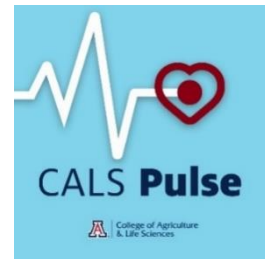




College of Agriculture
& Life Sciences

Career & Academic Services



CALSPulse Summary Results Fall 2020

During the Fall 2020 semester, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALSPulse) polled students and provided rapid response. CALSPulse was designed for two purposes:

- 1) Answer burning questions about students during the unprecedented Fall 2020 semester, and
- 2) Provide personalized resources and outreach to students quickly – ideally leading to an increase in student wellbeing, access to resources, and retention.

Quick pulse surveys were sent to students weekly or bi-weekly through email, social media, and shares from faculty and staff. The first CALSPulse survey was sent to students during the second week of courses and the last during the 15th week. This report provides a summary of the outcome of this effort.

Over the course of the ten unique surveys, **440 responses** were received. These responses represent **227 unique students** who have a major and/or a minor in CALSPulse. Nearly 40% of students responded to multiple CALSPulse surveys throughout the term. Based on their unique responses, **181 students received direct, personalized support**. Some students received multiple types of outreach over the course of the term. A total of 40 students asked to be referred to the CALSPulse Life Management Counselor for mental health consultation.

Subject matter experts provided outreach to students across many areas of services such as basic needs, mental health, advising, career development, student engagement and belonging, financial aid, and more. Several students commented that it was nice to be “checked in on” even if they didn’t need any support at that time, furthering the **CALSPulse is family** culture.

The **appendix** contains the results from each survey.

Student Characteristics

- Most students are **full-time, main campus students** though students did respond from online and distance campuses.
- **Every major in CALSPulse was represented.**
 - Top majors represented aligned with high enrollment programs such as Nutritional Sciences, Veterinary Science, Family Studies and Human Development, Environmental Science, and Natural Resources.
- Nearly **40% of students were newly enrolled** to the University of Arizona.

- Several student demographic characteristics are comparative with the overall student demographics in CALS:

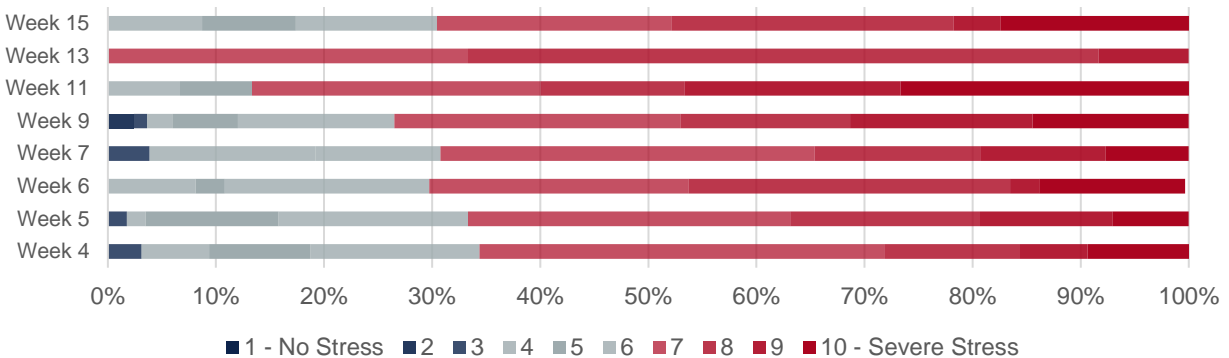
	CALS Pulse Respondents	CALS Students Overall*
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.4%	1.6%
Asian	5.4%	3.4%
Black or African American	3.9%	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino	31.8%	32.3%
International	1.4%	3.3%
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	1.8%	1.4%
Two or more races	3.6%	4.5%
White	50.5%	50.3%
First Generation	38%	40.3%
Transfer	27%	27.7%

*UAccess Analytics Student Profile Dashboard

Additional Outcomes

To further measure the potential impact of this initiative, we will examine persistence rates of students as they re-enroll in the Spring 2021 term. As of Fall 2020 finals week, **92% of students who responded to a CALS Pulse survey are re-enrolled for Spring 2021 or are graduating**. Of the students who received personalized support, **90.5% are re-enrolled for Spring 2021**, despite many experiencing high levels of stress and facing multiple challenges personally and/or academically.

