



Student Pulse Survey

COVID-19 impact on Fall 2020 educational plans

Discussion Materials

July 2020

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Survey Overview

Objective

The pulse survey was sent to current students across participating UNCF member institutions to better understand the effects of the pandemic on students' lives and their expected enrollment plans for Fall 2020

Survey execution facts

Students were able to respond to the survey throughout the month of June

- 17 member institutions participated in the survey
 - 5,138 students responded to the survey; approximately 23% response rate
 - Representative sample of 10% of undergraduates attending UNCF member institutions
 - 30% of respondents reside in Alabama and Florida
 - 73% of respondents identify as female
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Point of contact

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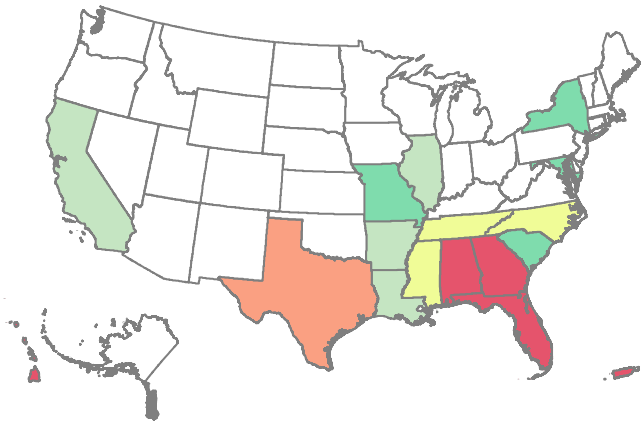
Respondent demographics

Survey findings

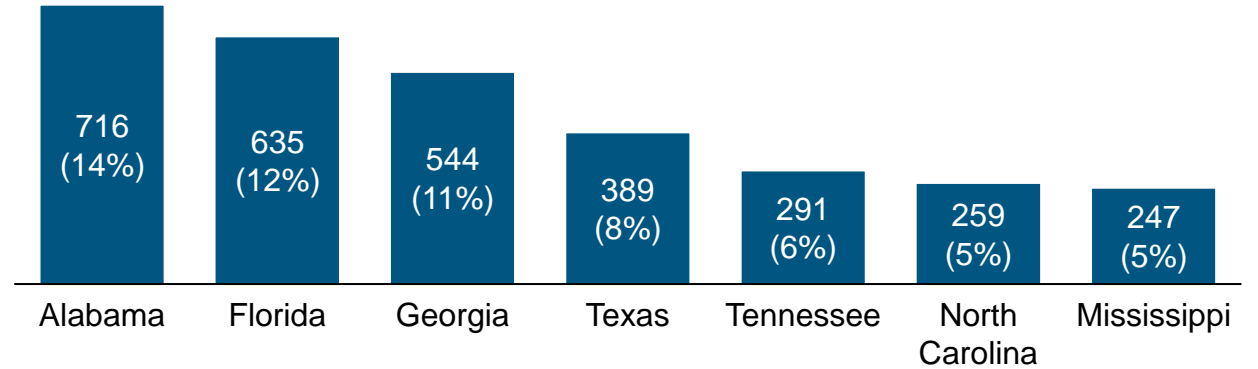
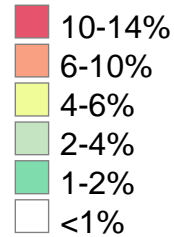
We received responses from 5,000+ students across 40 states

