

Fall 2021 Survey Summary

Scenario Planning Working Group

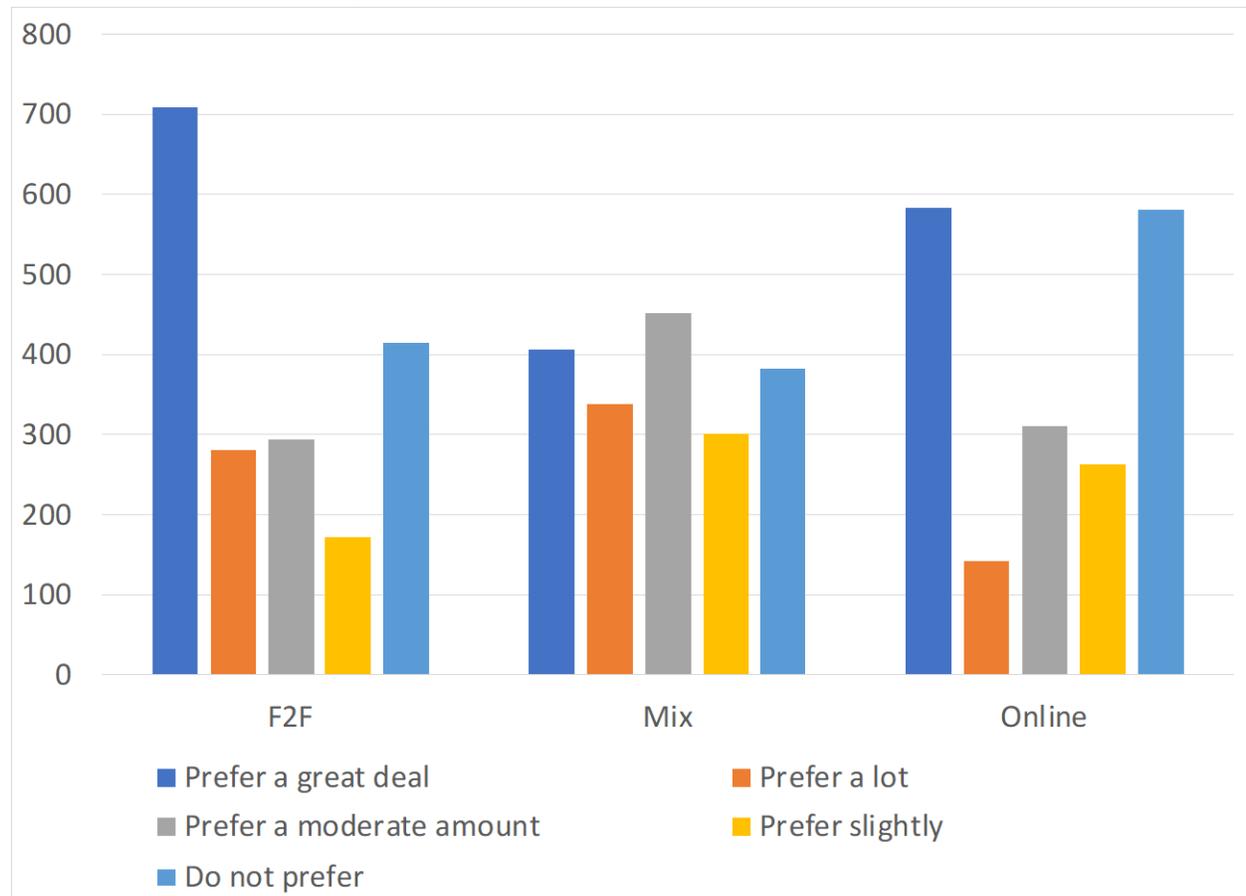
Overview

- Survey launched in early April with a message from Dave to all students; Deans followed up with encouragement to fill out the survey. See appendix for the list of questions.
- 2633 responses, with graduate students somewhat overrepresented (about 600 of the responses).
- Results report and raw data are available here: https://panthers-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dclark_uwm_edu/Esh2D7mQEGhBoVBpj4fWIMkBKtYdc5aGQZY33KOcVM_OCA?e=tVGwzQ

