

# Student Check-In Survey Executive Summary

Fall 2025

In fall 2025, Utah State University invited students to complete a short check-in survey about how they are feeling, why they chose USU, and what would help leadership better understand their experience. Over 1,300 students responded to at least one question, representing the student body from Logan, statewide campuses, and online programs.

## Key Findings

**80% of “why I chose USU” responses mention programs, value, relationships, or place.**

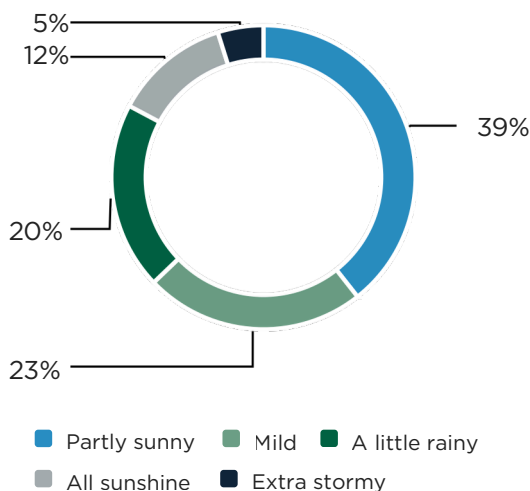
Students most often cite academic programs and reputation, scholarships and overall cost, family and personal connections, and the Logan and Cache Valley environment and campus culture as reasons they chose USU.

**87% of students agree that most faculty are genuinely interested in helping them grow.**

Students report positively about their connections with faculty and staff. 68% agree that someone at the institution cares about them, and 74% say they have connected with someone who provides useful advice about their academic or personal goals.

**37% of comments highlight tuition, fees, and other practical barriers.**

Students point to financial pressure from tuition and differential fees, along with challenges such as parking and transportation, campus services and facilities, and complex administrative processes, including navigating accommodations and support.



## Overall Climate

When asked how they are feeling using a weather metaphor, most students selected all sunshine, partly sunny, or mild. A smaller share chose a little rainy or extra stormy. In written explanations, major stressors include work-school-life balance, heavy academic workloads, mental and emotional strain, and financial pressure.

**88% of student respondents agree or strongly agree they are treated with respect by people at USU.**

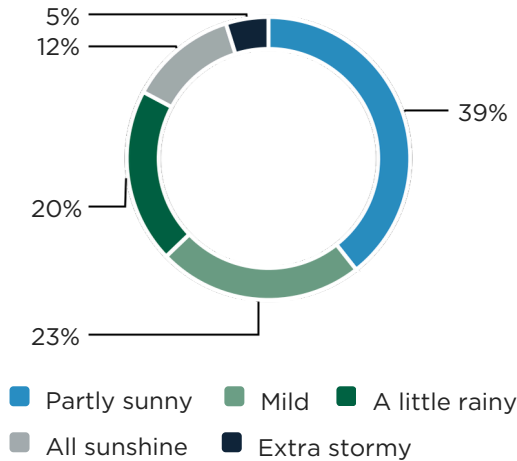


UtahStateUniversity

# STUDENT CHECK-IN SURVEY FALL 25

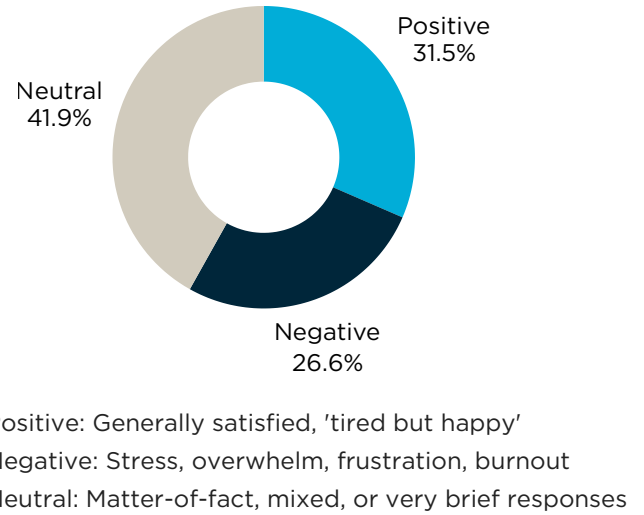
## Q1 - How are you feeling?

