10%	8%
Junior (107)	84%	11%	5%
Senior (103)	86%	9%	5%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%
I know how to contact campus departments if I have questions (425)	77%	15%	8%
First-Year (95)	68%	23%	8%
Sophomore (112)	77%	13%	10%
Junior (108)	79%	12%	9%
Senior (105)	82%	11%	7%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%
I feel like I belong at Southwestern University (423)	67%	25%	9%
First-Year (96)	69%	27%	4%
Sophomore (112)	79%	26%	6%
Junior (107)	74%	18%	8%
Senior (103)	55%	29%	16%
Unknown (5)	80%	20%	0%
I understand Southwestern's COVID-19 related policies (423)	89%	7%	4%
First-Year (95)	95%	2%	3%
Sophomore (111)	88%	8%	4%
Junior (108)	89%	8%	4%
Senior (104)	83%	11%	7%
Unknown (5)	100%	0%	0%
In terms of COVID-19, I feel safe on campus (391)	65%	24%	11%
First-Year (93)	81%	18%	1%
Sophomore (104)	64%	26%	10%
Junior (100)	65%	26%	9%
Senior (90)	48%	27%	26%
Unknown (4)	75%	25%	0%

Given COVID-19 and the changes required to keep everyone safe, how satisfied are you so far with the following components of your college experience this fall?

	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied
Your living arrangements (380)	82%	11%	8%
First-Year (93)	88%	8%	4%
Sophomore (105)	78%	15%	7%
Junior (92)	86%	9%	5%
Senior (87)	74%	10%	16%
Unknown (3)	100%	0%	0%
On-campus locations to study and do your coursework (346)	43%	29%	28%
First-Year (88)	74%	20%	6%
Sophomore (97)	34%	30%	36%
Junior (88)	40%	32%	28%
Senior (69)	20%	33%	46%
Unknown (4)	50%	25%	25%
Opportunities to participate in clubs and student organizations (384)	27%	43%	30%
First-Year (91)	34%	47%	19%
Sophomore (107)	21%	46%	34%
Junior (92)	36%	37%	27%
Senior (90)	19%	42%	39%
Unknown (4)	0%	75%	25%
Opportunities to participate in campus events (364)	23%	41%	36%
First-Year (89)	29%	46%	25%
Sophomore (102)	23%	32%	45%
Junior (86)	29%	41%	29%
Senior (83)	13%	45%	42%
Unknown (4)	0%	50%	50%
Opportunities to connect socially (395)	23%	34%	44%
First-Year (94)	29%	41%	30%
Sophomore (106)	23%	25%	52%
Junior (98)	23%	35%	42%
Senior (92)	16%	34%	50%
Unknown (5)	0%	60%	40%

Given COVID-19 and the changes required to keep everyone safe, how satisfied are you so far with the following components of your college experience this fall?

	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied
Access to services to improve your physical health (350)	41%	31%	28%
First-Year (87)	47%	28%	25%
Sophomore (93)	37%	38%	26%
Junior (83)	43%	30%	27%
Senior (84)	36%	30%	35%
Unknown (3)	33%	33%	33%
Access to mental health services (347)	53%	36%	10%
First-Year (81)	67%	33%	0%
Sophomore (90)	50%	34%	16%
Junior (86)	50%	38%	12%
Senior (88)	48%	39%	14%
Unknown (2)	50%	50%	0%
Availability of food (if you have a meal plan) (211)	72%	17%	11%
First-Year (85)	82%	14%	4%
Sophomore (74)	64%	14%	23%
Junior (34)	74%	18%	9%
Senior (18)	50%	44%	6%
Quality of food (if you have a meal plan) (213)	43%	29%	28%
First-Year (85)	58%	28%	14%
Sophomore (75)	23%	28%	49%
Junior (35)	51%	23%	26%
Senior (18)	39%	50%	11%

Would you like to talk to someone at Southwestern about questions or concerns you have related to any of the following areas? (check all that apply)

386 students responded to this question with 93 (24%) selecting at least one area they had questions or concerns about. The remaining 293 students responded that they did not need to talk to someone.

Response	N of responses	% of Yes respondents (out of 93)	% of all respondents (out of 386)
My mental or physical health	49	53%	13%
Career planning	42	45%	11%
Doing well in my classes	37	40%	10%
Participation in student activities	33	35%	9%
How COVID-19 will affect my educational plans	27	29%	7%
Paying for college	25	27%	6%
Academic accommodations	13	14%	3%
Library services	11	12%	3%
Access to food or housing	8	9%	2%

Following this question, students were giving the opportunity to leave their name and additional information about their concerns. 40 students (43% of those responding that they wanted to talk to someone) left their name, they will be reached out to by the appropriate offices.

Demographic Information

Classification	
First-Year	23%
Sophomore	26%
Junior	26%
Senior	25%

Gender	
Female	71%
Male	26%
Non-binary	3%

Race/Ethnicity	
Asian/Asian American	3%
Black/African America	3%
Hispanic/Latinx	17%
White	56%
Multiple Races	3%
Unknown	18%

Residential Status	
In-State	89%
Out-State	9%
International	1%

Full-Time	98%
Part-Time	2%

Student Athlete	9%
Caregiver	9%
Working	35%

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Where are you working?	
Off-campus	49%
On-campus	36%
Both	15%

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How many hours per week?	
1 to 10	28%
11 to 20	45%
21 to 39	21%
40 or more	5%