

2025 Spring Student Opinion Survey (SOS)

Executive Report

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Purpose

• To gather data about student behaviors and preferences at UVU.

Methodology

• Surveys were distributed via email to a random sample of 12,000 non-concurrent enrollment students enrolled at Utah Valley University (UVU). 1,193 students responded to the survey, resulting in a response rate of 10.07% and a margin of error of 3%.

Key Findings

Fulton Library

- The most widely used resources are articles and ebooks (64% of respondents), study rooms and pods (55%), and computers, scanners, and printers (44%).
 - The least commonly used were check out laptops (5%), the family study room (6%).



- Only 13% of respondents indicated they had not used any library resources in the last year.
- 90% of students can find what they need in the physical library; 82% are able to find what they
 need on library websites.
- 57% of students feel the library has contributed to their success "a great deal" or "a lot".

Recreation and Wellness

- Half of students (51%) have used recreation facilities or Recreation & Wellness programs.
- The vast majority of students feel safe in UVU facilities (98%).
- 77% of students agree that UVU's Recreation & Wellness programs, facilities, and services contribute to their sense of belonging on campus.
- Students tend to appreciate the social aspects of using UVU facilities.
- Half of students refrain from engaging in Recreation & Wellness programs due to not having enough time.

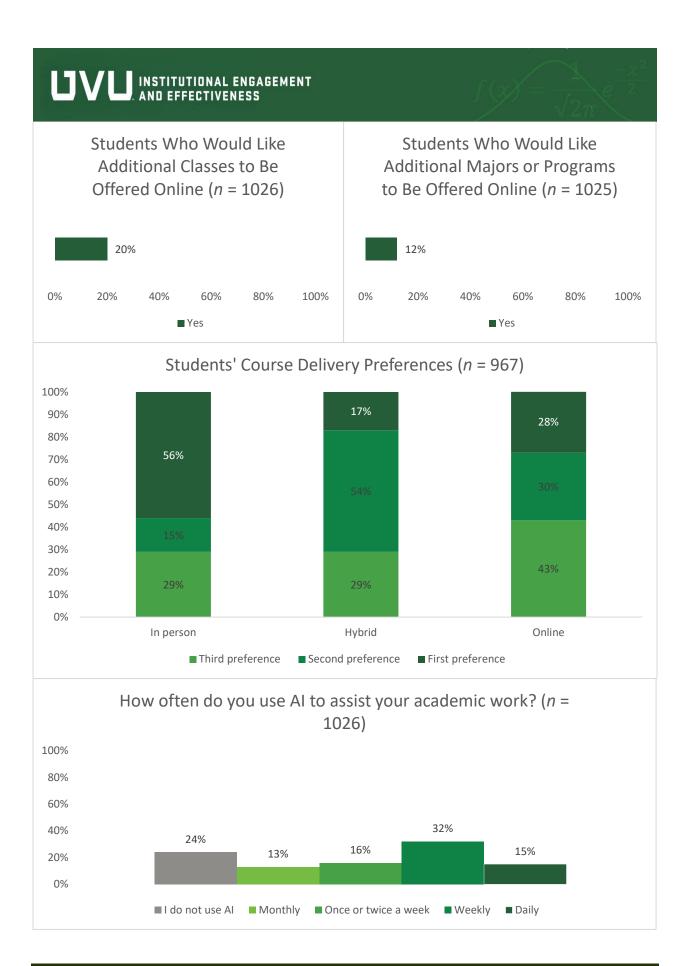
Textbooks

- A majority of students pay for their own textbooks (71%).
- Students have a clear preference for digital textbooks (52% of respondents).
- 78% of students report having day one access to textbooks is beneficial.
- Students spend an average of \$103 on textbooks each semester.
- 68% of students have foregone purchasing a textbook for a class due to the cost.
- Students are commonly frustrated with perceived excessive costs for textbooks and courses that
 do not frequently use assigned textbooks.
- Opinions on Wolverine Access are mixed; while some students appreciate the convenience of the program, many students complain about being enrolled by default.