947 Responses

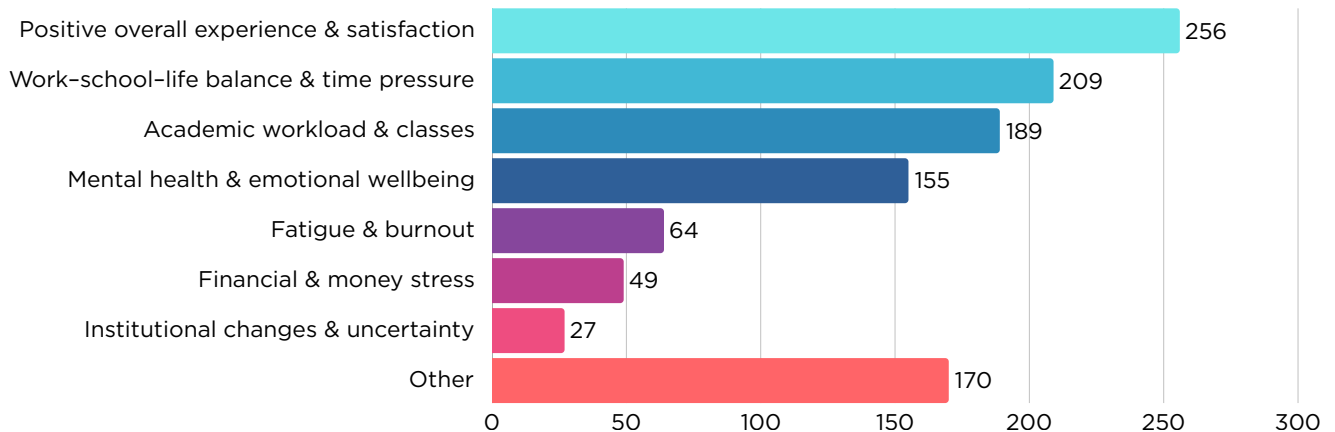


## Q2. Tell us more about why you responded this way.

### Overall Sentiment



### Q2 Themes and Trends



### Q1. Top Four Themes

#### Positive overall experience & satisfaction

- Like/love their major or program
- Feel life is stressful but overall good
- Grateful for friends, faculty, campus environment

#### Work-school-life balance & time pressure

- Working full-time or many hours while in school
- Difficulty juggling classes, work, and personal life
- Feeling like there is "no time" to rest or catch up

#### Academic workload & classes

- Heavy homework load, tests, and projects
- Multiple big assignments or exams due at the same time
- Feeling classes are harder or more time-consuming than expected

#### Mental health & emotional well-being

- Feeling stressed, overwhelmed
- Mentions of depression, bipolar disorder, or mental health episodes
- Emotional fatigue and feelings of burnout and pressure

**Q3\_1 - I feel that I belong at this university.**



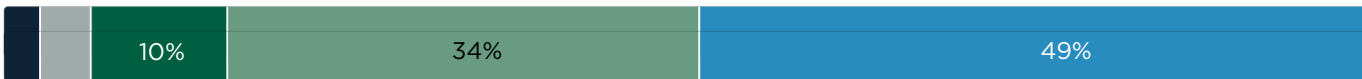
Strongly disagree [26] Somewhat disagree [60] Neither agree nor disagree [114] Somewhat agree [343] Strongly agree [422]

**Q3\_2 - I feel I am an important part of the university community.**



Strongly disagree [56] Somewhat disagree [151] Neither agree nor disagree [191] Somewhat agree [250] Strongly agree [313]

**Q3\_3 - I feel welcome at USU.**



Strongly disagree [26] Somewhat disagree [35] Neither agree nor disagree [97] Somewhat agree [331] Strongly agree [474]

**Q3\_4 - USU provides opportunities to engage in meaningful activities.**



Strongly disagree [24] Somewhat disagree [32] Neither agree nor disagree [94] Somewhat agree [355] Strongly agree [457]

**Q3\_5 - Most of the faculty I have had contact with are genuinely interested in helping students grow.**



Strongly disagree [26] Somewhat disagree [33] Neither agree nor disagree [89] Somewhat agree [302] Strongly agree [508]

**Q3\_6 - I am treated with respect by people at USU.**



Strongly disagree [20] Somewhat disagree [35] Neither agree nor disagree [65] Somewhat agree [329] Strongly agree [512]

**Q3\_7 - People at my university understand me as a person.**



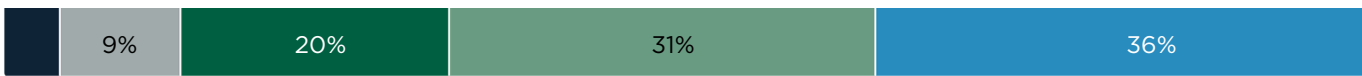
Strongly disagree [31] Somewhat disagree [90] Neither agree nor disagree [219] Somewhat agree [349] Strongly agree [273]

