

Abstract

All students who took an online course through UW-L during the 2012 summer session were surveyed.

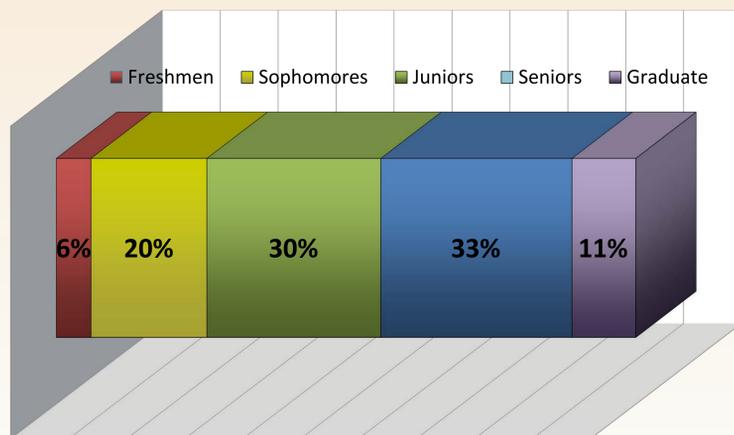
- Survey respondents tended to be composed mostly of upperclassmen and female students.
- Students reported that the primary reasons they took the online courses were to graduate sooner and the flexibility offered through the online format.
- 90% percent of respondents said they were satisfied with their online course and 84% reported they would like to see more online courses.
- Students stated that better instructor feedback and clear course expectations were ways their online courses could be improved.

Methods

At the conclusion of each of the 3 summer sessions offered, the names of students enrolled in online courses were compiled by Institutional Research for distribution via email. An invitation to take the voluntary survey was sent to each student via Qualtrics panel. The survey was sent to 1149 unique students, 519 completed the survey.

Results

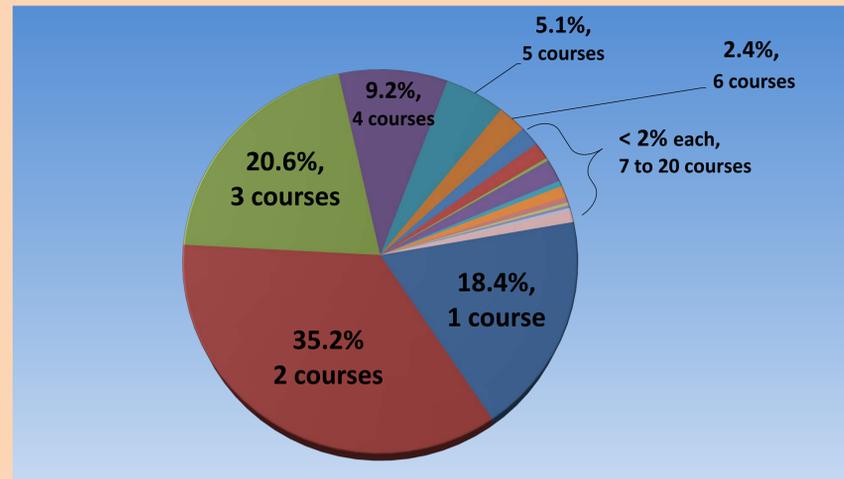
UW-L summer online students tended to be **upperclassmen**:



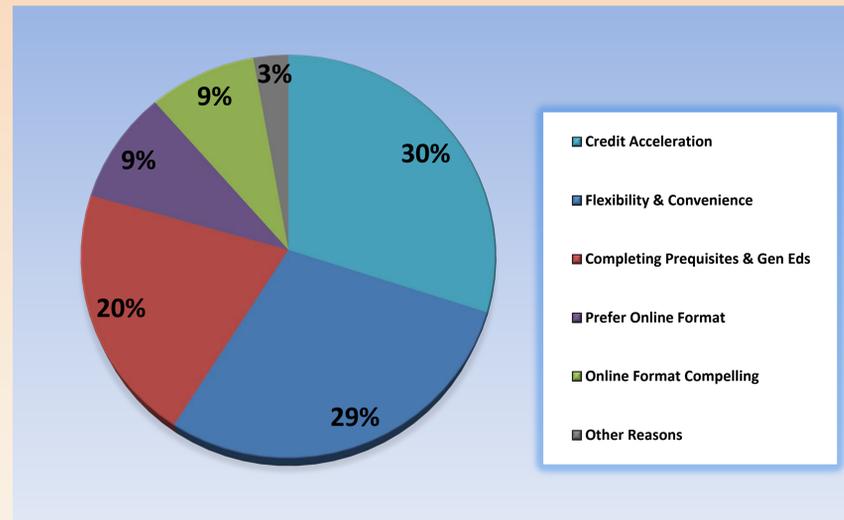
Survey respondents tended to be more female than the general student population (nearly a 3:1 female/male ratio in survey responses, versus a nearly 3:2 ratio in the general population).

