CENGAGE

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.
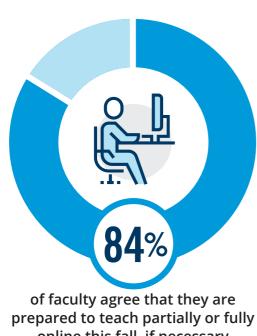
OLC Online Learning Consortium · wcet · UPCEA Leaders in Professional Continuing and Online Education · Canadian Digital Learning Research Association / Association canadienne de recherche sur la formation en ligne

Respondents:

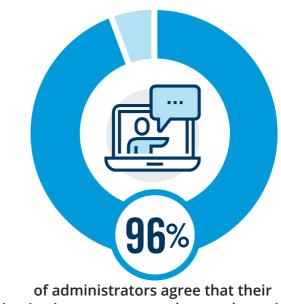**887** Administrators & Faculty — across — **597** U.S. Institutions

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 institutions are 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

83% Live or recorded webinars

55% Self-paced training

48% Online resource hub

43% Online faculty community

41% Faculty mentoring program

30% In-person training

7% Other

3% None of these

What Training Methods Were the Most Effective?

Faculty		Admin	
69%	Webinars	Webinars	85%
66%	Self-paced training	Self-paced training	81%
65%	Online faculty community	Faculty mentoring program	83%
63%	Online resource hub	In-person training	85%

Looking Towards the Future

The ongoing pandemic is forcing a nationwide experiment with various teaching models throughout the education sector. And while many questions still exist about what this will ultimately mean for the future of higher education, institutional leaders and educators remain optimistic.

How optimistic or pessimistic are you?

= Faculty · = Admin · = Optimistic · = Neutral · = Pessimistic

Your personal role in higher education

	Optimistic	Neutral	Pessimistic
Faculty	42%	37%	21%
Admin	57%	28%	15%

The future of your institution

	Optimistic	Neutral	Pessimistic
Faculty	46%	31%	23%
Admin	66%	27%	7%

The overall future of higher education

	Optimistic	Neutral	Pessimistic
Faculty	42%	27%	31%
Admin	46%	31%	23%