**Q3\_8 - Someone at the institution cares about me.**



Strongly disagree [28] Somewhat disagree [32] Neither agree nor disagree [112] Somewhat agree [248] Strongly agree [540]

**Q3\_9 - Faculty and/or staff encourage me to join clubs and activities.**



Strongly disagree [40] Somewhat disagree [84] Neither agree nor disagree [188] Somewhat agree [298] Strongly agree [348]

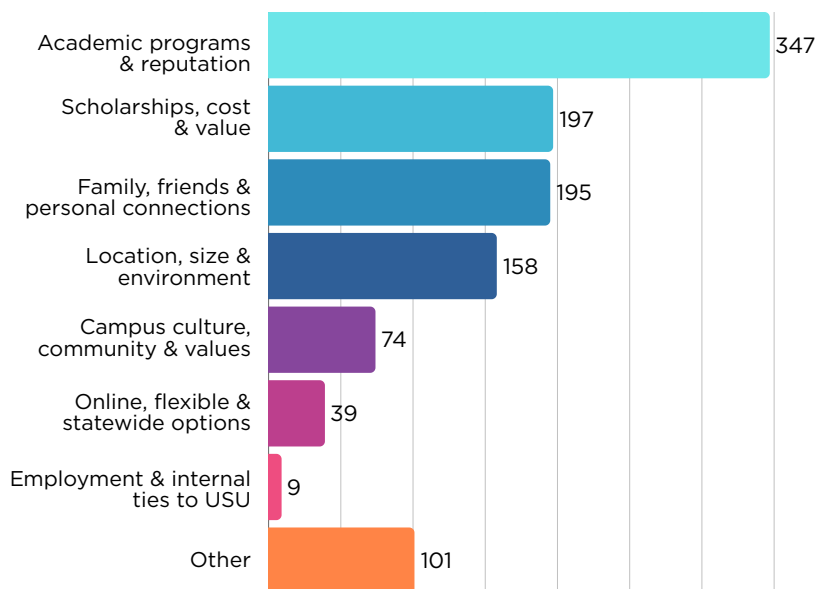
**Q3\_10 - I have connected with someone who provides useful advice about my academic and/or personal goals**



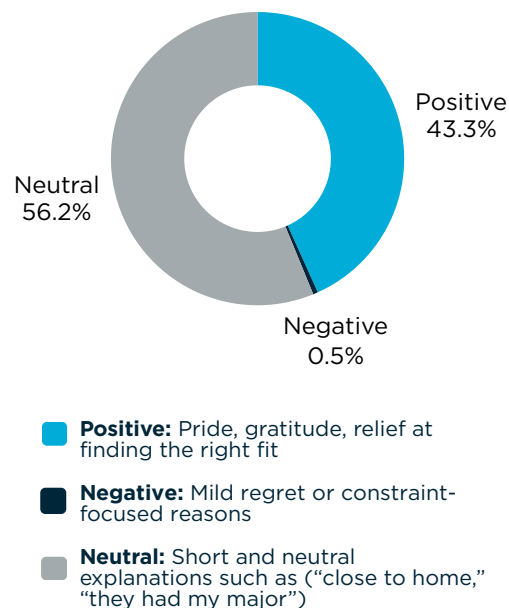
Strongly disagree [51] Somewhat disagree [78] Neither agree nor disagree [120] Somewhat agree [298] Strongly agree [414]

**Q3. Please tell us a little about why you chose to come to Utah State University.**

**Q3. Themes and Trends**



**Q3. Overall Sentiment**



**Q3. Theme Details**

**Academic programs & reputation**

- Specific majors or degrees (engineering, ag, business, psychology, social work, aviation, vet-related, OPDD, etc.)
- Graduate programs (MHR, MBA, PhD) and R1 reputation
- Perception of strong academic quality in their area

**Scholarships, cost & value**

- Scholarships and financial aid as key decision drivers
- USU seen as affordable and “good value” compared with other options
- In-state tuition or employee/relative tuition discounts

**Family, friends & personal connections**

- Parents, siblings, spouse, or extended family attended or work at USU
- Coming because friends already attend
- “I’ve been an Aggie my whole life,” a strong legacy identity

**Location, size & environment**

- Close to home but not too close; manageable distance for independence
- Attachment to Cache Valley/Logan or local community
- Appreciation for campus beauty, mountains, and outdoor environment

