

The Future of Learning:

UWinnipeg Students' Experience with Online Learning Survey (2020-21)

In March 2021, UWinnipeg undergraduate and graduate students were asked to fill out a survey about their experiences with online learning in the 2020-21 academic year.^a Results were compared to a national panel of respondents (national survey was conducted in October 2020). Overall, survey results show that student experiences with online learning varied substantially over the past year.

Highlights:

- › Respondents are looking forward to returning back to in person courses once it is safe to do so.
- › Respondents have missed the social aspects of their university experience, both inside and outside the classroom.
- › Respondents understand that some element of online education is likely to continue in the future, even post-COVID.
- › Respondents 30 and older seemed to adapt to online learning better than younger students.

Profile of Respondents^b

68%

Female

83%

Full-time students

12%

Identify as Indigenous

13%

International students

96%

Of respondents are living in Manitoba

24

Average age of respondents

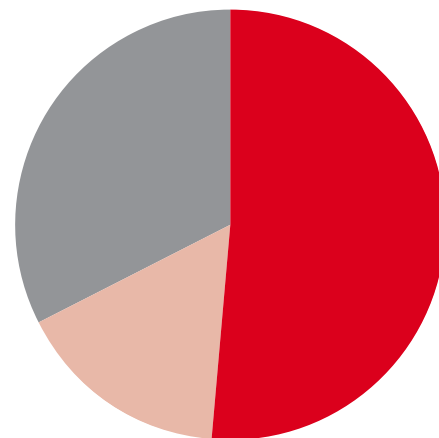
Supplemental Notes:

a) Methodology: UWinnipeg commissioned The Strategic Counsel to undertake a survey of their students. Students were sent an invite from the Strategic Counsel inviting them to participate in the survey. The survey was undertaken in late March/early April 2021. A total of 643 surveys were completed out of a sample of 3000 (21%). Results are compared with the national panel study of undergraduate students currently attending a Canadian university. **b) Profile of Respondents:** UWinnipeg data from student information system (Nov. 2020): 62% Female, 10% Indigenous, 14% International, 75% Full-time, Average age 23 **c) Both available:** In a follow up question, respondents who selected "both available" were asked which they used most often, and respondents answered "both equally" (39%), "synchronous" (36%), and "asynchronous" (25%). **d) Likes and Dislikes of Online Classes:** Respondents were asked to choose 3 from a list of options.

Student Satisfaction

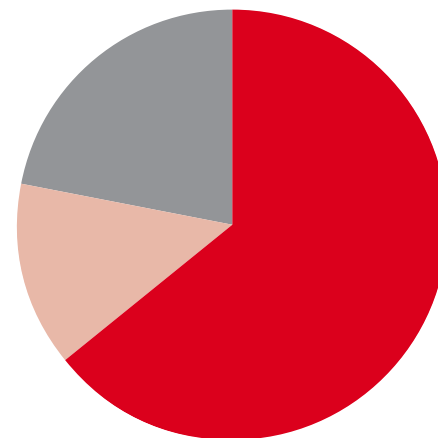
Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience at UWinnipeg so far this term?

UWinnipeg



Satisfied	51%
Neutral	16%
Dissatisfied	32%

National



Satisfied	65%
Neutral	14%
Dissatisfied	22%

51% of UWinnipeg students reported being satisfied overall compared to 65% of students from the national panel.

The national comparison panel survey was conducted in October 2020. The difference in timing may have had an influence on student experience throughout the year.



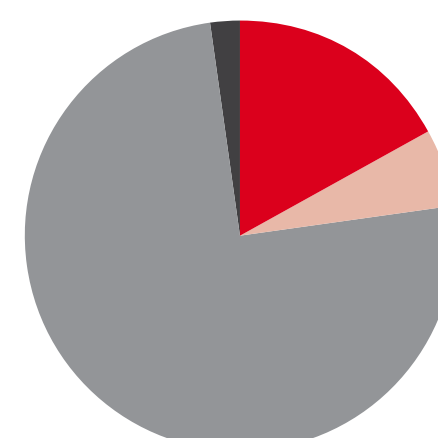
Regarding their university experience this year, respondents were the least satisfied with the following:

- › Opportunities to **participate** in co-curricular events, clubs, etc.
- › Opportunities to **socialize** with other students outside of classes.
- › Opportunities to **collaborate**/work on projects with other students

Online Learning

Are your online courses synchronous or asynchronous?

UWinnipeg



Synchronous	17%
Asynchronous	6%
Both available ^c	75%
Other	2%

92% of UWinnipeg respondents reported taking lecture courses online.