Stress levels in the past two weeks



Next Steps

Due to the success of the CALS Pulse survey during Fall 2020, we will continue to survey students biweekly during Spring 2021 so that we can continue learning the student pulse and providing rapid intervention and support to those who need it.

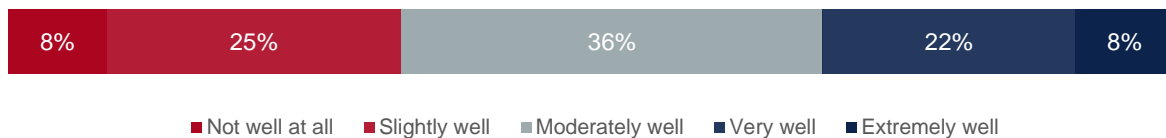
Our hope is that by continuing these efforts, we will further build the culture of quick response and support for CALS students and see an increase in responses. With more instructors promoting the survey, we anticipate being able to reach this goal easily. D2L announcements seem to generate the largest responses. To get added to the mailing list of regular results and to promote the survey to your students, please [email Danielle Flink](#), Student Success and Retention Specialist.

Week 9 – General Check-In, Spring Enrollment Plans

91 Responses – All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 15 different majors.

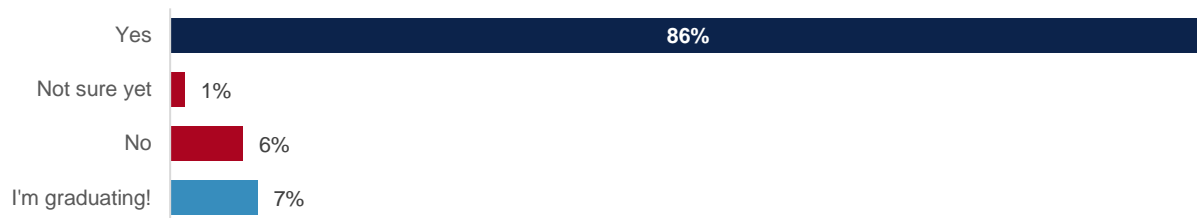
Nearly all students (99%) reported that their **basic needs (housing/food) are currently being met**. The student with needs unmet was reached out to for more information so that they can be properly referred.

How well would you say the semester is going for you academically?



Students who indicated that they were doing “slightly well” or “not well at all” were connected with tutoring, peer support, or other resources to aid in their academic success.

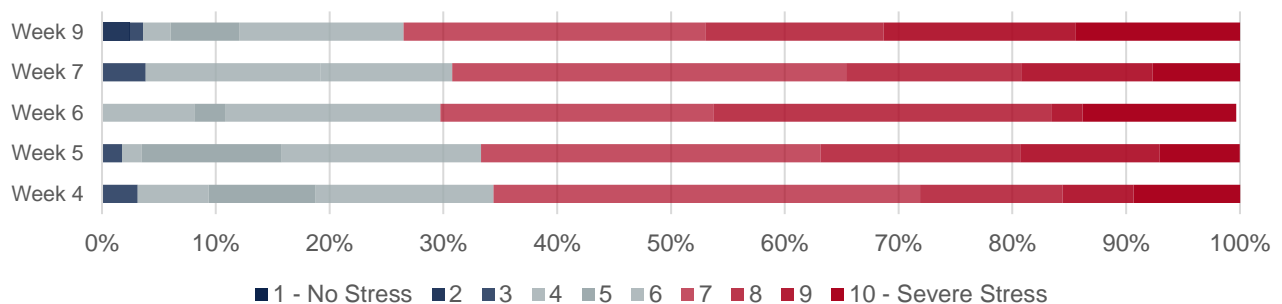
Do you plan to enroll for classes for the Spring 2021 Semester?



Any student indicated uncertainty or that they would not be registering for classes next semester received follow up from their Academic Advisor.

Over 14% of respondents who rated their stress as a 5 or above asked to be connected with the CALS Life Management Counselor this week. A few students noted that they were already in touch with the Life Management Counselor or had a therapist they were seeing. Three students noted that they would like tips on time management.

