



Only 31% of College Students Believe That Campuses Should Be Open

*90% of undergraduate students believe pandemic-related
institutional changes will impact their future*

March 31, 2021 (Seattle, WA) - According to a new survey from BestColleges.com, only 31% of undergraduates nationwide believe college campuses should be open for in-person instruction, while 40% of students believe campuses should be closed. An overwhelming majority of college students (90%) feel that pandemic-related changes at their institution will impact their future.

Click here for more information:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/covid-19-impact-on-learning-experience/>

"It's overwhelming to think about the number of unique challenges college students are facing during the pandemic," said Melissa Venable, Ph.D., Education Advisor for BestColleges.com. "Barriers to social interaction and adjustments to digital instruction have redefined the current college experience."

Over 40% of student respondents said that making friends and meeting romantic partners was what they looked forward to most, while 39% felt attending class in person was an important part of their on-campus college experience. However, educational disruptions caused by COVID-19 have impacted over 80% of undergraduates nationwide, with over half reporting their day-to-day life as a student was affected by less interaction with classmates (56%) and professors (51%). 35% of students predict there will be lasting effects to their mental health due to their schools' COVID-19 changes.

While 39% of students agree that their institution's current learning model offers a good experience, 26% disagree. Furthermore, 43% are disappointed with the education they've received as a result of COVID-19-related changes. About half of students report an increased reliance on technology (56%) and have experienced difficulty learning in a

remote environment compared to in-person (50%). However, almost half (49%) of students surveyed said the option to attend classes online should remain in place, even after in-person learning resumes.

Nearly 1 in 4 students surveyed said pandemic-related circumstances will prevent the completion of their degree (24%), and had they known how they would be learning this year, 49% of students report that their college choice may have been different. The top changes students would have made included delaying the start of their program or taking a gap year (26%), choosing a less expensive school (26%), and choosing a school in a different location or one closer to home (23%).

Of the students surveyed, 53% feel their school's approach to COVID-19 safety precautions is appropriate, 34% are neutral, and 13% feel it is not appropriate. Over half (55%) of undergraduates nationwide plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to them.

Less than half of undergraduates surveyed feel their institution is doing enough to help students during the pandemic (42%), while nearly a quarter disagree (24%). School services to support students' financial, transportation and technological needs should continue past the pandemic, according to 45% of students surveyed.

"Institutions would do well to consider honest feedback from students as they continue to refine the changes they had to make quickly at the start of the pandemic," added Dr. Venable.

Methodology

The survey was conducted from February 24th to March 3rd of 2021. Student respondents were fielded by Lucid LLC. Survey participants included 702 college students nationwide that experienced remote learning over the past year. Respondents were 18-25 years of age, enrolled at a college or university, and pursuing an associate's or bachelor's degree. The respondents for the survey were screened by various quality checks, including systems like Relevant ID, and are manually reviewed to ensure consistency and accuracy in the responses.

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