Digital Learning Pulse Survey

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Project Partners:





WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies



University Professional and Continuing Education Association



Bay View Analytics



Canadian Digital Learning Research Association Association canadienne de recherche sur la formation en ligne





Four Surveys

•April 2020:

• 897 faculty and administrators, 672 institutions from 47 states.

•August 2020:

• 887 faculty and administrators, 597 institutions from 45 states.

• December 2020:

• 1,702 faculty and administrators, 1,204 institutions from 50 states.

•April 2021:

• 1,286 faculty and administrators, 856 institutions from 47 states, plus 1,469 students

Spring 2020: Emergency Remote

- Massive institutional response at all levels.
- 97% of institutions used faculty with no online teaching experience.
- A majority of faculty (56%) used new teaching methods.
- Faculty's most pressing concern was additional support for their newly online students.
- The uncertainty around the upcoming fall created sense of anxiety for faculty and administrators.
- Professional development at the top of everyone's wish list



August: Preparing for Fall

- Faculty had multiple opportunities for professional development
 - Only 3% of faculty reported no professional development.
- All professional development was perceived as effective.
- Faculty felt prepared and ready to deliver their courses online.
- Student equity remained a concern for both faculty and administrators.
- Faculty were more optimistic than pessimistic about their future.



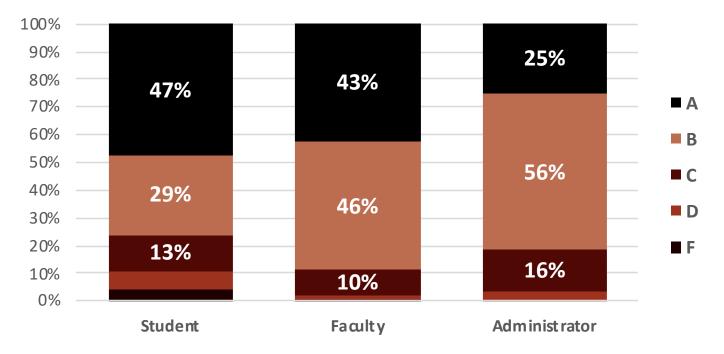
December 2020: We made it!

- Faculty were mainly satisfied with student learning.
- Most faculty changed their teaching practices compared to prior to the pandemic
- Faculty expected that their teaching will continue to be different following the pandemic.
- Video-based technologies were heavily used by faculty, with use anticipated to continue post-pandemic.
- Faculty and administrators were more optimistic about using digital materials than pre-pandemic.
- Faculty and administrators were more optimistic about online learning than pre-pandemic.

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April 2021: Checking in

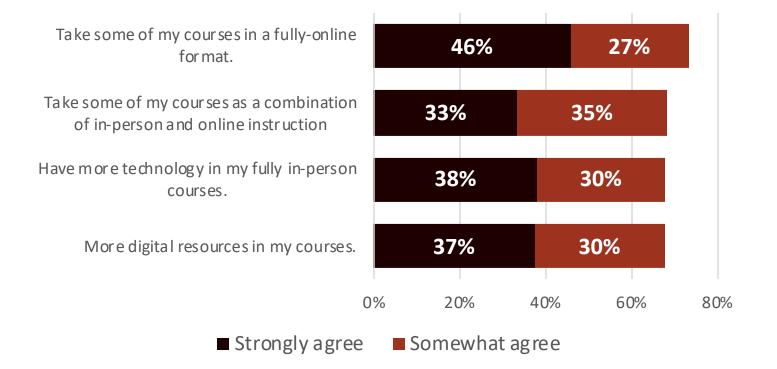
Letter grade for how well Spring 2021 courses are meeting educational needs





Students want option for online

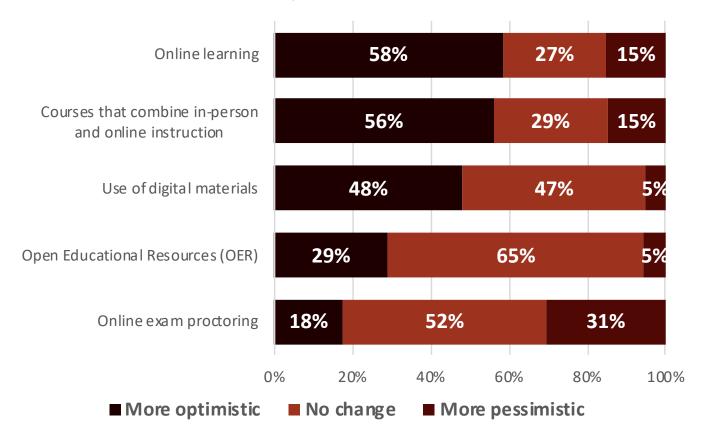
Preferences for my post-pandemic academic experiences





Faculty: Positive online and digital

Faculty changes in attitudes since prior to the pandemic



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Future: A New Appreciation for Online Instruction

- Many faculty, if not most, had a negative opinion about online learning prior to 2020.
- Nearly learned and used new instructional techniques and gained a new appreciation of online education.
- Faculty received professional development that can support them and their institutions well into the future.
- Faculty attitudes towards online learning are now much more positive than pre-pandemic



Future: Instruction Will Include More Technology Use

- Faculty are now familiar with incorporating video, digital materials, and OER into any mode of course delivery.
- Considerable professional development for faculty on how best to use the tools.
- Institutions expanded their infrastructure and ramped up support the use of such tools.
- Students are requesting more technology in their courses.
- Faculty expect to include more technology in all of their courses, even those delivered face-to-face.



Future: Growing Use of Digital

- Faculty, student, and administrative attitudes towards digital materials are now much more positive than pre-pandemic.
- Previously many faculty did not use digital materials because of negative student feedback – students opinions have changed.
- are now familiar with incorporating video, digital materials, and OER into any mode of course delivery.
- Considerable professional development for faculty on how best to use the tools.
- Institutions expanded their infrastructure and ramped up support the use of such tools.
- Students are requesting more technology in their courses.
- Faculty expect to include more technology in all of their courses, even those delivered face-to-face.

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