

Graduate Student Summer 2020 Course Taking Survey

Introduction

In order to understand the reasons for summer course enrollment, a survey was sent to graduate students registered for summer 2020 classes. A total of 145 students responded, or 16% of the 927 students enrolled at the time of the survey. Distribution of responses by department are below.

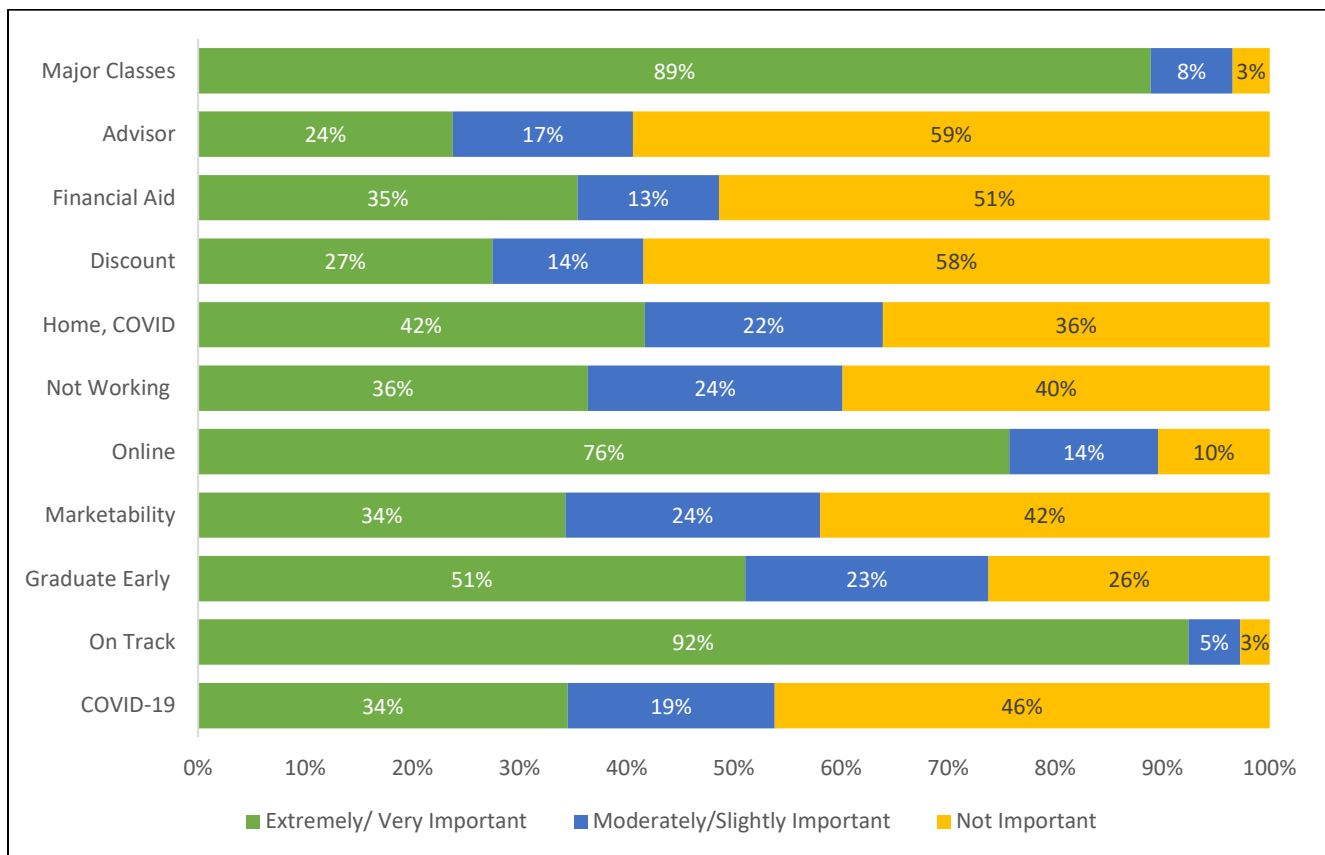
| Major Department | Students Completing | Enrolled Students | Percent Completing |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Arts and Sciences | 9 | 49 | 18% |
| Art | | 1 | 0% |
| Mathematics | 1 | 5 | 20% |
| Psychology | 8 | 43 | 19% |
| Business | 33 | 175 | 19% |
| Accounting | 9 | 41 | 22% |
| Finance | 15 | 63 | 24% |
| Management | 6 | 52 | 12% |
| Marketing | 3 | 19 | 16% |
| Education | 81 | 558 | 15% |
| Counselor Education | 18 | 92 | 20% |
| Early Childhood Education | | 3 | 0% |
| Educational Leadership | 19 | 122 | 16% |
| Educational Technology | 16 | 106 | 15% |
| Elementary/Secondary Ed | 9 | 65 | 14% |
| Literacy Education | 5 | 20 | 25% |
| Multicultural Education | 2 | 35 | 6% |
| Special Education | 12 | 115 | 10% |
| Professional Studies | 20 | 140 | 14% |
| Criminal Justice | 1 | 19 | 5% |
| Health Sciences | 10 | 76 | 13% |
| Nursing | 3 | 11 | 27% |
| Professional Security Studies | 6 | 34 | 18% |
| Other | 2 | 5 | 40% |
| Other/Non-Degree | 2 | 5 | 40% |
| Unduplicated Total | 145 | 927 | 16% |