Results (continued)

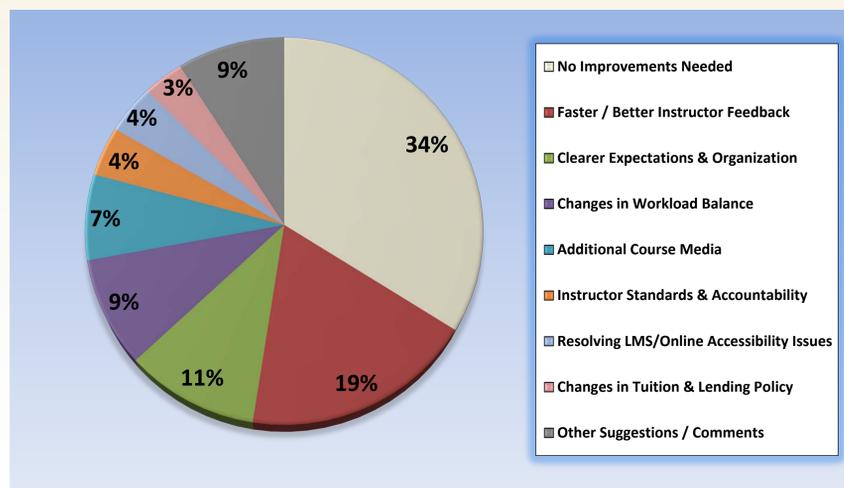
Undergraduate students appear to take online courses as a supplement, not substitute, to traditional coursework. More than half of those surveyed reported having taken **3 or less** online courses at UW-L.



When asked their **primary reason** for taking an online course:

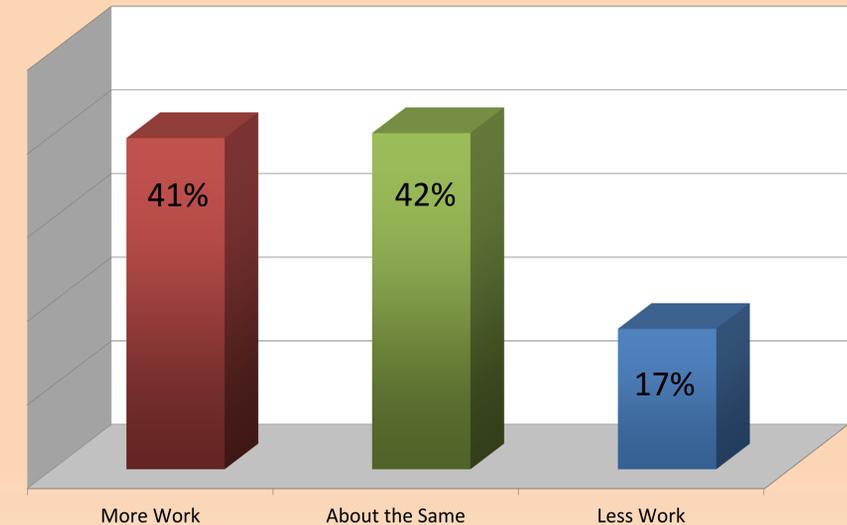


When asked to think of anything that would **make their online course better**:



Results (continued)

UW-L summer online students were asked to compare their **work effort** in their online courses to their traditional online courses:



Students were asked about their overall **course satisfaction**. 90% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with their online course.

Additionally, students were asked if the **stated learning outcomes** were accomplished for the online course they had taken. 93% of respondents indicated that these learning outcomes were met.

For additional details, more questions, and specific student responses, please visit the URL in the Reference section.

Conclusion

Overall, students appear to be satisfied with the online courses they take through UW-L and would like to see more online courses offered. Student like the flexibility online courses provide and also report taking online courses to decrease time to graduation. Better instructor feedback and clearer course expectations are ways students reported that their online courses could be improved.

Reference

University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2012). *Summer 2012 Online Student Survey* [Data file]. La Crosse, WI. Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning. Retrieved from: http://www.uwlax.edu/online/surveys/Su12/Su12_OSS_Public.pdf