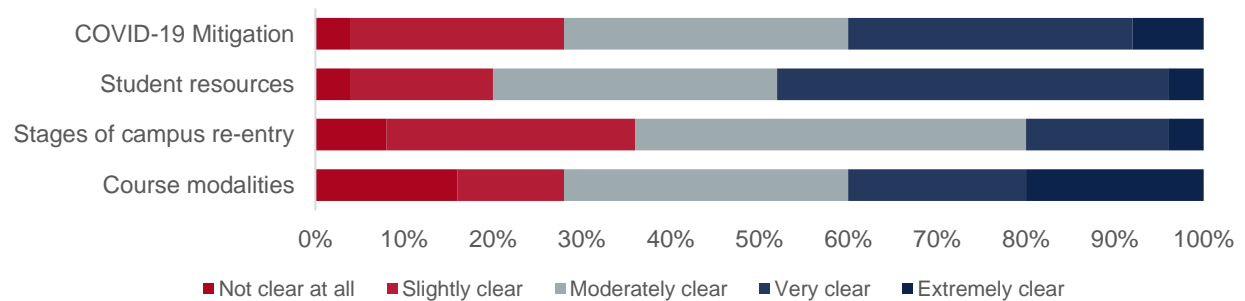
Stress levels in the past two weeks



Week 7 – Communications, Spring Course Modalities

28 Responses - All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 10 different majors. Returning students have a higher response rate.

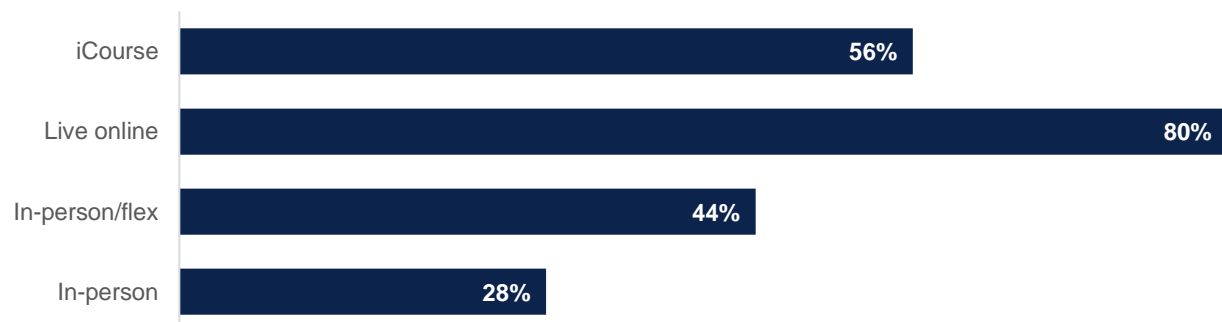
How clearly has the University of Arizona communicated about the following topics?



Nearly all (96%) students prefer to learn about updates related to campus re-entry by email. Almost half (44%) of students indicated they would like to learn about campus re-entry **through D2L Announcements**. Less than 10% of students are interested in learning about updates from social media.

Students feel that CALS is doing well with communications. Students did express a desire for the University of Arizona as an institution to communicate **more clearly and directly** about changes. One student suggestion was to have instructors provide regular modality updates about their courses.

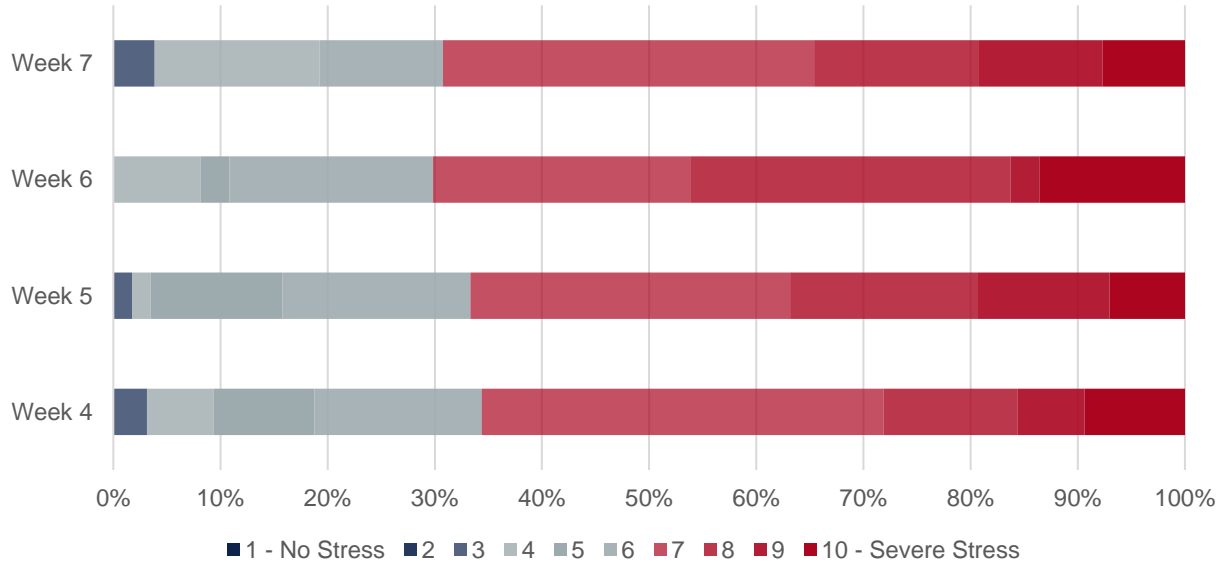
Student course modality preferences for Spring 2021