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Factors Contributing to Course Taking

Students indicated how important various factors were to their decision to take courses this summer.

| University | Extremely/ Very Important | Moderately/ Slightly Important | Not Important |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| COVID-19 pandemic | 34% | 19% | 46% |
| Staying on track to graduate on time | 92% | 5% | 3% |
| Getting ahead to graduate early | 51% | 23% | 26% |
| Taking extra courses to be more marketable | 34% | 24% | 42% |
| Being able to take classes online | 76% | 14% | 10% |
| Having time because of not working now | 36% | 24% | 40% |
| Having time because of being home due to COVID | 42% | 22% | 36% |
| Wanting to get the tuition discount in Summer III | 27% | 14% | 58% |
| Being able to get financial aid for Summer sessions | 35% | 13% | 51% |
| Advisor's suggestion to take classes this summer | 24% | 17% | 59% |
| Classes I needed for my major were offered | 89% | 8% | 3% |



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Student Comments Regarding Factors Contributing to Decisions to Take Summer Courses

Arts and Sciences

- I decided to take the summer course because I want to finish my masters as soon as possible. I wish more graduate level math classes were offered during Summer II and Summer III.

Business

- Ability to continue with My education despite the COVID19, I do believe that being able to continue with online courses is a plus because I am able to continue advancing in my classes without being exposed.
- Certain classes that being offered online are extremely difficult to navigate when not in person, however, to stay on track with the degree plan it is important to take these classes anyway. It is unfortunate that the level of these classes, because they are online, are not always up to par. Working from home during the pandemic has made taking online classes more difficult, NOT easier as implied in this survey.
- Having less hours of working will make it possible for me to take courses this summer. I am still working but with less hours. Courses were also offered in second and third summer so that's why it will also make easier for me to concentrate more on those courses individually
- I took my summer course since i prefer a more balanced workload throughout the whole year since I work full time
- I wish there was in-person class session availability. I really did not want to partake in an online course, however, since it was available, I decided to try it (which would be my 1st time taking an online course intentionally).
- My job will not be back in the city until 2021.
- Nothing. 2 major reasons I chose is because there were classes outside of my degree that will be very useful for my current role and I need to financial aid to pay bills.
- Since the COVID-19, I decided to take online courses this summer. Summer session should cut some context off as per it short time which some course provided all material and included all in exam like Spring and Fall semester which is totally not fair. Student don't have enough time to study

Education

- Being enrolled in the doctoral program, we are already taking online classes and have online classes in the summer. The change didn't really affect me because of that, but being such a proponent with the online learning model I was grateful to see so much of it offered for other students in the University. It's an excellent opportunity for them to grow and learn at their own pace and experience virtual education. That is incredibly important with all the technological changes in our world going forward
- Being that the courses were at a discounted price made me want to take as many as I can, so I can graduate sooner.
- I am eager to commence mt degree and would be very unhappy if it had to be postponed.
- I am in a pre coursed Ed.D. program so I had no choice