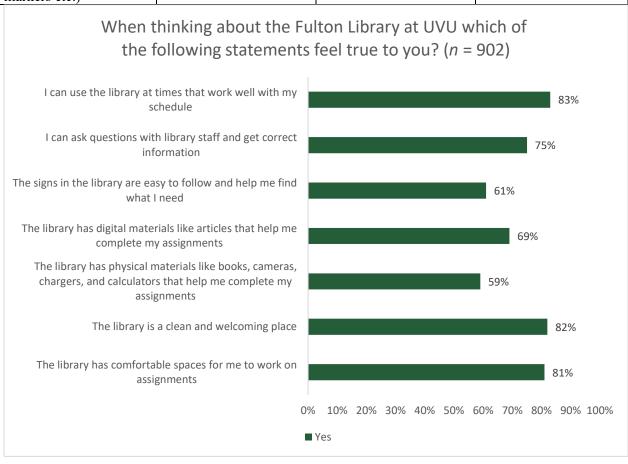
General

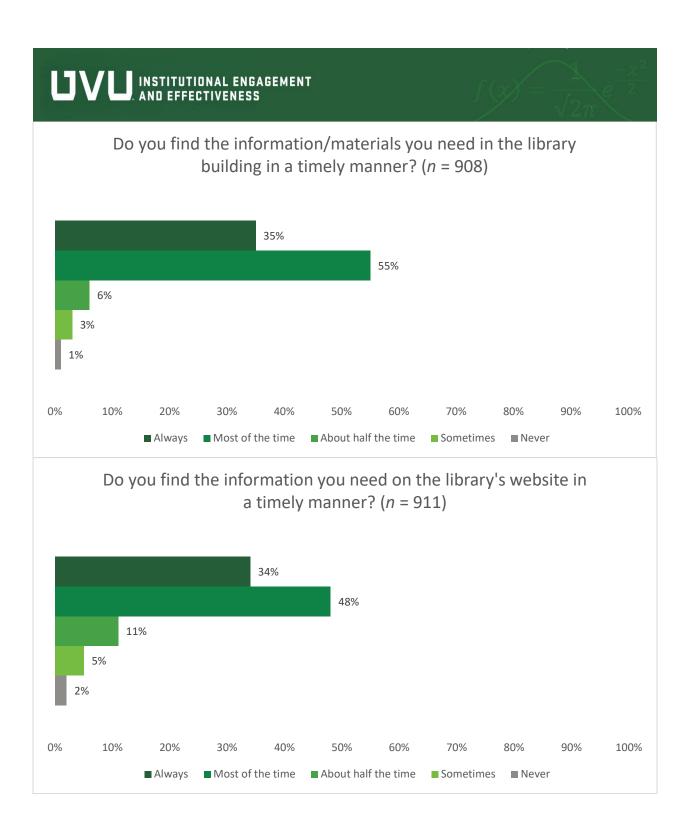
- Students strongly prefer in-person course delivery, with hybrid classes being second most preferred, and online classes being least preferred.
- 34% of students use AI weekly.
 - o 24% of students do not use AI in their academic work.
- Accounting is the most requested major to be made available online.

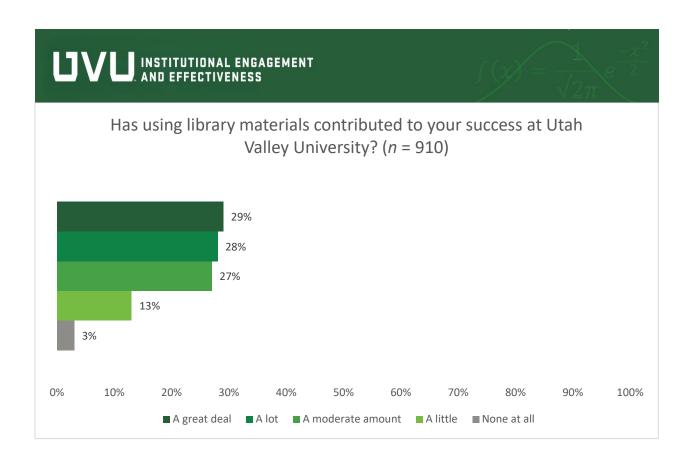




In the last year have you used any of the following (select all that apply)? $(n = 1069)$					
Articles or ebooks on	64%	A library book (besides	19%		
the library website		textbooks)			
Research guides found	38%	Computers, scanners, or	44%		
on the library website		printers in the library			
Asked a research	23%	Study room or pod	55%		
question via the		located in the library			
research desk, phone,					
text, char, or email					
Textbooks from the	14%	The family study room	6%		
front desk					
Equipment check out	16%	The laptops available to	5%		
(e.g. cameras,		check out			
microphones, skeletons					
etc.)					
Items from the ready	15%	I have not used any	13%		
help collection (e.g.		library services in the			
office supplies, phone		last year			
chargers, whiteboard					
markers etc.)					