Factors driving student decisions about modality revolve around COVID-19. Most mentioned being afraid, needing more safety precautions to be in-person, and wanting to see a drop in cases. Students also mentioned liking the flexibility that online has provided. For example, one

student said, “How many confirmed cases there are. Also, online classes work better for my schedule.”

Stress levels in the past two weeks



Week 6 – Engagement, Connection, Loneliness

48 Responses - All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 12 different majors. New students have a higher response rate.

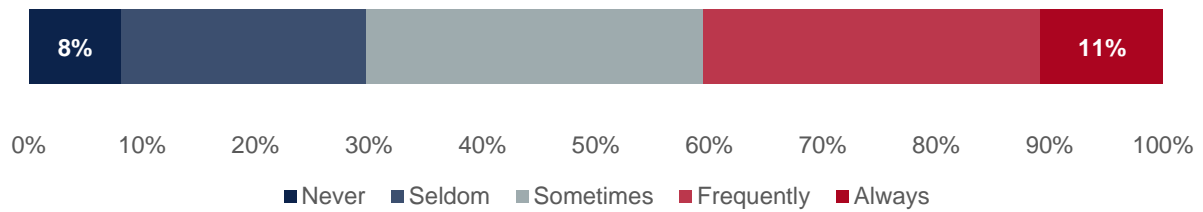
Nearly **three-quarters** of students have met someone at the University of Arizona that **shares aspects of their identity that are important to them**. Over **half** of students who responded **desire to be more involved in campus activities**.

I feel part of the University of Arizona community



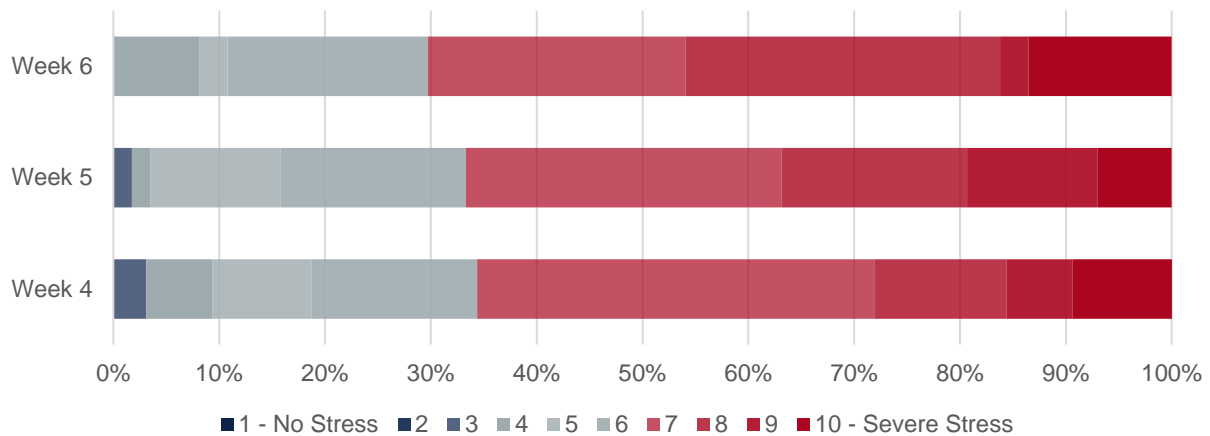
The students who responded during week six demonstrate an **increased connection** to the University of Arizona.

How often have you felt lonely at the University of Arizona?