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- I am the first generation of Latina attending to a colleague at home. I am still struggling with aspects such as lack of computer or printer at home and highly struggling with my grammar still. If it was not because NJCU provided me with a writing coach on a weekly basis I would never have reached this far in my career. Yet, with the virtual teaching, I lost all the privileges and basic elements needed for me to have a premier education.
- I had a hard time satisfying your vaccination requirement. Eventually, I learned from the NJ State Dept. of Health that I could request a waiver, and that it would almost have to be granted. I got vaccination boosters and blood work anyway (on my doctor's recommendation) but you should know that the law in NJ prior to about 2000 was that doctors were only required to keep vaccination records for seven years. There is no reasonable way for a person over 40 (I am over 50) to obtain their childhood vaccination records. If a person plans to take online courses only, I suggest that they be invited to apply for a waiver, and that waivers be granted absent a specific concern. This would make it simpler and easier for people to enroll in your programs.
- I had planned on taking three courses over the summer prior to Covid-19. I have my curriculum mapped out so I will finish up in December and the only way to do that was to take summer courses. While it wasn't a big factor initially, I do admit that being stuck at home did open up more time for me to complete coursework in May and June.
- I have an underlying health condition that requires me to be extremely careful with COVID-19. Therefore, a lot of my reason for wanting to take online classes is due to staying safe and others safe as well.
- I live far away and I'm immunocompromised, online classes are important to me
- My program includes summer classes. No option to not take Summer classes.
- Online courses work better for my needs with children and working fulltime.
- Requiring the courses offered for graduation was the only salient factor for me. Would have taken the courses in person even with COVID in order to graduate. Considering that the facility was not used, I think a discount of some kind for all courses should have been applied. Especially with unemployment being so widespread. I understand that the university still has to pay salaries, but the overhead must've been reduced and this savings should have been passed on to the students. Just my opinion.
- Some of the courses are lectures. We are better off having online courses since it truly is a waste of time.
- Summer 3 discount was mentioned but all departments should be required to offer a vast variety in Summer 3 in order for students to take advantage of the opportunity.
- The courses I need to start my program were offered then.
- The main reason why I decided to take summer classes is because summer III course will be half off after I take 6 other summer credits and I am stuck home due to covid-19. I do not want to go back on campus with other students who come from all parts of New Jersey. I cannot afford to be sick because I have a family to take care of. Therefore, I want to try to reach my goal of getting a master degree at the lowest while keeping my family safe.

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- The program I am in leaves me no options.
- Tuition reimbursement from my district in gaining the edld supervisor certification. Very important to stay on track with the program outline.

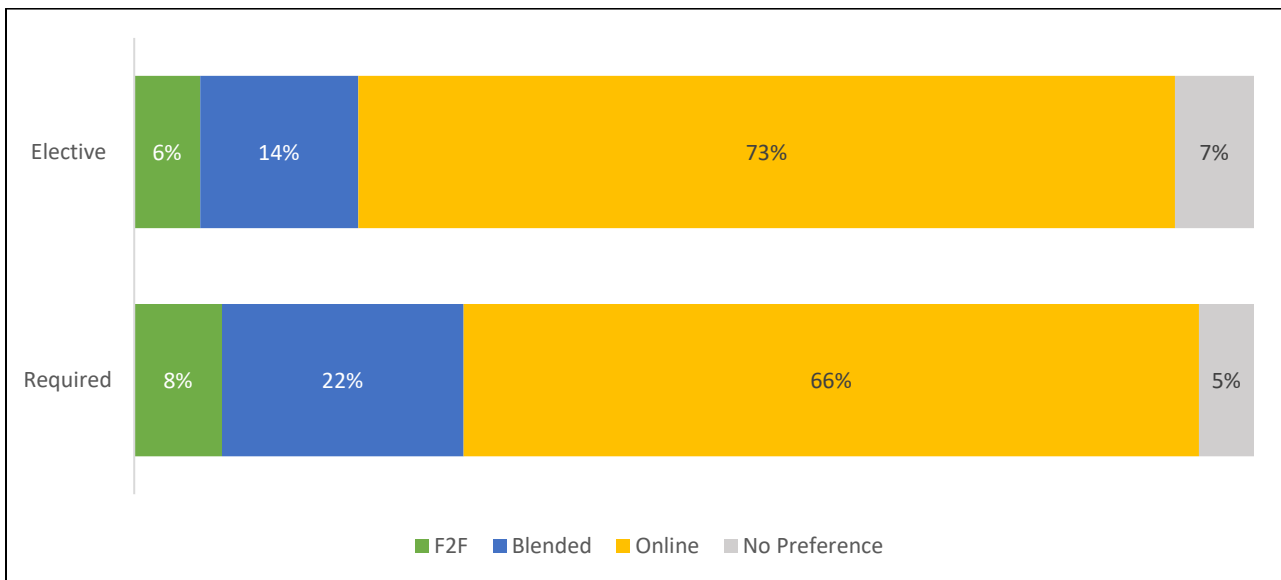
Professional Studies

- I wanted more time for my masters project in the spring of 2021 so I took the summer course to ensure I only had that project left in the spring
- My program of study, D.Sc. CSLMP, starts in July.