Reasons for Not Using Library Services Over the Past Year (n = 128)

Reasons for not using library services generally fell into one or several of the following categories:

1. New or uncertain students (44 responses)

These responses came from students who were either new to UVU or unaware of library services.

- "I'm fairly new here and just haven't. This is only my second semester here."
- "I just started my MBA in January and haven't had the need"
- 2. Self-sufficient students (26 responses)

These responses came from students who felt they have all the resources they need without using the library. They typically mention having their own equipment.

- "I have not needed to. I had everything with me that I needed."
- 3. No perceived need (16 responses)

These responses are from students who state they have no need for library services, either due to not having assignments that require library services or not prioritizing using the library.

- "Didn't need to, not enough time to go"
- "For now, I didn't need anything from the library."
- 4. Online or remote students (42 responses)



Suggestions for Improvement (n = 112)

Suggestions for improvement generally fell into one of the four following categories:

1. Access and awareness (28 responses)

These responses include difficulty accessing library services, a lack of awareness about services, and requests for more information and support.

- "I am a student in Ephraim, and we don't really have any idea how to use online tools from the library..."
- "There are some articles on the website that say we have access to them but when I click on them it says I need to pay to access"
- 2. Technology and equipment (19 responses)

These suggestions relate to improving technology and acquiring new equipment.

- "More equipment to check out"
- "UPDATE THE ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE ON MACS!!!!!"
- 3. Furniture and study space (41 responses)

These responses request better furniture, more study rooms, and altered seating arrangements.

- "There are hardly any good reading couches/chairs on campus..."
- "Adding some nicer chairs and desks, more study rooms/pods..."
- "More seating with tables would be great..."
- 4. Environment and atmosphere (18 responses)

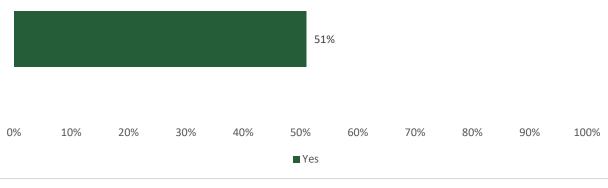
These responses focus on the overall atmosphere and aesthetic of the library, such as noise levels and general ambiance.

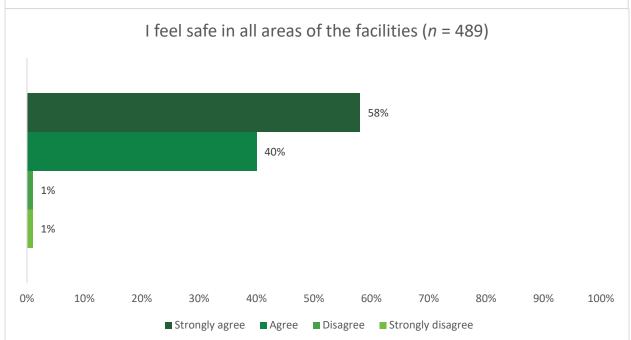


- "I[t] needs a revamp. It's just dated and it should be the shining star of campus"
- "The swivel chairs by the laptops... maybe chairs that can be adjusted"
- "The only complaint I would have is the noise levels in some classrooms..."

