



COLLEGE SENIORS'

Stress and Satisfaction in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic



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.

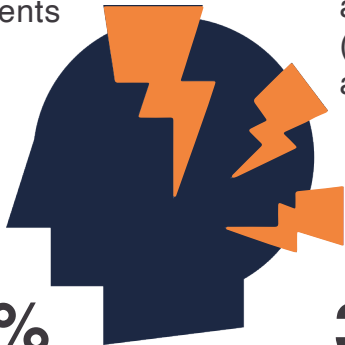
Students had many academic concerns unique to the pandemic.

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

70%

were at least somewhat stressed about the extent to which others adhere to social distancing guidelines while out in public

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

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

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

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

HERI

The College Senior Survey (CSS) is designed as an exit survey for graduating seniors. The CSS focuses on a broad range of college outcomes and post-college goals and plans.

Survey Source: College Senior Survey 2021
www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/
© 2022 Regents of the University of California

facebook.com/HERI.CIRP
linkedin.com/company/heriucla/

@HERIUCLA
@HERIUCLA