**Campus culture, community & values**

- Perception of a welcoming, supportive community
- Preference for USU’s culture/values over other institutions (including explicit “not BYU” comments)
- Desire for an engaging campus with strong student life

**Online, flexible & statewide options**

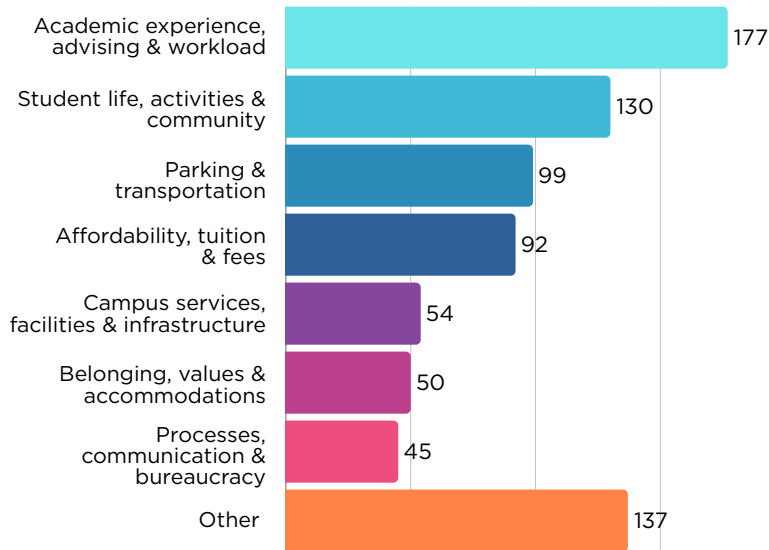
- Online and distance programs that fit work or family situations
- Statewide/satellite locations enabling them to stay in their communities

**Employment & internal ties to USU**

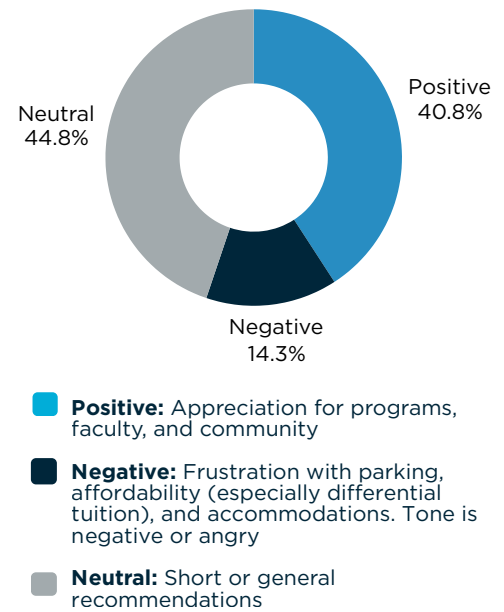
- Already working for USU or Extension and using tuition benefits
- Choosing USU for convenience and career alignment

Q4. Please tell us anything else that would help us better understand your experience, including strengths and areas for improvement at USU.

### Q4 Themes and Trends



### Q4 Overall Sentiment



## Q4. Theme Details

### Academic experience, advising & workload

- *Positive:* good programs and faculty, strong experiences in specific colleges
- *Areas for improvement:* inconsistent teaching quality, concerns about tenure vs. teaching, class organization, or course availability
- *Need for more* proactive advising and career preparation in some majors

### Student life, activities & community

- Appreciation for clubs, events, and free food activities
- Requests for more campus-wide events (fairs, carnivals, networking, social opportunities)
- Nontraditional and distance students wanting more connection and community

### Parking & transportation

- Parking availability and cost are described as a significant pain point
- Frustration with permits, logistics, or walking distance
- Some references to transportation access (buses/shuttles)

### Affordability, tuition & fees

- Concerns about overall tuition and fee levels
- Specific frustration with business differential tuition and perceived inequities

- Questions about where student fees go and whether they benefit all majors

### Campus services, facilities & infrastructure

- Feedback on the testing center, hours, and experience
- Suggestions about ARC/gym hours, facilities access, and other physical spaces
- Occasional comments about housing, dining, Wi-Fi, and safety in facilities

### Belonging, values & accommodations

- Difficulty getting disability accommodations; feeling processes are confusing or unsupportive
- Strong concerns about how trans and LGBTQ+ students are treated
- Desire for more inclusive practices and visible support across campus

### Processes, communication & bureaucracy

- "Too many forms" and complicated processes for basic tasks
- Frustration with email volume, communication clarity, and having to navigate multiple systems
- Desire for simpler, more student-friendly administrative workflows