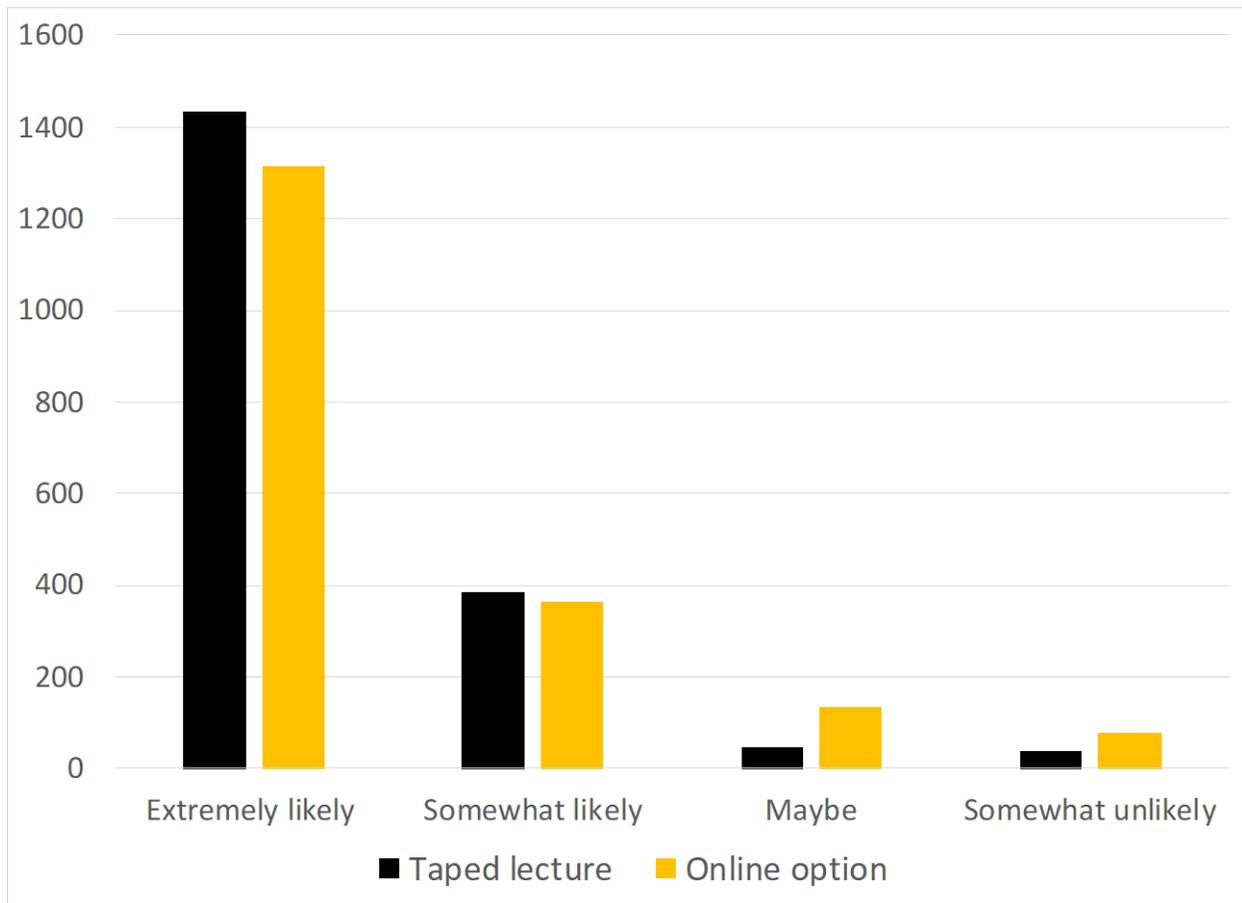
Key Takeaways

Respondents are split between an interest in F2F courses and online courses, with strong feelings in both directions.

Modality preference: Undergrads



Students strongly advocate for continuing some of the accommodations we built out during the pandemic; lecture capture in particular is extremely popular.



Respondents contributed many, many comments in response to this question:

Q22: Please list any other COVID-related changes you'd like to see continued after the pandemic (themes highlighted in yellow)

A qualitative analysis of these comments found 11 broad themes. Each theme is presented below with illustrative quotes.

Continue higher number of online classes

A majority of comments indicated a preference for having more-than-typical online course offerings for Fall 2021. Reasons for this preference included

- Ability to balance school, family, and work commitments

"I like the flexibility, I'm a working parent and student so it allows me to have more freedom to study around my life."

- Convenience

“I thrived with having my classes online. Especially since I live an hour from campus.”