Students continue to report higher amounts of stress with 12% requesting to be connected to the CALS Life Management Counselor. Students who responded in previous weeks did not ask to be reconnected to the counselor.

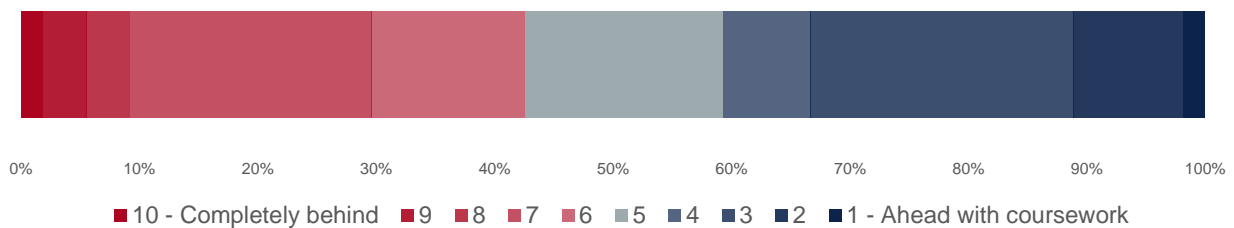
Stress levels in the past two weeks



Week 5 – Time Management, Instruction, and Stress

61 Responses – All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 14 different majors. New students have a higher response rate.

How would you rate yourself on your ability to keep up with your coursework this semester?



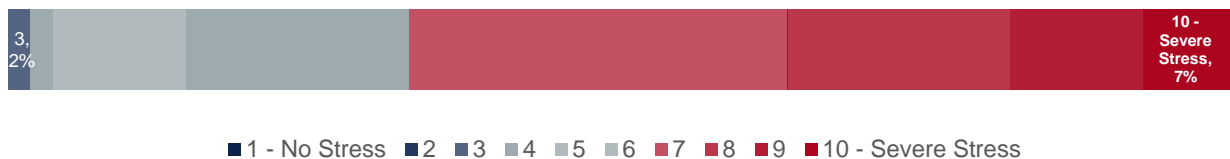
Students report that their **instructors are accessible** under the current conditions, with 35% saying they are very accessible. Further, two-thirds of students are **comfortable reaching out to instructors for guidance**.

To assess common course struggles, students were asked if they are taking any math, chemistry, or writing intensive courses:

- Of the 40% of responding students taking **math** this semester, **74% are confident** in their ability to do well.
- Of the 28% of responding students taking **chemistry** this semester, **75% are confident** in their ability to do well.
- Of the 32% of responding students taking one or more **writing intensive** course this semester, **90% students are confident** in their ability to do well.

Despite overall stress levels looking like the previous week, fewer students (17% vs. 38%) requested to be connected to Life Management Counseling. This may be due to exams and assignments as we near the midpoint of the semester.

Stress levels in the past two weeks



Week 4 Results – Career Fair and Stress

34 Responses – All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 11 different majors. New students have a higher response rate.

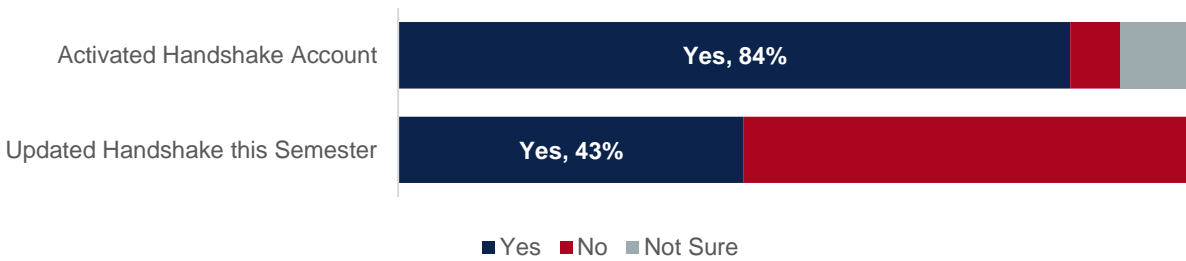
Do you have a resume or CV ready to apply for internships, jobs, research, volunteer, etc.?



Nearly **41% of students have applied for positions**.

