Digital Learning Pulse Survey: Fall 2020
Higher Education Admin and Faculty Readiness for Teaching Online

The survey of higher education administrator and faculty readiness for teaching online in fall 2020 was underwritten by Cengage. It was conducted between August 4 and August 14 by Bay View Analytics in partnership with Cengage and four leading online learning organizations.

Respondents:
887 Administrators & Faculty
597 U.S. Institutions

Moving Instruction Online—Ready or Not?
It has not been an easy summer for institutions across the country. With the pandemic still looming, administrators and faculty have been hard at work preparing for all possible scenarios this fall. And whether that means employing a hybrid or fully remote teaching model, they are ready for the challenge.

84% of faculty agree that they are prepared to teach partially or fully online this fall, if necessary.
96% of administrators agree that their institution is prepared to teach partially or fully online this fall, if necessary.

Making It Work
Faced with ever-changing safety protocols and learning requirements for the fall semester, the need for new training and professional development this summer was greater than ever.
Thankfully, higher ed staff reported no shortage of high-quality learning opportunities to help them navigate whatever comes next.

Recommended and/or Provided Professional Development for Fall 2020
What Training Methods Were the Most Effective?
- 43% Online faculty community
- 30% Faculty mentoring program
- 23% In-person training
- 17% Self-paced training
- 12% Online resource hub

Looking Towards the Future
The ongoing pandemic is forcing a nationwide experiment with various teaching models throughout the education sector. And while many questions will most assuredly persist, what this will ultimately mean for the future of higher education, instructional leaders and educators remain optimistic.

How optimistic or pessimistic are you?
- The overall future of higher education
- Faculty mentoring program
- Your personal role in higher education
- The future of your institution
- The overall future of higher education

Your personal role in higher education
42% Online faculty
37% In-person training
21% Self-paced training
15% Faculty mentoring program

The overall future of higher education
42% Optimistic
31% Neutral
23% Pessimistic
7% Other

The future of your institution
46% Optimistic
31% Neutral
23% Pessimistic
7% Other

Faculty mentoring program
43% Optimistic
30% Neutral
17% Pessimistic
3% Other