- Health concerns

“The option for online courses is HUGE for me. I cannot attend classes in person due to being high risk and even with the vaccine, I do not plan to come back to campus.”

- Perceptions that it’s the future of education

“Physical-attendance mandatory classes seems almost archaic at this point (outside of instances like labs where physically being present is needed).”

Return to face-to-face preferred

While fewer in number, students who would like a “return to normal” were strongly in favor of face-to-face classes.

“literally nothing is working I am learning nothing”

“this sucked”

“The only changes I want are the one to put UWM back to normal. No masks, No Covid test, In person classes, regular campus life.”

Learning benefits of recorded lectures

Lecture capture was highly valued by students, and there was strong support for continuing and increasing this practice.

“I just want to use this box to reiterate how much I would adore the ability to review online recorded classes.

“Since the pandemic started, all of my lectures have been made available online. Not just lecture slides, files and announcements, but video-recorded lectures proctored by an instructor and posted on canvas. Moving forward, lectures should be recorded live and posted on canvas. This simple use of technology has made lectures available to me to review and master. Even in-person lectures should be recorded and posted. This simple effort will be inextricably linked to better outcomes. Having the lecture slides is very useful, but having all of the dialogue from a fast-paced lecture holds real value for learning. The video recording technology in lecture halls will show value in more ways than posting lectures. It’s a smart investment that will directly impact educational outcomes.”

“Having lectures available online is amazing.”

Asynchronous online options preferred

While some students indicated a preference for synchronous, live online lectures, most students preferred asynchronous delivery that enabled them to access course content when it fit into their lives.

“I like the asynchronous online classes. If I am signing up for an online class it’s because I have a busy schedule already. Making online classes synchronized makes it harder to keep up with the work and put your best effort due to all the other busy classes.”

Input on Improving Online Courses

Students offered a variety of tips for improving their online course experience, including having greater consistency in navigation across courses (e.g., assignments located in the same place and all placed on the Canvas calendar); online orientation to Canvas for all students as part of new student orientation; greater instructor presence/interaction; open note exams; continuing a hybrid approach to lab sessions.

“Instructors have been using Canvas much more effectively since the switch to online instruction. I hope instructors continue using Canvas as they are now even with in-person lectures. For example, Canvas pages for each week of class with a list of assignments, homework assignments as Canvas quizzes instead of paper assignments.”

“Alternating labs in person vs online (every other week). It was really helpful because typical labs used to be crowded and chaotic with 30-40 students and it was hard to understand or get work done properly. The labs being online every other week was helpful because the class was split and we learned a lot more.”

“It is frustrating when you go to a course within Canvas to work on a class and you have to search for an assignment or rubric because it may be in Assignments, or Announcements, Modules or in the Syllabus(which may also be located in multiple locations).”

Concerns about the return to campus

Students expressed concerns about exposure to COVID-19, stressing the need to keep cleaning protocols in place. There were some suggestions to mandate vaccination.

“I’m nervous to go back in the fall. I don’t know what to expect I don’t even know what is normal anymore. “

“By still allowing the option for classes to be online, especially large lectures. I think myself and other people are still worried about going back fully in campus while others may be anxious to get back to in-person immediately. Giving each student the choice to choose without penalty would be the best option in my opinion. Having hand sanitizing stations all over campus would also be a great thing to continue.”

Remote access for meetings/support services/events

Students want to retain the ability to meet virtually, particularly for short meetings with advisors and faculty members. They appreciate being able to access services such as tutoring online, and would like to continue online access to forms and other services. However, they really want the Library and the Union to open more fully in fall.

Hyflex

The Hyflex mode (classes available on campus and live in Canvas simultaneously) was also popular.

“I do like this online aspect where if you can't, for whatever reason, can't make it to class you can still attend because of the online format.”

Flexibility in attendance policies

Students would like class attendance policies to remain flexible.

“I would like to continue to see a continued level of understanding and concern when students, faculty, and family members are sick. If people are not feeling well or have immediate family that they need to care for, they should not feel obligated to compromise their health or the health of their classmates by coming into class just so they do not miss anything. Understanding (within reason) should be afforded to students to revisit lectures or extend deadlines in the event they fall ill.”

Mental health issues

Students have experienced increased stress, anxiety and depression over the past year, and they would like increased access to counseling services (including telehealth services).

“All staff at UWM should receive trauma-based training over the summer as the pandemic was a lot for all of us and learning how to work with students who dealt with trauma is different from your average student whether they be adults or not.”