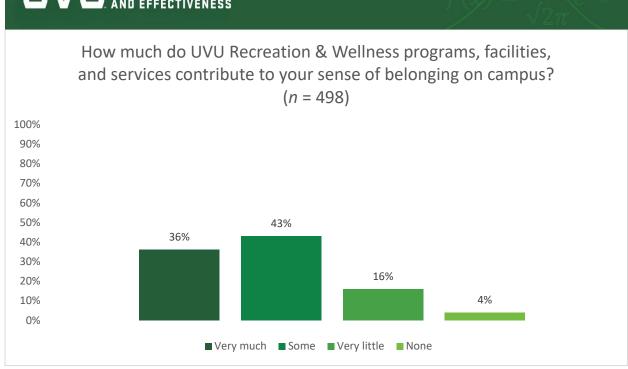


Have you participated in UVU Recreation & Wellness programs, services or facilities, including the gym, fitness classes, bowling alley, gaming center, wellness programming, outdoor adventure center, and intramurals/competitive sports? (n = 991)











In what ways do UVU Recreation & Wellness programs, facilities, and services contribute to your sense of belonging on campus? (N = 9)

"Comfortable and can be myself in these areas"	"I have people I relate to even though the space is so large. I love just being with the boys togetherpushing ourselves to get stronger! Very encouraging!"	"I enjoy working out"
"I feel that I have a good variety of fitness classes to participate in and meet other students."	"They remind me that we are all human."	"It's a place to recharge and relax for a bit."
"Place to move my body (track) between classes"	"Bowling alley"	"I have people I relate to even though the space is so large."

What is the primary reason you haven't participated in UVU Recreation & Wellness programs or facilities? (n = 487)

I don't have time	51%
Other	14%
I don't want to go/participate by myself	
I use other facilities for recreation	
I'm not interested in recreation	
I don't have the financial resources to participate	
I feel intimidated by the facilities or programming	
I don't feel welcome	1%
I don't feel safe there	1%
I had a negative experience in the facilities	



"Other" Responses

"I didn't know I could go there without taking a class that put me there."

"Dont know much about it"

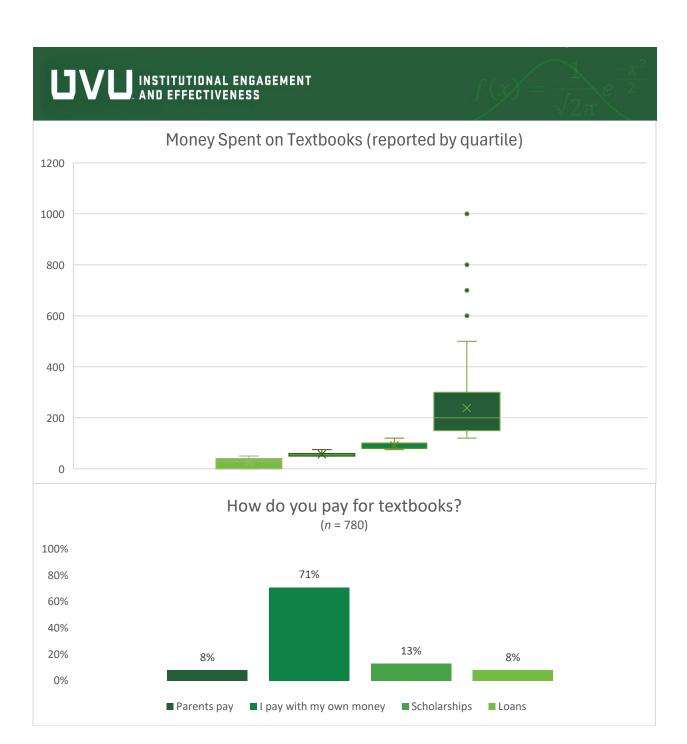
"I do not live near campus."

"Time constraints"

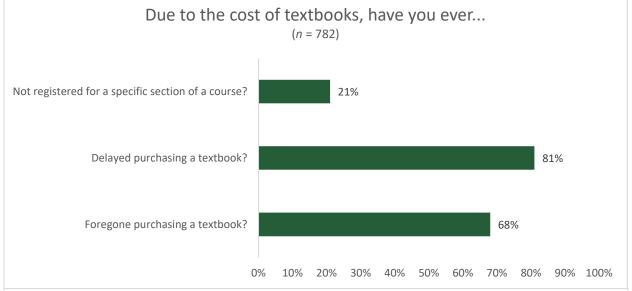
"All of my classes are on the west campus so I never make my way to the main campus" "I didn't know about it until now"