Respondents by state

N=4479

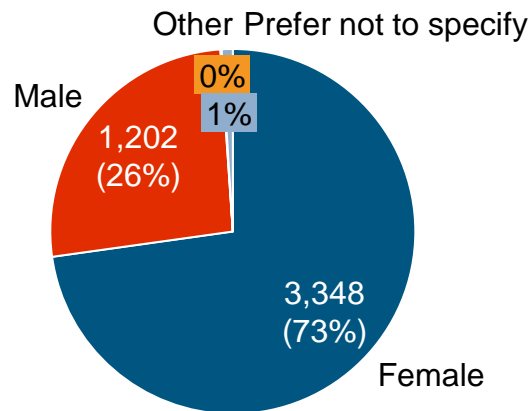


of responses by state



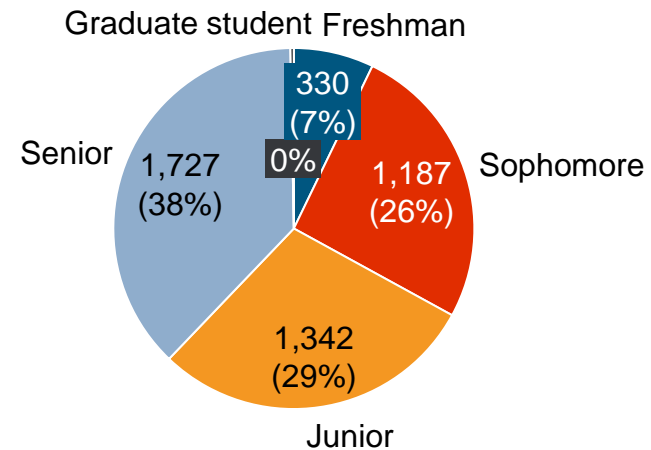
Gender identification

N=4601



Class year

N=4601



Respondent demographics

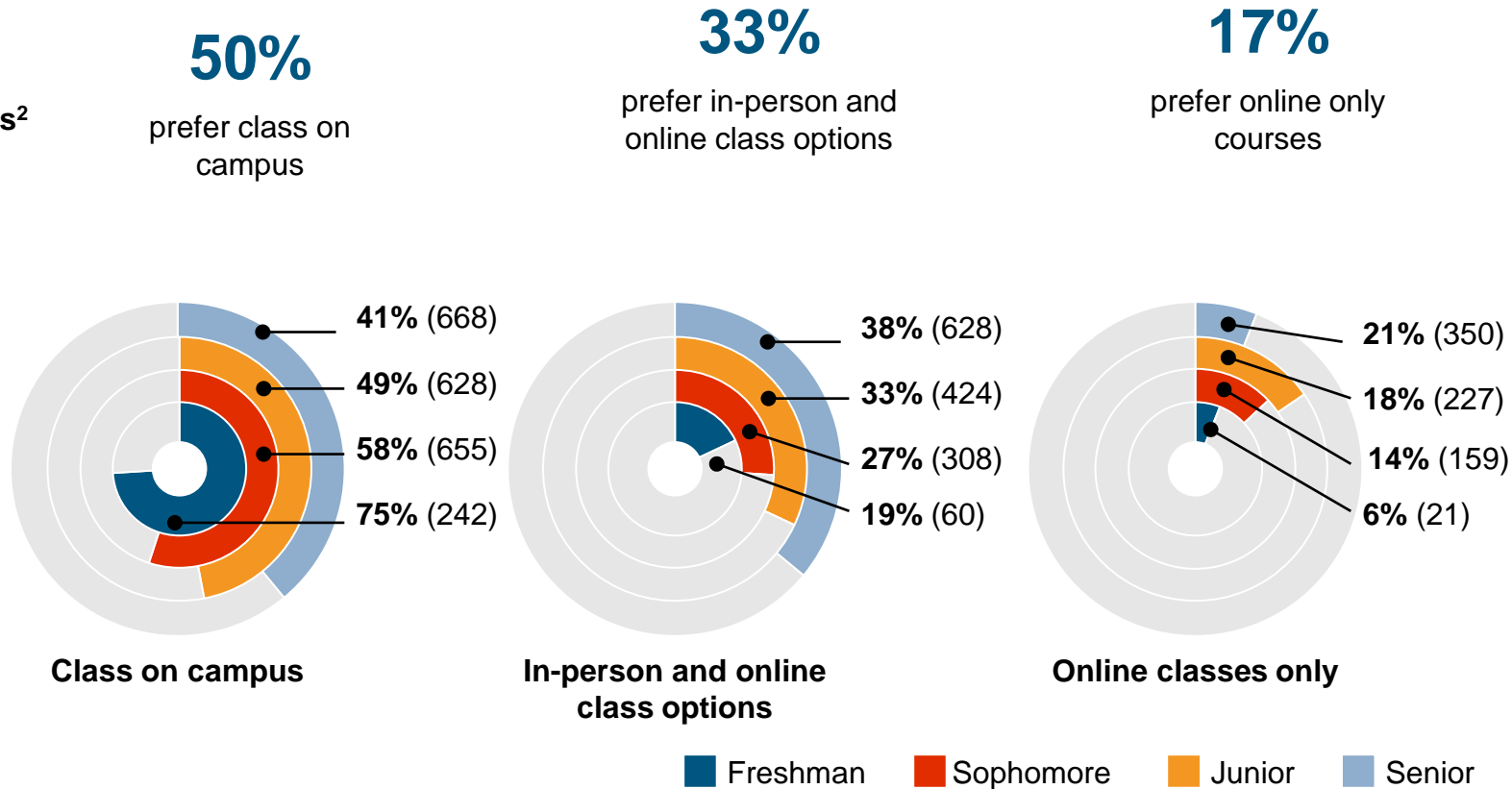
Survey findings

1 Over 80% of students prefer to return to campus for some level of in-person instruction for fall semester

Fall semester plans: *What do you hope for the fall semester¹?*

N=4893¹

All respondents²



- 50% of respondents prefer to return to campus in person for fall semester
- Freshman are much more likely to prefer a return to campus while upper classmen are more varied in their responses
- Seniors are most likely to prefer online courses only (21%) compared to freshman (6%)

1. Question: Think about the fall semester. Please select what you hope will happen in the fall. Responses exclude graduate students and class format options of "other" and "unsure".