“Continue to offer and expand mental health/therapy related services. I don't know where I'd be without them.”

Kindness

Appreciation was expressed for UWM as a caring community, and students want that heightened empathy to be an essential aspect of UWM's campus culture.

“I hope that this has shown instructors and professors who didn't already know this that the world outside the classroom is a major determinant of classroom performance. The culture of kindness that grew in some ways as a result of the pandemic should continue. Reasonable expectations, genuine offers of support, checking in with students and graduate instructors to genuinely listen to their concerns and experiences.”

“Professors have been so helpful and understanding, during this! I transferred in Fall 2020, and I have felt very well supported by the UWM community as a whole. I hope this is something that continues throughout my time here and wasn't/isn't just because of the Pandemic.”

Appendix: Student Opinions on Fall 2021

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 What is your school/college or advising unit?

▼ College of Engineering & Applied Science (138) ... Zilber School of Public Health (153)

Q2 What year in school are you in this semester?

▼ High school (29) ... Graduate Certificate (34)

Q14 What is your current mix of online vs. face-to-face courses?

▼ All online (1) ... Half online, half face to face (7)

Q16 Where is your permanent address?

▼ Milwaukee/Waukesha area (and surrounding counties) (1) ... International Student (4)

Q15 Where do you currently live?

▼ Living in university housing (1) ... Living with family outside the Milwaukee area (7)

Q21 Some changes that were necessary because of the pandemic might continue. If these options were available how likely are you to take advantage of them?

	Extremely likely (23)	Somewhat likely (24)	Neither likely nor unlikely (25)	Somewhat unlikely (26)	Extremely unlikely (27)
Lectures made available online so you can go back and review material (28)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The option to attend courses in person or online (33)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Virtual events/virtual access to live events (34)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online access to college support resources (35)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expanded hours of student services-related departments (40)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online organizations or clubs (42)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q22 Please list any other COVID-related changes you'd like to see continued after the pandemic?

Q17 How can UWM better support you?

Q18 Please indicate your preference for fall instruction.

	Prefer a great deal (17)	Prefer a lot (18)	Prefer a moderate amount (19)	Prefer slightly (20)	Do not prefer (21)
Face to face courses (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hybrid/mix of online and face to face (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online instruction (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Display This Question:

If What year in school are you in this semester? = Master's courses

And What year in school are you in this semester? = Master's research

And What year in school are you in this semester? = Doctoral courses

And What year in school are you in this semester? = Doctoral research

And What year in school are you in this semester? = Graduate Certificate

Q20 Please indicate your preference for summer and fall research if you are defending a thesis or a dissertation.

	Prefer a great deal (17)	Prefer a lot (18)	Prefer a moderate amount (19)	Prefer slightly (20)	Do not prefer (21)
Face to face (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hybrid/mix of online and face to face (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q28 For online course offerings, do you prefer synchronous meetings (set virtual class meeting times with the instructor) or asynchronous meetings (no set meeting times)?

Synchronous (4)

Asynchronous (5)

Q9 What are your plans for the fall 2021 semester?

- Definitely continue at UWM (10)
- Continue at UWM, but only if my courses are exclusively online (5)
- Continue at UWM, but only if my courses are primarily face to face (8)
- Have not yet decided on my plans for next semester (3)
- Do not plan to continue at UWM (4)
- Graduating prior to the fall semester (2)

Skip To: Q13 If What are your plans for the fall 2021 semester? = Do not plan to continue at UWM

Q23 Do you plan to get a Covid-19 vaccination once you are eligible?

- Yes (21)
 - No (22)
-

Q25 If you have not received a Covid-19 vaccination before the Fall 2021 semester starts, would you be interested in getting one after arriving on campus?

- Yes (18)
 - Maybe (19)
 - No (20)
-

Q27 Please share something you enjoyed pre-COVID at UWM (an activity or community) that you really hope is in place when campus is fully open.

Q22 Please share concerns you have about the fall semester.

Display This Question:

If What are your plans for the fall 2021 semester? = Have not yet decided on my plans for next semester

Q26 Please share why you are uncertain about your fall plans.

Display This Question:

If What are your plans for the fall 2021 semester? = Do not plan to continue at UWM

Q13 Please comment on your plans for the upcoming semester. If you are transferring, please let us know to where you're transferring.

Q11 Name (optional)

Q12 Email address (optional)

End of Block: Default Question Block