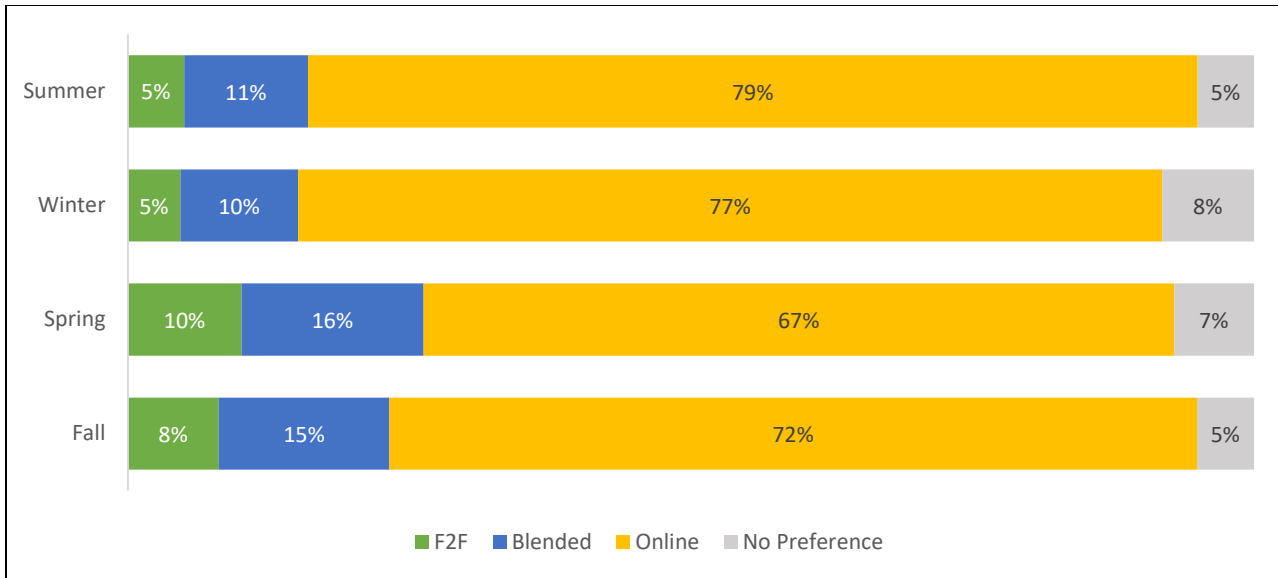
Mode Preferences for Courses

Students were asked their preference regarding mode of instruction – face-to-face (F2F), blended, or online – for different types of courses and different terms.

| | Face-to-Face | Blended | Online | No Preference |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| Required Major Courses | 8% | 22% | 66% | 5% |
| Elective Courses | 6% | 14% | 73% | 7% |
| | | | | |
| Fall Semester Courses | 8% | 15% | 72% | 5% |
| Spring Semester Courses | 10% | 16% | 67% | 7% |
| Winter Intersession Courses | 5% | 10% | 77% | 8% |
| Summer Courses | 5% | 11% | 79% | 5% |



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Student Comments Regarding Mode of Instruction

Arts and Sciences

- Online classes gave me the flexibility to attend a session at home, via zoom. The session was recorded and I was able to reference to it when needed. The online session also allowed me the flexibility of continuing to work from home and do online school.