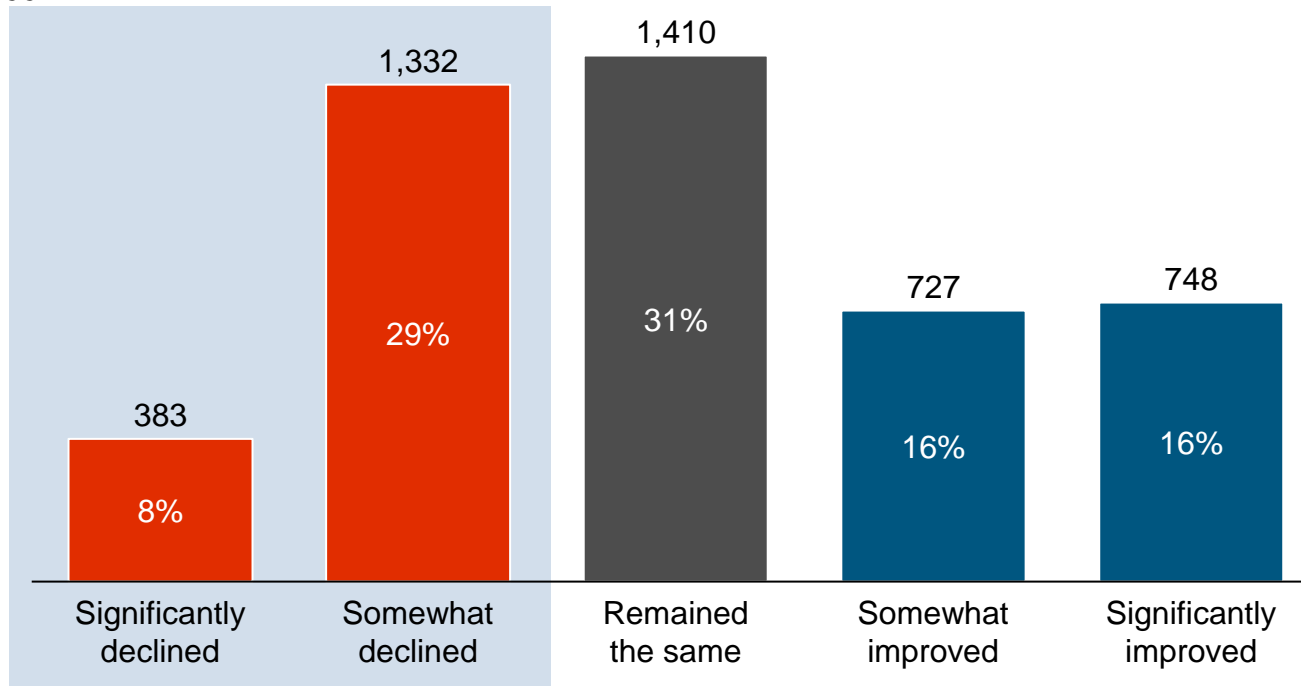
2. Average response for all completed survey responses.

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2 37% of students reported a decline in their mental well-being due to COVID-19

Mental well-being: How has COVID-19 impacted your mental well-being?¹

N=4600



Selected quotes²:

"My mom had COVID, so taking care of her on top of finishing my classes for spring semester was very depressing. She's a nurse and had to stop providing for us due to her illness... now we're dealing with the aftermath."

"I feel as if that things will never be back to normal and dealing with COVID-19, the police brutality, and trying to come up with money to pay for fall semester is [causing] me a lot of stress and anxiety because either way it's the stress of trying not to get sick, not getting killed by police or finding a way to pay for school that has me on edge."

"This mess is trash. I'm tired, frustrated, and upset. COVID-19 [is] out here killing us and so is the police and I'm tired. I never felt like I needed more therapy in my life"

"Due to COVID-19, so much has gone wrong for me and my family. We only have each other now. It has [been] a struggle to pay bills and to keep the internet on [and] everyone in my apartment complex uses the same internet server and it's very slow which led to complications trying to finish out the semester."

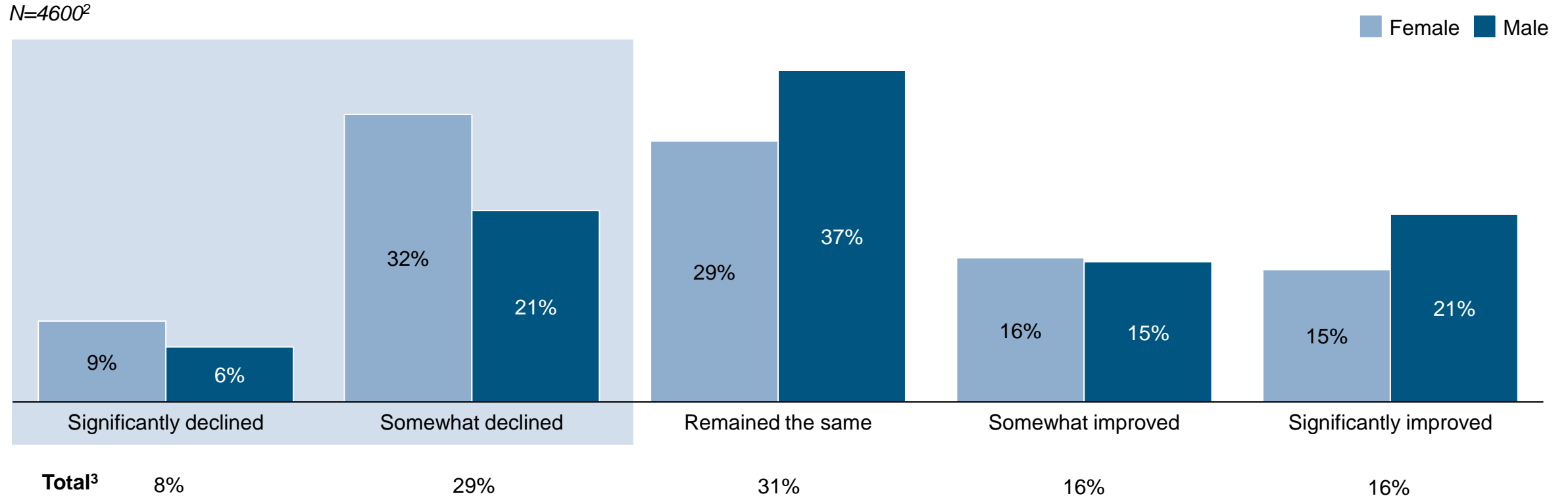
"Because of COVID I've learned to appreciate more in life. From spending more time with my family and having more time to focus on myself as a person this whole experience has been a blessing and a curse."

1. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your mental wellbeing (e.g., feelings, emotions, mental health, stress management).
2. Question: Please describe how COVID-19 has most impacted you in terms of how you feel.

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More women (41%) reported declines to mental well-being than men (27%)

Mental well-being: How has COVID-19 impacted your mental well-being?¹



- 36% of male respondents indicated that their mental well-being improved due to COVID while 31% of female respondents experienced an improved mental well-being
- The plurality of females experienced a decline in their mental well-being due to COVID-19, whereas the plurality of males did not experience any change
- Stigma and unwillingness to self-report mental health challenges could make respondents less likely to indicate a decline in mental well-being

1. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your mental wellbeing (e.g., feelings, emotions, mental health, stress management).
 2. Does not include the 50 students who marked "Other" or "Prefer not to disclose" in response to Q12 (With which gender do you most identify)
 3. Average response for all completed survey responses.

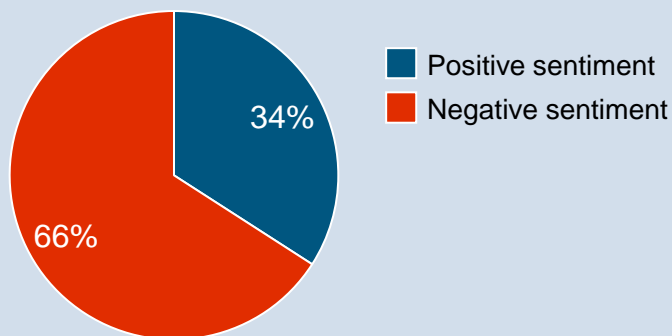
While 34% of respondents reported an improvement to their mental well-being, their quotes suggest that the reality is more complex

Mental well-being: How has COVID-19 impacted your mental well-being?¹

N=4600²

Of the 261 responses containing select words associated with poor mental health, the majority suggested respondents may have actually suffered a decline in mental well-being³:

Responses with key words expressing negative sentiment³, %



Selected quotes²:

My mental well-being has somewhat improved, but emotionally it was hard to juggle school work with a very sick family member and the drama of what this country is going through. Being at [INSTITUTION] gives me somewhat of an escape from this reality.

Sometimes [COVID-19] has been a blessing to return home and stay with my family and other times it has been a burden. I do not have a work space and it's harder for me to get things done. Towards the end of the semester I suffered from stress migraines and felt sick as I tried to complete my work. It felt like my professors were giving us an increased workload that was unfair and unrealistic. Still I pushed through and managed but it was tough!

I have taken to time to work on my mental health issues and become a better person. But it has also been hard to cope with the constant death and sickness around me

COVID-19 was a truly terrible event but being able to come home and finish my studies my mental health has never been better. Being in such a hard time and being able to be close to the ones I love has been so helpful. The support I receive at home is unmatched

It's been an emotional roller coaster for me. 3 of my cousins contacted [COVID-19] in New York and one passed away from it. Before that my uncle passed away from natural causes and a few weeks later in April my grandmother passed away. It was hard at first dealing with the deaths, but now that I have had time to relax and get my mind off things I'm doing better. I'm just ready to go back to school

- 38% of these respondents experienced a decline in their financial stability
- 12% of these respondents are unlikely or will definitely not return to their institution if learning is in-person, rising to 20% of respondents if learning is online

1. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your mental wellbeing (e.g., feelings, emotions, mental health, stress management).

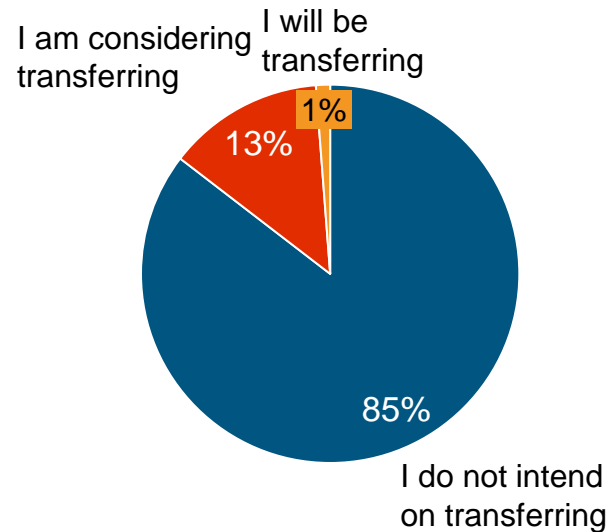
2. Question: Please describe how COVID-19 has most impacted you in terms of how you feel.

3. Key words included: alone, lonely, isolated; worried, worrying; depressed, depression; anxiety, anxious; hard; difficult; stressed, stressful.