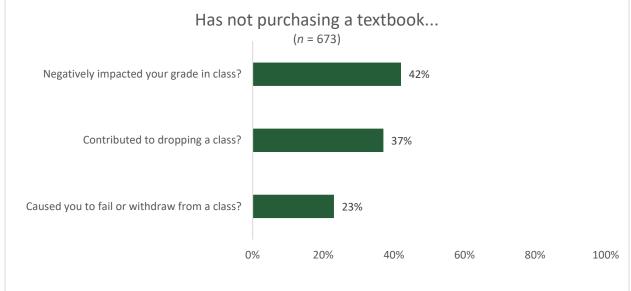


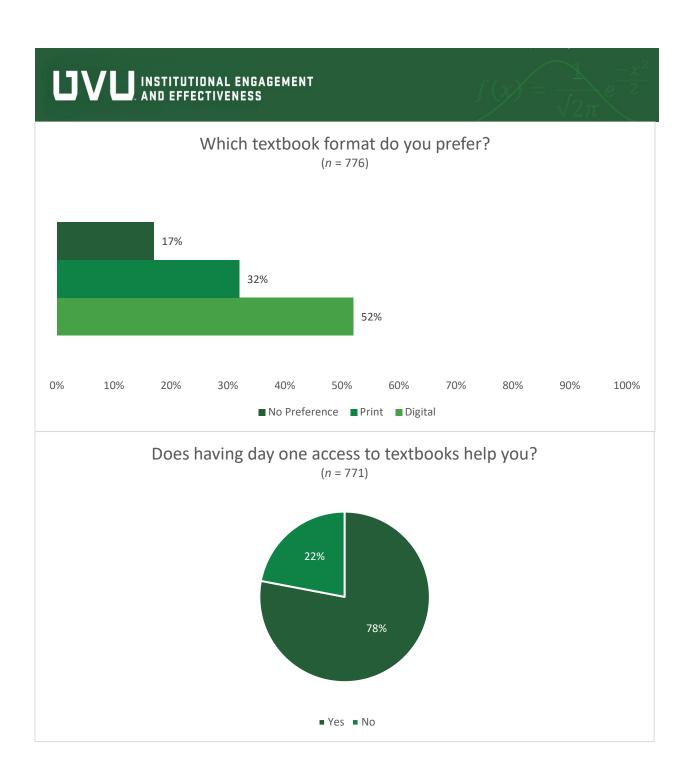
<i>N</i> = 711	Average Spent on Textbooks	Median Spent on Textbooks	Mode Spent on Textbooks
Undergraduate Students	\$102.85	\$75	\$50
Bottom Quartile of Respondents	\$24.97	\$30	\$0
Lower Middle Quartile of Respondents	\$56.63	\$50	\$50
Upper Middle Quartile of Respondents	\$92.28	\$100	\$100
Top Quartile of Respondents	\$238.29	\$200	\$200













"If you didn't have to pay for textbooks, how would you use the money you saved?" (n = 690)

Student responses covered a large number of items, but generally fell into one of seven categories: rent, food, savings, tuition, bills, gas, and school supplies.

1. Rent

Many students would redirect textbook savings toward housing costs, highlighting rent as a major financial burden.

"Rent"

"Towards future tuition cost or rent"

2. Food

Groceries and meals were frequently mentioned, showing that textbook costs can directly affect students' ability to meet nutritional needs.

"More food"

"On groceries"

3. Savings

Some students would save the money for future needs, emergencies, or larger goals like graduate school or moving out.

"Most likely put it into my college savings or use it for gas."

"Putting it towards savings."

4. Tuition

A significant number of students would use the money to help pay for tuition, reducing their reliance on loans or out-of-pocket expenses.

"Towards tuition"

"I would use it to pay for my tuition or on resources to help me learn the materials in my courses."

5. Bills

Students also mentioned using the money for utilities, phone bills, and other recurring expenses.

"Household bills"



"The money would've also gone to other bills such as internet and phone."

6. Gas

Transportation costs, especially commuting to campus, were another common theme.

"I would use it to pay for gas"

7. School Supplies

Some students would reinvest the savings into other academic needs like materials, software, or better equipment.

"Transportation, materials."

"On gas and better class materials. Most likely a better laptop"



"What additional thoughts would you like to share regarding textbook costs?" (n = 452)

Student responses to this question generally fell into one of four categories: affordability, access, usage, and comments on specific programs.

