

Graduate Student Responses Mason Pulse Survey – Fall 2020

In partnership, at the request of Mason leadership, OIEP and UL administered a brief Pulse Survey to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students to gauge student’s reactions to current campus challenges/responses. The following summarizes overall findings for graduate students only.

Administration Details

- Administered 10/20-11/4/20
- 2,067 or 19% of the graduate students responded. A segment review of response rate by school/college, sex, race/ethnicity, domicile, and age can be found in the appendix.
- Names and contact information for students requesting assistance were forwarded to appropriate offices for intervention

General Delivery and Living Arrangement Findings

- 84.2% of the respondents indicated they are taking mostly asynchronous and synchronous courses in Fall 2020. (Table 1)
- 59.5% of the respondents indicated they live no more than a 30-minute commute to their primary campus. (Table 2)
- 42.8% of the respondents indicated they live with their spouse or partner with relatively even distribution among the other options. (Table 3)

Table 1: Mode of Instruction

Mostly asynchronous	31.3%
Mostly synchronous	52.9%
Mostly in-person	3.0%
Mostly hybrid (blend of both)	6.1%
A balanced mix of formats	6.7%

Table 2: Current Living Situation – Location

On-campus	2.2%
Off-campus within walking distance	9.6%
Off-campus within 30-minute commute	47.7%
Off-campus more than 30-minute commute	32.5%
Homeless/transitioning	0.4%

Table 3: Current Living Situation – People

No one; I live alone	13.0%
My parents	16.9%
One or more Mason students	11.3%
Non-Mason roommates	11.6%
My spouse	42.8%
My child or children	18.7%
Other relative	5.4%

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The current academic experience:

- Over three-quarters of respondents indicated that all or most of their courses are well-organized spaces where they were able to learn, participate, engage and receive feedback and instruction. Course organization is the area with the highest ratings in all or most classes (87.1%) while adequate instructor feedback is the area receiving the lowest rating in all or most classes (77.5%). (Table 4)
- 72% of the respondents indicated they feel engaged in all or most of their classes and 76% indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction in all or most of their classes. (Table 5)
- If we look at the intersection of modality of course delivery and the academic experience (Table 6) respondents give high marks to the academic experiences regardless of modality with the best experiences being reported by those taking mostly in-person classes.
- Respondents who report taking mostly in-person classes indicate the highest level of engagement (89.7%) and satisfaction with instruction (88.1%) while those reporting taking mostly asynchronous classes indicate the least engagement (66.1%) and the least satisfaction with instruction (72.3%). (Table 7)

Table 4: Academic Experience in Fall 2020

	All classes	Most classes	Some classes	No classes
My classes are well-organized	62.3%	24.8%	11.5%	1.4%
My instructors actively participate in class	62.5%	22.0%	13.0%	2.5%
My instructors use multimedia effectively	60.6%	22.1%	13.4%	3.9%
The instructions for assignments are clear	52.1%	26.7%	18.5%	2.7%
My instructors provide adequate feedback	51.8%	25.7%	18.2%	4.2%

Table 5: Satisfaction and Engagement in Fall 2020

	All classes	Most classes	Some classes	No classes
I feel engaged in my classes	46.3%	24.3%	20.7%	8.6%
Satisfied with quality of instruction	48.6%	27.4%	17.1%	7.0%

Table 6: Academic Experience in Fall 2020 by Course Modality

Respondents indicating the mode of delivery was mostly:	In-person	Asynchronous	Synchronous	Hybrid
My classes are well- organized*	93.2%	84.0%	88.8%	87.0%
I am able to learn effectively in my in-person classes*	91.5%	N/A	N/A	79.8%
My instructors actively participate in class*	89.8%	73.1%	89.6%	86.3%
My instructors use multimedia effectively*	89.7%	80.7%	84.0%	82.5%
The instructions for assignments are clear*	86.0%	76.2%	80.0%	79.3%
My instructors provide adequate feedback*	86.2%	73.8%	79.0%	76.6%

* Percentage combined students responding “all classes” and “most classes”

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Table 7: Satisfaction and Engagement in Fall 2020 by Course Modality