Students who reported declines in mental well-being are more likely to consider or plan to transfer

Intent to transfer¹

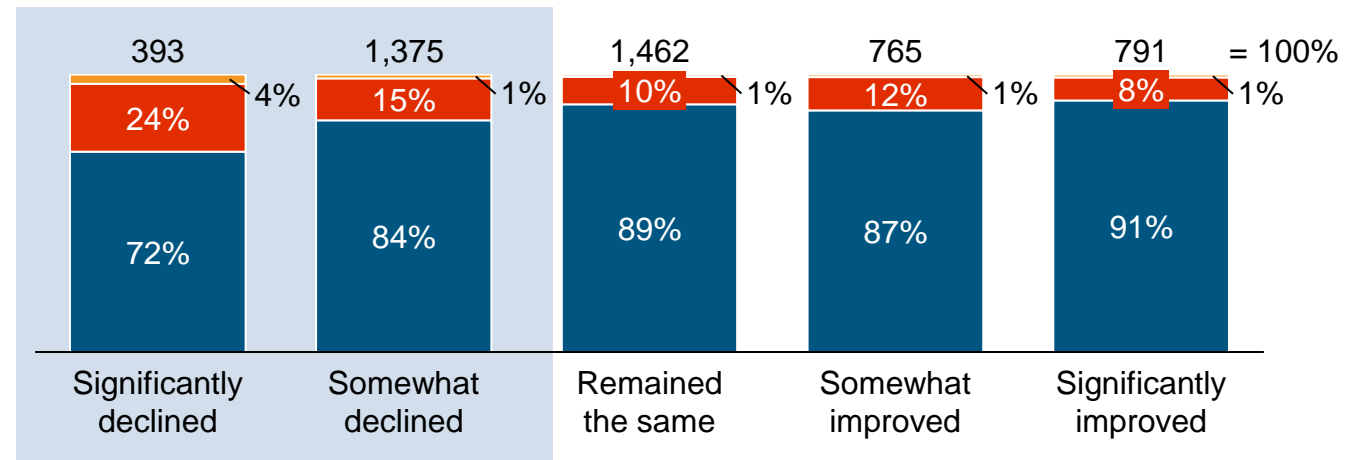
N=4786



Transfer intentions¹ by mental well-being response²

How has COVID-19 impacted your mental well-being²?

■ I am considering transferring ■ I do not intend on transferring ■ I will be transferring



- 51% of respondents who reported considering or intending to transfer also reported a partial or significant decline in mental well-being due to COVID-19
 - Of those affirmatively intending to transfer, only 55% report a decline to mental well-being, suggesting other contributing factors
 - Those reporting a significant decline in mental well-being comprise more than 2x as many respondents planning or intending a transfer than any other group

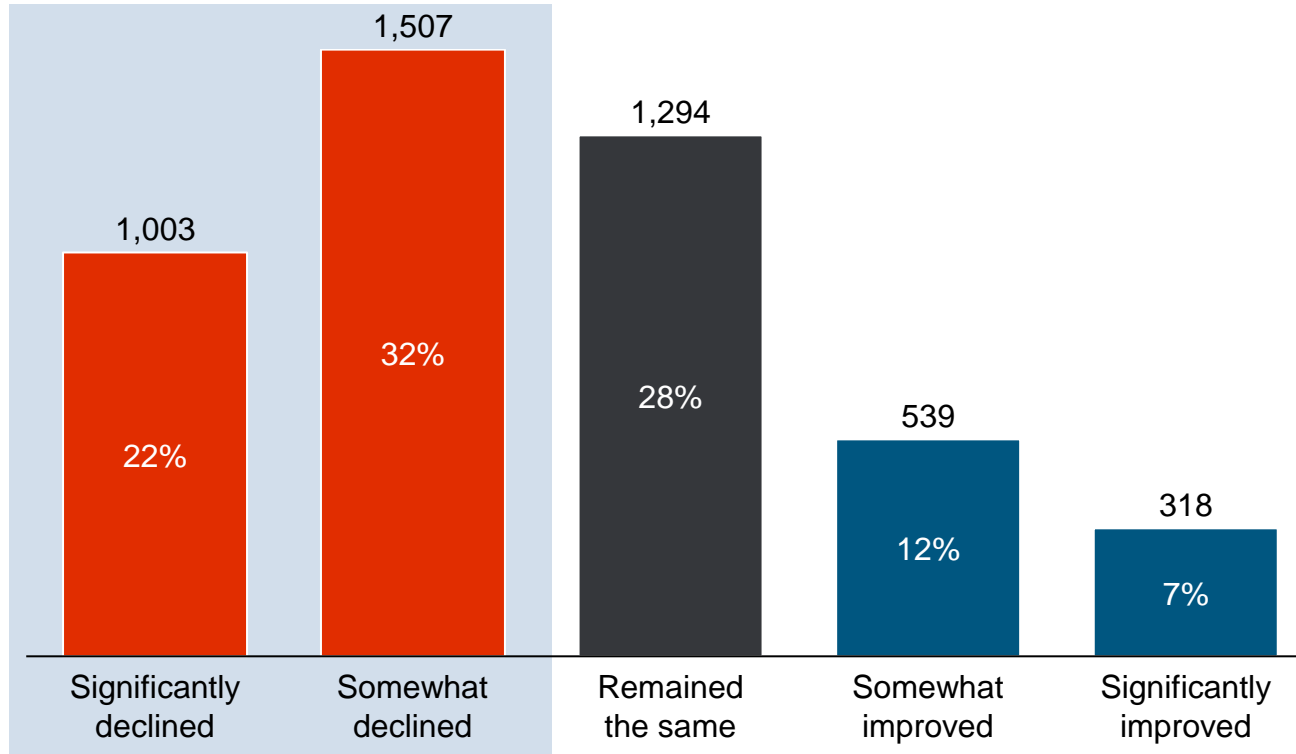
1. Question: Please select your agreement level with this statement: I intend to transfer to a different school because of COVID-19.

2. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your mental wellbeing (e.g., feelings, emotions, mental health, stress management).

3 More than half of students (54%) are experiencing financial challenges as a result of COVID-19

Financial stability: How has COVID-19 impacted your financial stability?¹

N=4661



1. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your financial stability.

2. Question: Please describe how COVID-19 has most impacted your family.

NB: Although 19% of respondents indicated improved financial stability, their written answers did not expand much on this positive change, possibly because the questions specifically asked about how COVID-19 has *most* impacted the respondents and their families

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Selected quotes²:

"My dad temporarily lost his job and trying to get caught back up is a struggle and worrying about tuition is scary."

"Only 1 person in my household of 7 is actually working."

"My father is unemployed, my grandmother whom I live with struggles to make ends meet, so I have to step up and become an adult even more than before. I'm currently alone for paying for school."

"The pandemic has made it impossible to pay my bills let alone my tuition for school."

"I had hard times finding my next meal."

"With everyone being home my parents have to spend more money on food and internet since all of the kids are taking online classes."

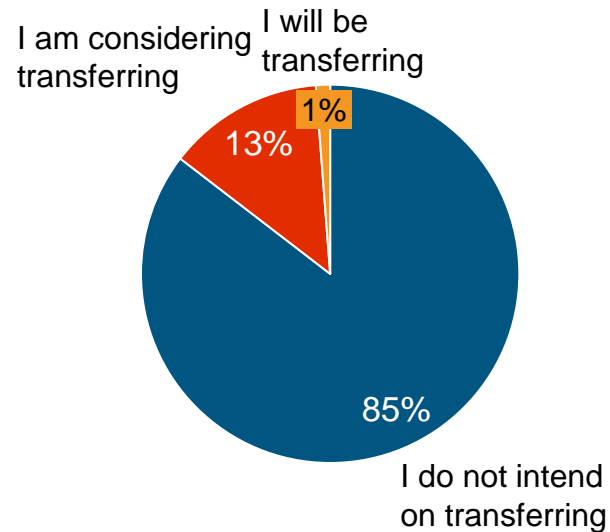
"Working 52 hours a week, afternoon shifts as a security agent in hospitals where it's full of COVID areas is exhausting but worth it because I need to help my family"

"COVID-19 has had a negative impact on my family my mother is no longer working and my father is disabled. It has been a strain to pay all of the bills on time. I even started selling food plates just to have money in my pocket."

Students who are experiencing declines to financial stability are also more likely to consider or plan to transfer

Intent to transfer¹

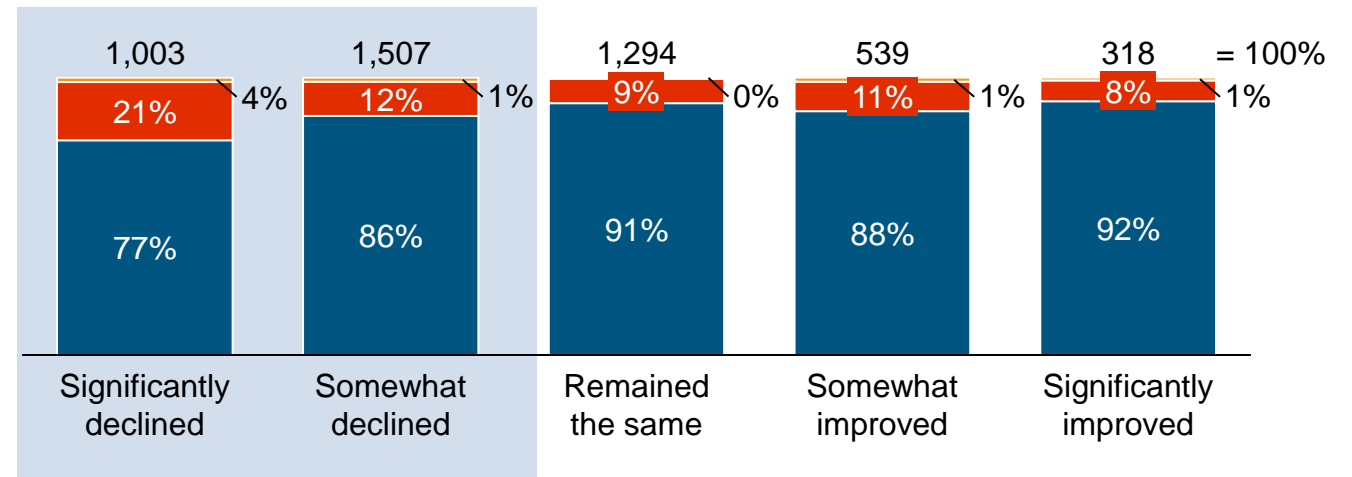
N=4786



Transfer intentions¹ by financial stability response²

How has COVID-19 impacted your financial stability²?