1. Affordability

Many students expressed frustration with the high cost of textbooks, often describing them as excessive or unjustified.

"Textbooks should not add any cost to tuition."

"They're way too expensive. It's ridiculous & literally price gouging."

2. Access

Students emphasized the importance of having flexible and affordable access to textbooks, including digital and used options.

"The best professors provide alternate options rather than forcing the students to buy a textbook."

"I wish that online access was not revoked after the semester ended."

3. Usage

A recurring concern was that textbooks are often required but rarely used, leading students to feel their purchases are wasteful.

"The most frustrating thing about textbooks is when you have to buy them and then they are only used once in the whole course."

"I really dislike courses that require a specific digital textbook linked to modules, so I'm unable to buy a used copy."

"I have spent hundreds of dollars on textbooks that I never touched in class so I stopped buying them."

4. Programs (e.g., Wolverine Access)

Feedback on institutional textbook programs like Wolverine Access was mixed. While some appreciated the convenience, others criticized the cost, lack of transparency, and opt-out structure.

"Please don't automatically enroll people into your textbook program. That almost gave me a heart attack at the beginning of the semester."

"I think the new method is not good. I worry for students who don't know they can opt out."

"I like the new textbook system where a flat fee gives me access to all my books. However, not all my classes were included in this."



Open response, n = 285

College of Health and Public Service

- Shakespeare study class, more forensic science courses
- A lot of the NSS classes part of the core for people majoring in it are only offered in person every other semester, so having an online option in between the in person offerings would help with graduating faster
- Paramedic classroom instruction
- Nursing specific program courses
- All of my math classes. This semester I was beyond confused with my classes. It said online but we have in class lectures.
- All of mine
- Some of the public health classes are only offered at 1 time and in person or hybrid but why can't there also be an online and inperson class especially if it is only offered at 1 time. Any class like that has caused issues for me. There should be multiple options.
- Spanish classes
- I want a harmonica class!
- Chemistry courses
- NSS classes
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- I understand ASL thrives in an in person environment, but I have taken ASL classes online during COVID-19. I wish it was offered, because it would be helpful to a language more accessible when there are about as many Deaf people as Spanish speakers in the united states. I'd love to minor in ASL.
- Any higher up Spanish class past 3500. It's been hard to get a Spanish translation certificate since
 most of the Spanish classes are at unfortunate times in the day that don't work with my current
 nursing major.
- All classes
- Labs for anat
- Nursing mental health and aging
- Chemestry
- Ethics and Values
- Art
- a way to take a lab class at home
- Most forensics classes



Open response, n = 285

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Art curriculum
- Social work and gender study classes
- Having an online option for all required courses would be cool.
- Internships
- I think more generals should be offered online, as this makes it easier for me to focus on what's essential to my degree using in person classes
- Philosophy
- PHYS 1700 Descriptive acoustics and PHYS 1750 music acoustics
- Almost all that don't require practical experience.
- Forensic psychology
- DAPR 2000
- All POLS classes
- Literary History I & II, Critical Intro to Literature, Academic Writing for English Majors
- PHIL 1610 and 1620 summer semester
- Spanish
- Graduate MFT program courses
- ENGL 3090
- Forensic psychology, nursing, master's program
- Most of the Spanish classes for the interpreting minor are all offered in person so an online option would be helpful.
- Honors classes (Eng 101H, 102H, Honor 100R, etc.) I also wish that there were more
 options for Language classes to be online. I think the more that can be reasonably done
 online the better.
- Psychology Major Courses
- Japanese
- spanish!
- Upper-division english and political science classes
- the higher level anatomy class
- PSY 350G. PLEASE!!! It is the only class my entire academic career I have not been able to take online as a psych major. I had to quit my job because I needed to take this class online and they wouldn't work with my schedule.
- Ethics and Values PHIL 2050
- More language classes



- More art electives like watercolor and such
- Art credit classes and ASL classes
- Research Methods (SOC 3030), and SOC 4000 and 4100
- Upper division creative writing courses
- Antrhopology Classes, little to none of them are offered online
- Any of the workout ones like climbing! There has to be a way we can meetup or make it work
- CNST 4712
- Photography
- More EDSC classes
- All able should be online
- Political science
- HIST
- Any upper division classes.
- Upper level course work.
- my core classes for SW, but I think in person is good for me so I'm not too worried.
- Sign language and Spanish