52% were satisfied with the online format.
(54% national)



Most Satisfied with online lectures:

Students 30 and older (**65%**)

Students in Arts (**57%**)



Least Satisfied with online lectures:

Kinesiology students (**44%**)

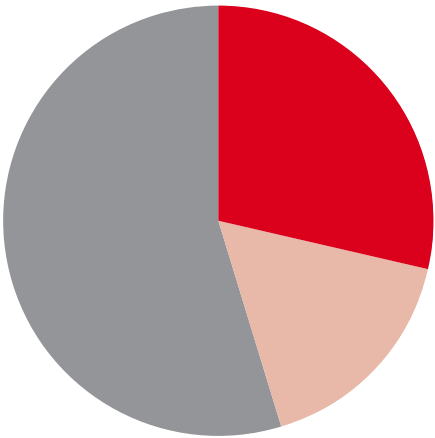
Education students (**46%**)

Students under 30 (**50%**)

Workload

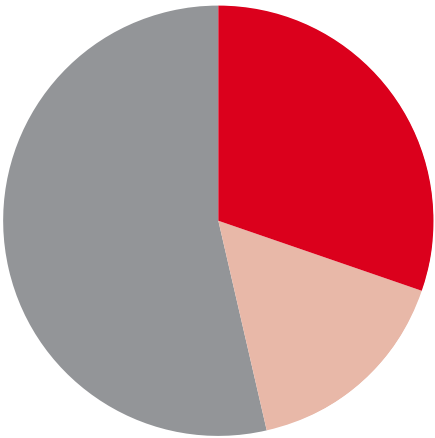
In general, how easy or difficult is it to keep up with the workload in your online course?

UWinnipeg



Easy	29%
Neutral	17%
Difficult	55%

National



Easy	30%
Neutral	16%
Difficult	53%

“Certain classes did a very good job of adapting to online learning, others did not. The workload overall increased too dramatically, which likely led to dissatisfaction from the student body. If this was managed better, I would really enjoy having more online options, as it gives me more time to focus on school without spending hours commuting every day, and wasting time between classes.”

- Survey comment

Likes and Dislikes of Online Classes

What do you like most about the online classes you took this academic year? ^d

What do you dislike most about the online classes you took this academic year?

Top 5 Likes

61%	Can watch/review lectures/notes again
51%	Ability to study from home/wherever I want
40%	Convenience
39%	Ability to study at my own pace/make my own schedule
11%	Faster/easier to receive grades

Top 5 Dislikes

40%	Not motivating/difficult to concentrate
27%	Too much reading/learning by myself
25%	Lack of in class interaction with other students
24%	Prefer to be in class/on campus
18%	Learning material is more difficult/confusing

“At first I was skeptical, although I ended up [enjoying them] being online. I was wasting less time commuting and socializing and [there was] more time in my schedule to focus and study. I was able to jump on at any point in the day to learn.”

- Survey comment

“I just miss the feeling of school. The motivation, the professors, the ability to connect emotionally with students and make friends. Everything now just seems so dull and even though the tasks aren’t harder my emotional stability is a mess and work seems harder than it should. I have no motivation. I really want in-class school but I won’t go back until it is safe to do so.”

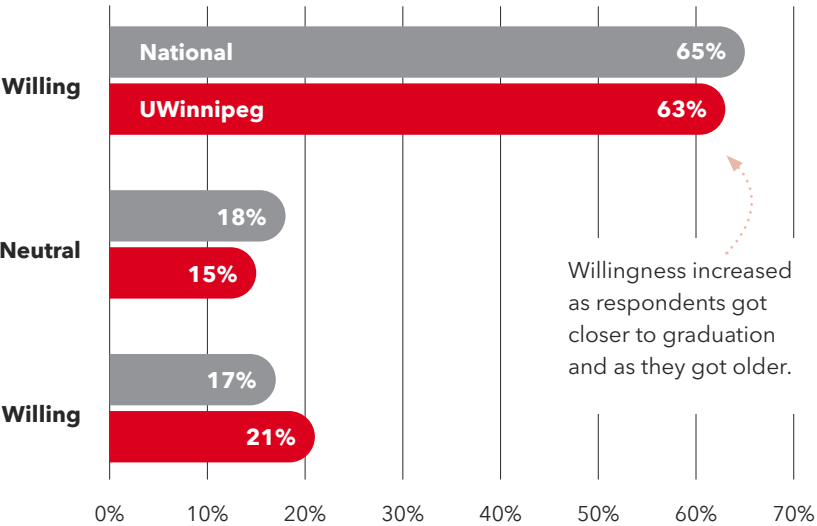
- Survey comment

69% of respondents agree with the statement, “I miss being on campus”.

68% of respondents agreed to the statement “After COVID-19, some online learning will be a part of everyone’s university education”.

Willingness to Continue with Online Courses

Overall, how willing are you to keep taking online courses instead of in-person ones until it is considered safe for your university to resume in-person courses?



71%

of respondents 30 and older are willing to continue online

74%

of respondents in their 4th year of studies are willing to continue online

Online Learning Post-Pandemic

Once the COVID-19 pandemic is over and it is safe to resume in-person classes, which of the following would you consider taking online if it is an option?

