

Incoming Students Surveyed on Preparedness, Expectations

Student Achievement Collaborative

09/21/2021

- Academic & Instructional Services

LOGAN, Utah — As part of student orientation this fall, incoming Utah State University students were given a survey link, with more than 2,200 students participating. Students were asked a variety of questions, including questions about their academic preparedness and their expectations about the USU experience. The results of the survey showed students beginning their studies at USU this year feel just as prepared as those who entered prior to the pandemic.

The Student Achievement Collaborative (with representatives from Academic and Instructional Services, Statewide Campuses, Student Affairs, and The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost) will use the survey results to both provide faculty with data that informs their approach to coursework and interactions with students and used to create university-wide communications to students.

As part of the survey, some of the responses were as follows:

- 91% of students expected to face time-management challenges.
- Students expected to have to double their study time, as compared to high school.
- 60% of students expect to work at least 11 hours per week, with 40% expecting to work at least 16-30 hours per week.
- Most students feel confident in their communication and writing ability, critical and analytical thinking, ability to work with others, and their ability to learn effectively on their own.

- In reflecting on the pandemic, 78% of students reported an increase in mental exhaustion, while more than 50% reported an increase in loneliness and depression, and a decrease in the ability to concentrate. However, 92% said they would stay positive, even after experiencing a set-back.

Students were also surveyed on their expectations of the USU experience. Ninety-five percent of students were looking for a challenging academic experience and the majority looking for their classes to provide collaborative learning experiences. Students also expected faculty to be able to help them discuss career plans and to help them if they are struggling with course material. However, 66% of students expected to find it difficult to interact with faculty.

Students also have high expectations for their student life opportunities and academic resources. The majority of students expected to have the opportunity for academic and learning support services, campus activities and other social options, and support managing non-academic responsibilities.

The survey tool is used by more than 100 higher education institutions and allows the university to understand incoming students' mindsets and expectations. The survey results were shared with faculty prior to the 2021 fall semester in an effort to show faculty their incoming student's expectations and possible fears. While some of the students' expectations might not be feasible, it will give faculty an idea of what their students want and let them prepare to deliver on those expectations if possible.

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1. [Academic & Instructional Services](#)
2. [News](#)
3. [2020](#)

Also from Statewide Campuses

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window.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded',function()
{ $(' .embed-feed .card').each(function(){ var link =
$(this).find('a').attr('href'); if(link.search(window.location)
> -1){ $(this).closest('.col-md-4').remove(); } });
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feed .card').last().closest('.col-md-4').remove(); }
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$('meta[name=Description]').attr("content"); var author =
$('meta[name=Author]').attr("content"); $(' .jumbotron-fluid
h1').html(pageTitle); $(' .jumbotron-fluid p').html(desc + '
'+author+'); });
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