The COVID-19 pandemic affected college seniors in a myriad of ways as they approached graduation. Students faced a variety of sources of stress surrounding academics and the pandemic. However, a majority of students were satisfied with how their instructors and institutions responded to the pandemic. The 2021 College Senior Survey data was collected from February 2, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Students had many academic concerns unique to the pandemic.

- 79% were at least somewhat stressed about their ability to concentrate on course assignments.
- 51% were at least somewhat stressed about having appropriate space to attend classes remotely (e.g., noise level, work area).
- 43% were at least somewhat stressed about their ability to complete graduation requirements as planned.
- 31% were at least somewhat stressed about their access to internet.

Non-academic issues more general to the pandemic were stressful as well.

- 83% were at least somewhat stressed about their mental health.
- 82% were at least somewhat stressed about the health of loved ones.
- 74% were at least somewhat stressed about coping with social isolation.
- 73% were at least somewhat stressed about their ability to complete graduation requirements as planned.
- 31% were at least somewhat stressed about their access to internet.

Yet, students were generally satisfied with their instructors’ response to the pandemic...

- 73% were satisfied with instructor availability via virtual office hours or by email.
- 69% were satisfied with instructor flexibility in responding to student concerns.
- 56% were satisfied with the functionality of the online learning platform.
- 53% were satisfied with the effectiveness of remote instruction.
- 52% were satisfied with the flexibility in regard to the attendance policy.
- 51% were satisfied with the flexibility in regard to grading practices.

...As well as their college’s transition to remote learning.

Finally, many students were satisfied with how campus leaders reacted to the challenges of the pandemic.

- 79% agreed at least somewhat that their institution’s pandemic response prioritizes the health and safety of students.
- 74% agreed at least somewhat with the decisions leaders have made with respect to the current level of in-person operations on campus.
- 69% agreed at least somewhat that campus leadership has communicated effectively regarding the pandemic.