

2023-2024 Online Student Survey

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Abstract/Purpose

The purpose of the 2023-2024 Online Student Survey is to provide research backed priorities for the incoming elected senate for the 2024-2025 academic year. Each year the survey is revised based on newly obtained knowledge from coursework as an FHSU Online student as well as past years survey results.

The survey intended to gain insight on what issues are priorities to Fort Hays State University (FHSU) Online students to allow the Online Student Government Association (OSGA) to focus on the most important issues FHSU Online students experience. This is an annual survey which has been evolving each year to best understand and analyze collected survey data to be a driving force behind the goals of the elected senate each academic year.

Method/Results

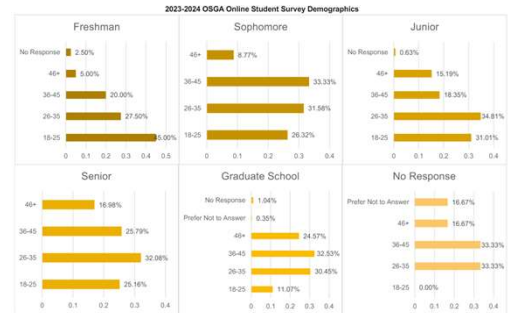
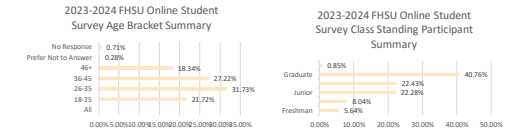
A total of 709 students participated in the survey. The survey consisted of seven sections; FHSU e-mail address, a list of nine issues brought forth by previous survey results with one write-in option, three open-ended questions, and two demographic questions.

Participants age ranges were 18-46+ and class standing between Freshman and Graduate school student. The most responsive age bracket was the 26-35 age range and the most responsible class standing was Graduate school students.

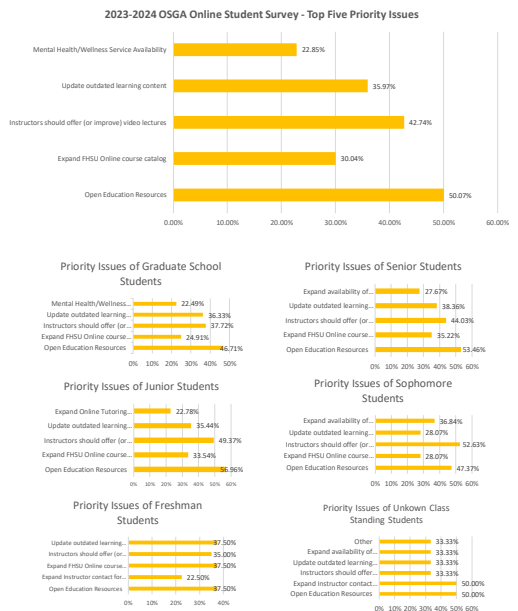
The survey findings show that the overall most prominent issue is Open Education Resources (50.07% of participants), closely followed by Instructors offering or improving video lectures (42.74%). Other issues in the top five are Updating outdated learning content (35.97%), Expand FHSU Online course catalog (30.04%) and Mental Health/Wellness Service availability (22.85%). These results will provide direction and focus for the coming academic year's OSGA senators and committees tasked with addressing priority concerns of the fellow online student attending FHSU Online.

Further analysis of the data collected showed varying degree of issue priority based on class standing. The most important issues to graduate students, seniors, juniors was open education resources. The most important issue for sophomore students was instructors offering video lectures and Freshman students reported the same level of importance for open education resources, expanding the FHSU online course catalog and updating outdated learning content. There were some participants who chose to not provide their class standing and those participants felt open education resources and expanding instructor contact were equally important issues.

Participant Demographics



Survey Findings



Student Feedback

Open Education Resources:

"I think that mine could be improved by having more courses that don't require large financial contributions for textbooks and other learning materials."

"More free textbooks, less cost for online."

Video Lectures:

"I feel video lectures would be helpful in some cases. Currently, some of my courses feel to be essentially self-taught, via textbook reading and YouTube."

"When instructors provide lecture videos with the course content that address key topics specific to the information that needs to be learned for exams helps tremendously. This helps students understand what specifically the instructor wants us as students to learn, aside from the large content we are already learning."

Outdated Course Materials:

"Ensure the links provided on Blackboard and other online sources are up to date and working."

"The main things would be having updated/working links in courses and more availability of extracurricular activities."

"Using the latest edition of textbooks for courses"

Expand Course Catalog:

"More dates available for courses that are now only offered during the Fall and Spring semesters."

"Expanding/updating the online course catalog to include better descriptions of courses to include estimated %s of reading/analysis/writing/etc. This will help when combining multiple courses."

"More eight week courses during spring and fall semesters"

Mental Health Services:

"Help supporting new students. I've felt pretty in the dark most things I've learned what needed to be done by doing my own research."

"I'd love to see more virtual social events or online clubs geared toward helping online students connect and build friendships."

Limitations & Further Research Recommendations

Limitations important to note are without operational definitions of some terminology included in the survey such as, Open Education Resources and Video lectures, the meaning of these terms is open for interpretation.

My recommendations for future surveys would be to include operational definitions for each term that could allow for interpretation to ensure the survey findings are true and accurate representatives of the FHSU Online student population priorities. Furthermore, to allow for more thorough data analysis, subsequent surveys should utilize a Likert scale to allow participants to rate the level of importance of each item. Also, include department or major in the demographics section of subsequent surveys to allow the data to provide department specific feedback.

Acknowledgments

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