■ I am considering transferring
 ■ I do not intend on transferring
 ■ I will be transferring



- 64% of respondents who indicated they are considering or planning a transfer also indicated a decline in financial stability
- On the other hand, respondents who indicated a significant increase in financial stability as a result of COVID-19, are the least likely group of students to consider transferring

1. Question: Please select your agreement level with this statement: I intend to transfer to a different school because of COVID-19.
 2. Question: Please select how COVID-19 related issues have impacted your financial stability

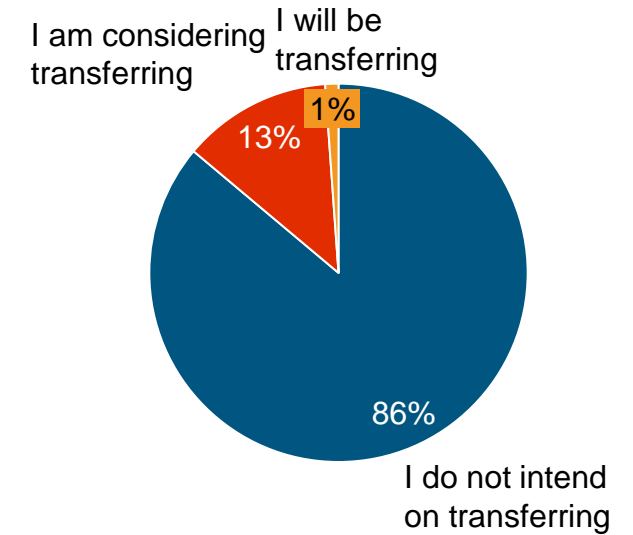
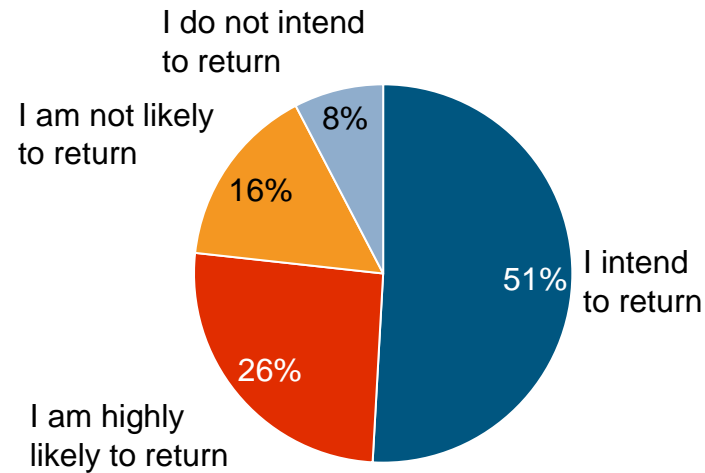
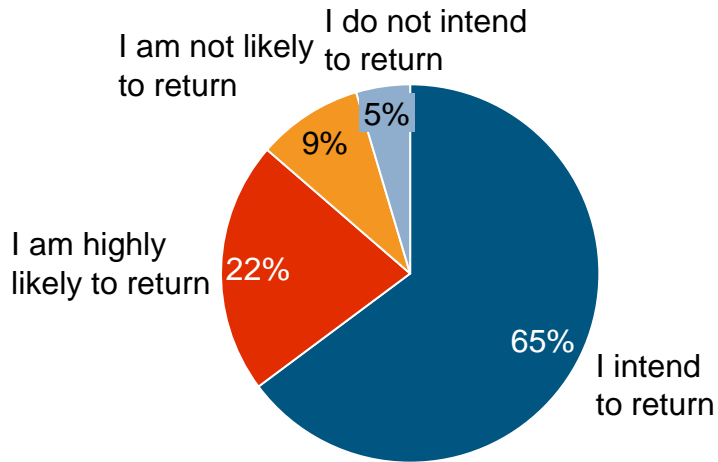
Approximately 10% fewer students plan to re-enroll if courses are fully virtual than if courses are held in person

