

Undergraduate Survey Responses Mason Pulse Survey – Fall 2020

In partnership, at the request of senior 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 the overall findings for undergraduates only.

Administration Details

- Administered 10/20-11/4/20
- 4,430 or 16% of the undergraduates 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

- 83.0% of the respondents indicated they are taking mostly asynchronous and synchronous courses in Fall 2020. (Table 1)
- 66.0% of the respondents indicated they live no more than a 30-minute commute to their primary campus. (Table 2)
- 54.5% of the respondents indicated they live with their parents with relatively even distribution among the other options. (Table 3)

Table 1: Distribution of Mode of Instruction

Mostly asynchronous	39.5%
Mostly synchronous	43.5%
Mostly in-person	0.9%
Mostly hybrid (blend of both)	7.2%
A balanced mix of formats	8.8%

Table 2: Distribution of Current Living Situation – Location

On-campus	19.3%
Off-campus within walking distance	5.1%
Off-campus within 30-minute commute	41.6%
Off-campus more than 30-minute commute	29.3%
Homeless/transitioning	0.2%

Table 3: Distribution of Current Living Situation – People

No one; I live alone	10.1%
My parents	54.5%
One or more Mason students	20.2%
Non-Mason roommates	4.0%
My spouse	8.4%
My child or children	3.7%
Other relative	10.0%

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The current academic experience:

- More than half of the 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. However, a sizeable population noted that some or all of their classes suffered in these areas to various degrees as well. (Table 4)
- There are mixed findings regarding student satisfaction with engagement and quality of instruction. While around 40% of the respondents indicate that they are engaged and satisfied with the quality of instruction in some of their courses, the proportions reporting for that for most or all of their classes is fewer. (Table 5)
- Looking at the intersection of modality of course delivery and the academic experience (Table 6), respondents taking mostly in-person courses report learning to be more effective in that modality than those students who are mostly enrolled in hybrid courses that feature some in-person instruction. Students enrolled in mostly synchronous classes report a more engaged educational experience than those enrolled in most asynchronous classes.
- Respondents taking mostly asynchronous classes felt the least engaged (33.1%) and have the least satisfaction in quality of instruction (46.8%). (Table 7)

Table 4: Academic Experience in Fall 2020

	All classes	Most classes	Some classes	No classes
My classes are well-organized	33.6%	42.9%	22.2%	1.3%
My instructors actively participate in class	31.7%	33.5%	32.4%	2.4%
My instructors use multimedia effectively	36.5%	34.3%	26.8%	2.4%
The instructions for assignments are clear	24.4%	38.6%	34.3%	2.7%
My instructors provide adequate feedback	21.9%	33.8%	38.7%	5.6%

Table 5: Satisfaction and Engagement in Fall 2020

	All classes	Most classes	Some classes	No classes
I feel engaged in my classes	15.8%	22.1%	43.2%	19.0%
Satisfied with quality of instruction	19.0%	28.3%	39.4%	13.4%

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*	70.3%	73.1%	78.6%	76.7%
I am able to learn effectively in my in-person classes*	82.9%	N/A	N/A	66.1%
My instructors actively participate in class*	70.3%	51.4%	74.8%	68.5%
My instructors use multimedia effectively*	75.7%	66.5%	74.9%	70.6%
The instructions for assignments are clear*	62.2%	60.8%	64.2%	62.7%
My instructors provide adequate feedback*	62.2%	51.4%	58.5%	56.0%

* 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*	56.8%	33.1%	39.6%	42.5%
Satisfied with quality of instruction*	64.9%	42.0%	50.2%	46.9%

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

Mason COVID response and resource requests:

- Respondents have positive views of the job Mason has done to keep them safe and healthy in Fall 2020. However, they are concerned about others complying with health policies and procedures. (Table 8)
- The areas for which respondents were most likely to indicate they needed additional resources or information included: academic performance (22.6%), employment or financial well-being (20.0%) and mental and emotional health (17.8%). (Table 9)
- The information presented in Table 10 helps us better understand the potential link between current living dynamics and where students might need the most assistance. Those living with non-Mason roommates are the most likely to request additional information or resources on nearly every item available, particularly mental/emotional health (22.5%) and employment or financial well-being (28.7%). Those that live alone were the most likely population to request more information about access to food (8.2%). Conversely, undergraduate students living with a spouse or partner were, on average, less likely to request additional information or resources in nearly all spaces.

Table 8: Mason Response to COVID*

Mason has done a good job keeping students safe and healthy during academic year	84.4%
I am concerned about being able to comply to health policies and procedures	18.0%
I am concerned about the failure of others to comply with health policies and procedures	62.0%

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

Table 9: Information and Resources Requested

Physical health	7.2%
Mental and emotional health	17.8%
Access health and well-being resources	9.6%
Family or personal relationships	4.3%
Social interactions	11.7%
Academic performance	22.6%
Access to academic resources	16.3%
Employment and/or financial well-being	20.0%
Access to housing	4.2%
Access to food	4.3%

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

	Living Alone	Living w/ Parents	Living w/ Mason roommates	Living w/ non-Mason roommates	Living w/ spouse	Living w/ children
Physical health	8.7%	7.2%	6.8%	11.2%	5.9%	4.2%
Mental and emotional health	18.5%	18.5%	19.7%	22.5%	12.1%	7.9%
Access health and well-being resource	9.5%	10.0%	9.3%	15.7%	7.5%	4.8%
Family or personal relationships	4.6%	4.5%	3.4%	4.5%	3.8%	4.8%
Social interactions	16.0%	11.9%	12.3%	13.5%	5.9%	3.0%
Academic performance	24.6%	24.2%	18.9%	25.3%	17.5%	21.2%
Access to academic resources	14.7%	17.3%	13.7%	19.7%	14.0%	16.3%
Employment and/or financial well-being	19.9%	20.4%	17.8%	28.7%	16.1%	16.3%
Access to housing	6.2%	4.1%	4.9%	7.3%	1.3%	2.4%
Access to food	8.2%	2.8%	7.2%	6.7%	1.9%	3.6%

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Appendix – Response Rate

		Undergraduate				
		Population	%	Respondents	Respondent Representation within Category	Response Rate of Corresponding Population
All	All	27595	100%	4430	n/a	16%
Degree	UG	27595	100%	4430	n/a	16%
	Law	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	GR	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sex	Female	13677	49.6%	2590	59%	19%
	Male	13853	50.2%	1833	41%	13%
	Not Reported	65	0.2%	7	0%	11%
Race/ Ethnicity	American Indian	30	0.1%	0	0%	0%
	Asian	5890	21.3%	789	21%	13%
	Black	3093	11.2%	495	11%	16%
	Foreigners abroad	439	1.6%	89	2%	20%
	Hispanic	4351	15.8%	631	16%	15%
	Non resident alien	1450	5.3%	313	5%	22%
	Pacific Islander	46	0.2%	3	0%	7%
	Two or more	1399	5.1%	222	5%	16%
	Other	897	3.3%	128	3%	14%
Domicile	In State	23675	85.8%	3559	80%	15%
	OOS - Domestic	2493	9.0%	534	12%	21%
	OOS - International	1427	5.2%	337	8%	24%
Age	Under25	22494	81.5%	3755	85%	17%
	25 or older	5100	18.5%	675	15%	13%
	Not Reported	1		0	n/a	0%