Open response, n = 285

College of Science

- Language classes
- More environmental classes
- Anatomy and physiology labs
- All classes
- Major specific ones. I'm a stats major and our upper division classes are only ever offered in-person at a specific time, no other options.
- ANATOMY LAB
- Honors classes
- I just know some of the classes for my Exercise Science major weren't on there when I looked, nothing in specific though. Just a little expansion of options maybe.
- Bio1610
- The higher level Statistics courses



Open response, n = 285

School of Education

- Elementary Education courses
- Intro to Engineering. It's hard to get into
- Required classes for education majors
- STAT2050. The only offering was a M,T,W,R class
- More theatre and music classes
- Photography classes
- Japanese
- ASL 2010
- EDUC 6412, EDUC 6330
- more of the gen ed PHIL classes
- Zool 2320 Lab
- Institute at night.
- Education classes
- Religion studies
- MATH 100R. It'd be nice if there were a hybrid option for those who can't make it to campus due to work.
- More upper level music classes
- I think UVU could thrive with tourism! I was disappointed to learn we don't have an ecotourism or tourism section, although there are close courses but doesn't hit the mark.
- More physiology and anatomy classes please, there aren't enough sections open



Open response, n = 285

School of the Arts

- More of the art history classes
- Aural skills classes
- Advanced Fiction Writing
- Drawing 3, honestly any upper division art classes
- Content Area Literacies
- graphic design BFA classes
- Art history, art lecture courses, anthropology
- Classes in the Graphic Design concentration.
- Any art/design class where everything is done on the computer. It makes a lot more sense to me to do class from home when so many students work on a desktop pc.
- Language
- Light Design 1 and 2, Intro to Design classes, Stage Management classes, Scriptwriting, ASL, Maybe most of the theatre classes, I think would be helpful to have online.
- All classes should have an online option
- Theatre History & Literature, Scriptwriting
- Upper division Art History over the summer
- art2000r
- Various Computer Science classes
- dinosaur
- Non-physical art classes
- Exercise Classes
- Music Theory 2-4, Aural skills 1-4
- More design/art/art history classes
- Spanish Classes



Open response, n = 285

Smith College of Engineering and Technology

- CYBR 4800 Adv Mobile Forensics
- I think there should be more math classes offered online. For me personally, I learn a lot better online at my pace, watching lectures slowly and being able to go over them.
- Physics
- ARC 459R Urban design
- all of the CS classes
- Some higher level It courses are hybrid instead
- Writing classes/English classes / art classes, basically anything that doesn't fully necessitate being on campus to use campus facilities and or equipment
- Mechanical engineering
- physics, at least for the summer semester
- All general classes and most electives.
- Edgt 2600
- Many various GE classes for aviation
- "Dwdd 1420 communicating digital designs
- Steve Minert's classes since they are so late at night. But I'm not talking asynchronous. I mean remote. "
- ARC 1010, EDGT 1720, EGDT 2580R
- Cybersecurity during the summer
- The Film History classes and more film classes
- All programming language software development courses (only some have online sections, and not every semester).
- STAT 2050
- All of my courses
- Any Construction Management courses
- CS Classes
- More of my EE courses and lab courses
- I haven't been able to find the Professional Portfolio course offering.
- A lot of CMGT classes could be taken online
- More mechatronics
- Upper level CS classes
- Any Digital Media classes
- all of them



- Advanced Language CS Classes, Machine Learning II
- All the upper level CS classes. A couple are online, but not most of them.
- Phys 2220, Phys 2225
- Cs 3660, cs 3450
- ENGR 2160
- Physics
- INFO 3430
- Higher CS classes
- physics
- Cs classes
- French
- More music, business and technology classes
- Stat 2050 and math 2270
- More of the GE's such as the one about life in the universe
- All of them
- all of them
- Some construction classes would be nice to be online where they may not require a lab.
- The entire computer science course should be able to be taught online.
- Sushi learning course