Respondents indicating the mode of delivery was mostly:	In-person	Asynchronous	Synchronous	Hybrid
I feel engaged in my classes*	89.7%	66.1%	71.8%	71.0%
Satisfied with quality of instruction*	88.1%	72.3%	77.5%	76.4%

* Percentage combined students responding “all classes” and “most classes”

Mason COVID response and resource requests:

- Graduate students responding to the survey have very positive views of the job Mason has done to keep them safe and healthy in Fall 2020, but do express concern over the ability of others to comply with health policies and procedures. (Table 8)
- Respondents were most likely to indicate they needed additional resources or information about: employment or financial well-being (17.5%), academic performance (14.0%) and mental and emotional health (13.4%). (Table 9)
- Those respondents reporting that they are living with Mason roommates are the most likely to request additional information or resources on nearly every item available, particularly mental/emotional health (26.1%), employment or financial well-being (33.3%), and access to food (9.8%). Conversely, graduate students living with a spouse or partner were, on average, less likely to request additional information or resources on nearly every item available. (Table 10)

Table 8: Mason Response to COVID*

Mason has done a good job keeping students safe and healthy during academic year	86.7%
I am concerned about being able to comply to health policies and procedures	24.8%
I am concerned about the failure of others to comply with health policies and procedures	58.7%

* Percentage combined students responding “strongly agree” and “agree”

Table 9: Information and Resources Requested

Physical health	8.4%
Mental and emotional health	13.4%
Access health and well-being resources	9.4%
Family or personal relationships	3.5%
Social interactions	8.8%
Academic performance	14.0%
Access to academic resources	11.9%
Employment and/or financial well-being	17.5%
Access to housing	2.9%
Access to food	3.3%

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Table 10: Information and Resources Requested by Current Living Situation – People

	Living Alone	Living w/ Parents	Living w/ roommates	Living w/ non-Mason roommates	Living w/spouse	Living w/ children
Physical health	11.2%	7.4%	20.1%	9.2%	3.9%	4.3%
Mental and emotional health	17.5%	15.4%	26.1%	18.8%	7.1%	6.5%
Access health and well-being resource	10.0%	10.8%	20.9%	12.9%	5.5%	4.3%
Family or personal relationships	4.8%	3.7%	3.8%	3.3%	2.3%	3.8%
Social interactions	9.7%	10.8%	19.2%	10.4%	3.9%	3.8%
Academic performance	11.5%	16.2%	28.2%	14.2%	9.2%	9.9%
Access to academic resources	9.3%	13.4%	22.2%	12.1%	8.1%	8.4%
Employment and/or financial well-being	11.5%	20.5%	33.3%	22.5%	10.7%	11.0%
Access to housing	4.5%	4.0%	3.0%	4.6%	1.2%	1.5%
Access to food	5.2%	2.3%	9.8%	5.0%	1.7%	1.8%

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Appendix – Response Rate

		Graduate				
		Population	%	Respondents	Respondent Representation within Category	Response Rate of Corresponding Population
All	All	10823	100%	2067	n/a	19%
Degree	UG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Law	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	GR	10823	100.0%	2067	n/a	19%
Sex	Female	6514	60.2%	1302	63%	20%
	Male	4173	38.6%	755	37%	18%
	Not Reported	136	1.3%	10	0%	7%
Race/ Ethnicity	American Indian	29	0.3%	0	0%	0%
	Asian	1175	10.9%	175	11%	15%
	Black	1133	10.5%	172	10%	15%
	Foreigners abroad	9	0.1%	1	0%	11%
	Hispanic	943	8.7%	158	9%	17%
	Non resident alien	1334	12.3%	437	12%	33%
	Pacific Islander	9	0.1%	0	0%	0%
	Two or more	155	1.4%	25	1%	16%
	Other	873	8.1%	127	8%	15%
Domicile	White	5163	47.7%	966	48%	19%
	In State	7465	69.0%	1265	61%	17%
	OOS - Domestic	2139	19.8%	394	19%	18%
	OOS - International	1219	11.3%	408	20%	33%
Age	Under25	2344	21.7%	461	22%	20%
	25 or older	8479	78.3%	1606	78%	19%
	Not Reported	0			n/a	