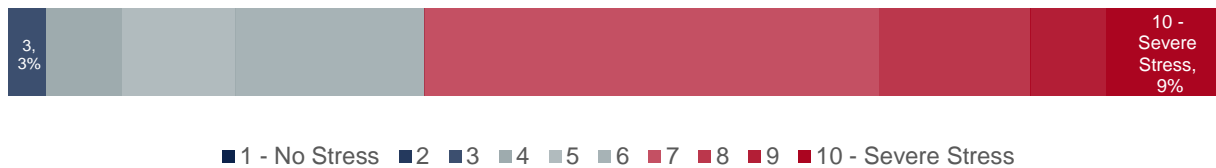
Nearly **two-thirds** of students **know where to RSVP** for Career Center events and **16% have RSVP'd** for the September 22nd Career Fair with an additional **47% planning to RSVP**.

Handshake Account Usage



Students were also asked about their stress levels. Institutional assessments such as Wildcat Well-check have shown student mental and emotional health to be a top concern. Students who ranked themselves with a stress level of 5 or above were asked if they would like to receive a consultation from the CALS Life Management Counselor. **38% of students indicated wanting follow-up.**

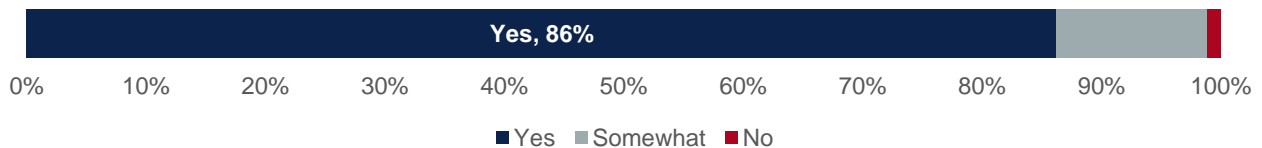
Stress levels in the past two weeks



Week 3 Results – Technology Barriers and Course Modalities

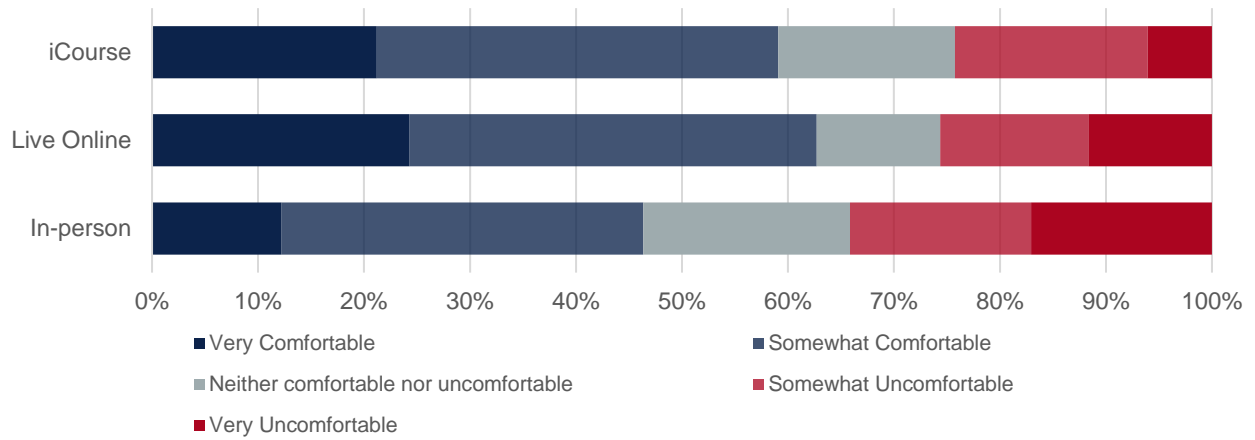
102 Responses – All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 16 different majors. New students have a higher response rate.

Do you have all the technology and equipment needed for your courses to be successful?



Students with technology and equipment barriers are experiencing **WiFi access and reliability issues most commonly**, followed by needing specific hardware and/or software for their courses. Laptop or desktop computers are the devices students use most often to attend class, however, **nearly 30% of students say that they regularly attend class using their phone.** On average, students are using 1.6 different types of devices to attend class. Most students are navigating two different course modalities, with 5% navigating all three.

What is your comfort level with each of your course modalities?



Week 2 Results – Connection and Basic Needs

19 Responses – All undergraduate students, new and returning students from 9 different majors. New students have a higher response rate.

- **35%** of students **do not plan to go on campus** this semester
- **18%** of students **work on campus**
- All students responding report their basic needs (food/housing) are currently being met

I feel part of the University of Arizona community.