Open response, n = 285

Woodbury School of Business

- It was really difficult for me to work full time 9-5 with the Accounting program because all the higher core classes are only offered in person. I managed to do it but it would've been nice to have some online ones. Honestly, even just the hybrid classes were amazing and having to go in just one day a week was a HUGE game changer for my ability to work and attend classes.
- Any of the lecture series classes for business majors
- Philosophy(Ethics and Values)
- HIST 170H
- It's out of scope for the program type, but I'd love just a few more accounting classes to be held online.
- HM 4260
- Risk Management and Insurance. There's only one teacher and they don't offer it online so I really struggled to learn from them.
- Some of the classes in my major
- Entrepreneurship Summer Lecture Series
- All business
- Half of my MBA classes global strategy, IS
- All of them
- Econ 2010
- Acc3510
- STAT 2040
- Accounting
- ACC 4110 Auditing
- Digital audio essentials
- Japanese business



Open response, n = 285

Other

• The accounting junior and senior core. The only one currently offered is 3300.



Open response, n = 111

College of Health and Public Service

- Forensics
- Forensic science
- Nursing
- Sciences
- National Security Studies
- ASL interpreting, as a decent amount of interpreting is remote and remote more popular.
- Spanish translation for medical professionals
- Biology, Spanish
- Anat
- Biology
- Radiology or Rad Tech
- Forensics science investigations concentration



Open response, n = 111

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Political Science, American Government focus
- Marriage and family
- Social Work and any Therapy Majors
- Creative writing
- Family Science
- POLS program
- Art history
- Nutrition
- Graduate MFT program courses
- business school
- Language and science majors.
- Philosophy and psychology
- English Writing Studies
- Social work
- Philosophy
- Social Work
- Communications major.
- ASL
- I'd love to see a theatre emphasis degree that's accessible online. Like a theatre studies major or something like that.
- English creative writing (major)
- Environmental Studies (minor)
- political science
- Anthropology
- Political Science
- Political Science
- English
- FAMS masters



Open response, n = 111

College of Science

- Environmental Science and Management
- Geology
- Biology
- Statistics Major
- Honors program
- Personal Financial Planning
- Statistics



Open response, n = 111

School of Education

- Elementary education
- Special Education
- Education Major
- Music, Acting, Musical Theatre
- n/a
- Sports Managment Major (It is available as a Minor)
- Elementary Education Program
- Masters in Teaching and Learning Emphasis
- Education
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Education
- Communication science and disorders
- Health Information Management. Right now, only Weber State University & Western Governors offer this program
- Commercial music



Open response, n = 111

School of the Arts

- Art and design classes
- Commercial Music
- Graphic Design
- Dance majors but that's hard
- Theatre Arts. I understand that not all classes for the theatre arts can be offered online because theatre is more of an applied art circulmm and most things you have to learn in person then online, but all the simple classes required for the degree can be done online, I believe.
- All classes should have an option for online
- Commercial Music Courses
- graphic design
- CTE education
- Art & Design
- Dance
- Music Education



Open response, n = 111

Smith College of Engineering and Technology

- BAS Software Development
- I think that all programs that are capable of being done online should have the option. Gas is expensive, plus people have to work.
- Mining engineer
- Mechanical engineering
- Computer Science emphasis Computer Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- my EE program
- Construction Management
- Mechatronics
- Computational Data Science
- Web design and development
- all of them
- CS
- Computer Science
- Architecture
- Mechanical engineering
- Information Technology
- Chemical Engineering
- computer science or any engineering
- All of the first 2 years of the Mechatronics program
- Music, business, technology, and anything creative or financial
- Computer science
- Like I said above, computer science, or any technology like IT



Open response, n = 111

Woodbury School of Business

- Accounting
- MAcc
- Accounting
- Accounting
- Accounting Program
- Finance
- I don't know the full extent but classes within smaller majors don't always have enough teachers to offer fully online and help full-time working students.
- Accounting. Though, it's the type of major that benefits in a huge way by being in person.
- PFP program. Or more of a hybrid system. I feel that a lot of us that are in this major have full-time or part-time jobs and I think a more hybrid system would benefit a lot of us. Especially if we had the option to join in more classes through livestream.
- Personal Financial Planning
- Hospital management
- Accounting
- Accounting
- Accounting
- Digital cinema production



Open response, n = 111

Other

Accounting