Business

- Due to COVID19 I prefer to be the least exposed, so I prefer online or blended courses where face to face interaction is limited but still accessible.
- I prefer face to face because I feel it keeps me focused and on a timeline somewhat better than online. I enjoy the interaction with students and faculty, and still fee online only degrees come with a stigma.
- I prefer online courses for Fall 2020. Since the Covid-19 has not been solved. Face-to-face course is not safe. I am a student at MBA program, most of my classmates come to class after work. It is very dangerous if we meet together at classroom. Hence, I highly recommend we have online courses for Fall 2020.
- I would prefer face-to-face course on top of online but due to COVID-19 i am taking summer-II course just don't want to hold my graduate. I would like to take online course if i don't have option for face-to-face.
- Online with the teacher actually present at the moment would be a cool thing to ass
- Sometime live lecture not stable while taking online class
- Still scare with this virus to take face to face class

Education

- All classes in my program are offered ONLY online; no preference allowed.
- Blended, but not in person, are a great help with the discussion of assignments. Often assignments are not presented clearly and discussion about topics and expectations are helpful. Otherwise the instructor is not

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present at all- it's just students learning on their own and completing assignments- what do we need the professor for other than grading?

- Having the ability to do online course has truly been a blessing. I'm worried about internships in the fall. I believe that only classes that NEED to meet in person should do so, otherwise it should be online.
- I can commit to more classes online since I live further away from Jersey City.
- I feel like online course should be cheaper because you have to teach yourself. Most professors are not even available to answer questions but NJCU charges more for online classes. What makes matter worst is that NJCU knows that many students who attend NJCU work during the day and have families at home. Yes, online course are more convenient for the working individual but why should it cost more. We are still learning the same information at the same or faster pace. Even more so, there should be a discount for people still teaching to get a education with everything going on. I am highly disappointed in NJCU and how students are trying but still have nothing to show for it. I am really considering withdrawing from NJCU all together. I feel like I either have to sacrifice my health , spending time with my family, or take away thousands of more dollars from my family to get a degree. Its just not fair or right. This summer during covid-19 we should be trying are best to help everyone!!!
- I feel more safe taking online classes, probably for the next semester as well which is the fall.
- I feel that having a family and balancing courses along with a career is very difficult. Having an option of online courses is more of a motivation because I make time to complete my work in a timely manner.
- I like the idea of blended it would allow us more time to get assignments done, and to work on our pase.
- I prefer face to face since I appreciate the physical interaction with my friends and teacher. I learn and appreciate more about my classes. I totally hate online classes and would dislike very much to take any of my fall classes online. I am a mother of four who works full time and comes to school, yet, coming to campus is my self-care. I just love the environment at the campus.
- I'm older (52) and returning to school for a certification. Literally the only thing that mattered to me was that everything be 100% online. I looked at other schools, and some were not entirely online. It was also important that Sachie was helpful and responsive when I was going through the application process--other schools that I approached were less amenable, especially with people working from home and not answering phones. I had it narrowed to three or four schools, and NJCU was the easiest for me to deal with.
- My program is online only and that is fine.
- Online classes give me the flexibility to work at my own pace. Often times like it's busy so I like to work ahead into the syllabus when I have time earlier in the semester and having the flexibility at peace of mind when times get stressful at work.
- Online courses allow for flexibility in completing coursework according to personal schedule.
- Online courses are preferred if they are planned to be online and make necessary accommodations to ensure the experience is as helpful and effective as face-to-face instruction.

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It would be helpful if online classes specified in advance if there would be synchronous instruction and, if so, clarify specific dates and times.

- Online courses can be difficult to manage. Especially for professors who are technology challenged. Making the classes "Blended" to keep everyone safe and enhance the learning experience would be a great choice!
- Online is best for me.
- Online is critical due to COVID19 concerns. I am not comfortable coming to campus.
- Online: it is a lot easier for me to study online due to my anxiety and ADHD.
Face-To-Face: it is hard for me to get onto campus without a car.
Blended: if it was mandatory to go onto campus, I would hope that there would be some online components to the class.
- Please offer more online courses in the future.
- Summer courses are difficult when they overlap with each other- especially in July when teachers are writing curricula in addition to any summer job they have. They would be nearly impossible to take as a single parent except in a completely online format.
- The only class impacted by Covid was my Summer Institute sessions.
- The specific program I am currently enrolled in is entirely online. This is my 1st semester at NJCU. I am relieved that the course I expected to be in person will now be online. I am uncomfortable being in a classroom this summer. I am apprehensive about face to face in the fall as well.

Professional Studies

- I honestly prefer to learn via face to face course format but the online format is more practical to fit into my busy schedule as I balance work, family and school commitments.
- Online courses for me personally were more beneficial due to my schedule as a first responder.