Intent to re-enroll – in-person courses¹

Intent to re-enroll – virtual courses²

Intent to transfer³

N=4600



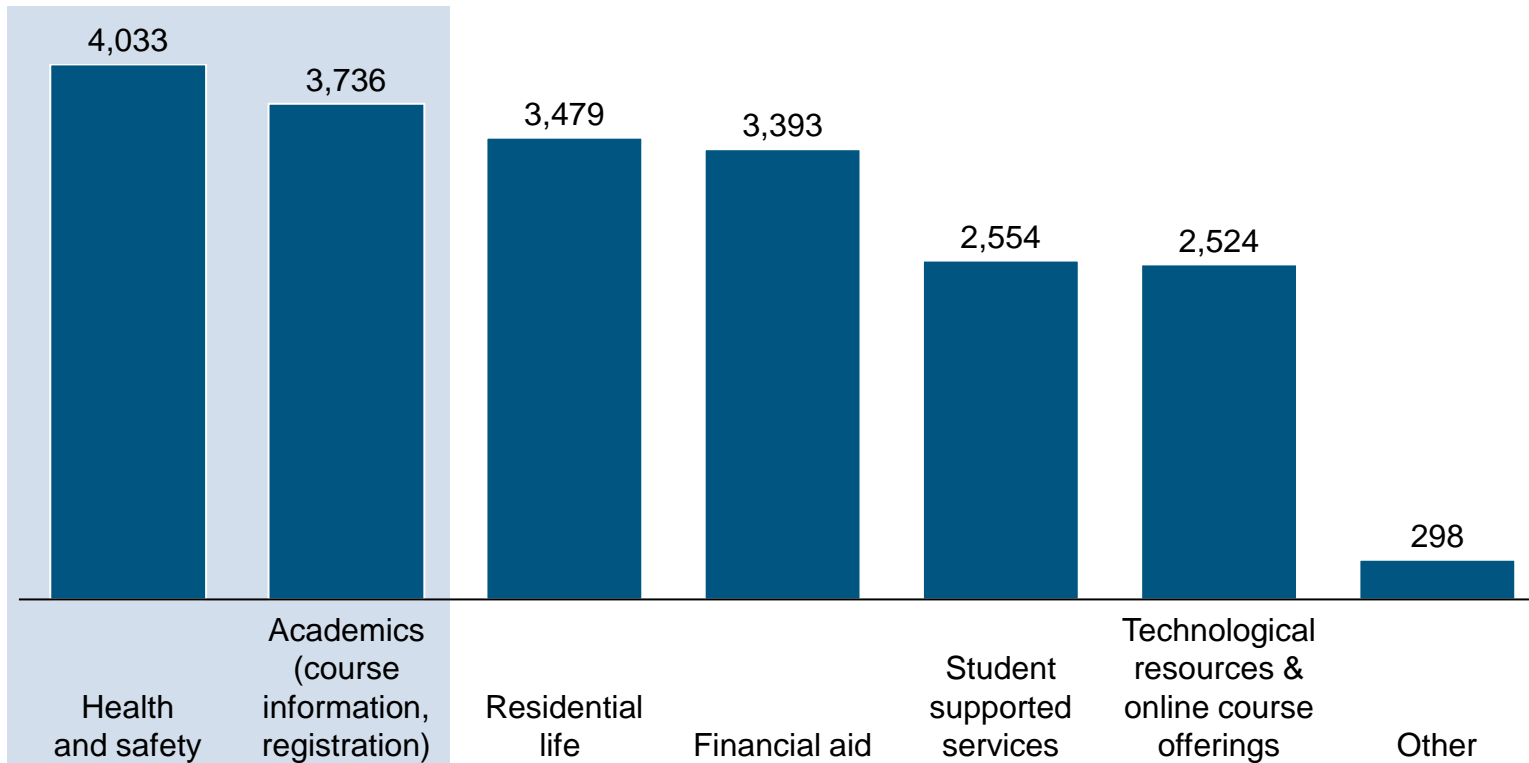
- In the virtual environment, the percentage of respondents who select “I am not likely to return” almost doubles from 9% in the in-person format to 16% in the virtual format
- 14% of respondents are considering/intending to transfer regardless of format; this could potentially under represent the number of transferring students as students highly committed to transfer may be less likely to respond to the survey

1. Question: Please select the phrase that most applies to your intentions to return to your institution for the fall semester, if learning is in person.
 2. Question: Please select the phrase that most applies to your intentions to return to your institution for the fall semester, if learning is online.
 3. Question: Please select your agreement level with this statement: I intend to transfer to a different school because of COVID-19.

4 Students want more information from their institutions about reopening - especially on topics related to health/safety and academics

More information: What would you like more information about ¹? [select all that apply]

N=5138



- Providing information regarding health/safety and academic details is the highest priority for respondents at all UNCF cohort institutions
- There may be several factors contributing to how highly respondents prioritized residential life and financial aid, including current financial stability and prospective living arrangements
- Respondents who indicated a disinclination to return given an in-person or online format (or both) were more likely to want information about technology and residential life

1. Question: Which of the following would you like more information about as you prepare to enroll for the fall semester [select all that apply]
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Key takeaways

1

Students prefer to return to campus, either completely in-person or in a hybrid model – this preference is even stronger for Freshmen

- 83% of respondents prefer a return to campus that includes some form of in-person learning (i.e., fully on campus or hybrid)
- 94% of freshman respondents prefer either fully on campus or hybrid model

2

COVID-19 is distressing students' mental well-being and significantly impacting their considerations to transfer

- 37% of respondents indicated a decline to their mental well-being as a result of COVID-19
- Respondents who indicated a decline to their mental well-being during COVID are almost three-times more likely to consider or plan to transfer

3

Over half of the respondents said their financial stability has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Many are considering transferring

- 54% of respondents indicated either a significant decline or somewhat decline in financial stability due to COVID-19
- Of the respondents who experienced some decline to financial stability, 67% are planning or considering transferring

4

Students want more information about their respective institution's plans for reopening, especially content on health/safety

- 78% of respondents indicated interest in more information on health/safety and 72% want to know more about academic details (i.e., course information and registration)
- Students who are uncertain about their plans to return are especially interested in hearing more about technology and residential life plans