2020 HEDS Senior Survey

This is a PDF representation of the online version of the survey. It includes all questions and response options, as well as notes (in italics) about how questions will display to survey takers.

Welcome to the Senior Survey. Thanks for agreeing to participate!

This survey asks you to evaluate teaching practices and institutional conditions you experienced as an undergraduate, assess the impact of your college experience on your intellectual growth and development, and describe your plans following graduation.

Your participation is completely voluntary, and there are no penalties if you decide not to participate or if you choose to skip any questions. All of your responses are strictly confidential. At no time will your responses be publicly linked with your name or any other identifying information.

1. Below are statements about your views of your faculty's interest in teaching and students. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each.

Most faculty with whom I have had contact at this institution were . . .

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Genuinely interested in students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interested in helping students grow in more than just academic areas.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good at providing prompt and useful feedback.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Willing to spend time outside of class to discuss issues of interest and importance to students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. Below are statements about your contact and interactions with faculty at this institution. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my personal growth, values, and attitudes.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my career goals and aspirations.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I developed a close, personal relationship with at least one faculty member.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am satisfied with the opportunities to meet and interact informally with faculty members.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Below are statements about experiences you may have had in your classes at this institution. About how often have you experienced each?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Faculty posed challenging ideas in class.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty asked me to show how a particular course concept could be applied to an actual problem or situation.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty asked me to point out any fallacies in ideas, principles, or points of view presented in the course.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty asked me to argue for or against a particular point of view.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty challenged my ideas in class.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Students challenged each other's ideas in class.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. Below are descriptions of the types of exams or assignments you may have had in your classes at this institution. About how often have you undertaken each?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Wrote essays.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Completed assignments or projects in which I solved problems.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Made oral presentations.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Used course content to address a problem not presented in the course.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Compared or contrasted topics or ideas from a course.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of a particular argument or point of view.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Argued for or against a particular point of view and defended my argument.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Connected what I learned in multiple courses.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. How often have you had the following experiences at this institution?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Attended a debate or lecture on a current political/social issue.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participated in a diversity or cultural awareness workshop.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Had discussions about intergroup relations with students differing from you in gender, national origin, political views, race, religion, sexuality, or values.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Had serious discussions with other students about different lifestyles and customs.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Had serious discussions with faculty or staff whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Had serious discussions with students whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Careful reading: Comprehension and analysis of written texts within and across genres.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critical thinking: Examination of ideas, evidence, and assumptions before accepting or formulating a conclusion.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Creative thinking: Developing or combining ideas, images, or expertise in innovative ways.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information literacy: Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively and responsibly for a particular purpose.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quantitative literacy: Seeking, understanding, and using quantitative information appropriately to solve problems or make arguments.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Effective writing: Conveying accurate and compelling content in clear, expressive, and audience-appropriate prose.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Effective speaking: Conveying accurate and compelling content in clear, expressive, and audience-appropriate oral presentations.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teamwork: Contributing to a team, facilitating the work of team members, and fostering a constructive team climate.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Problem solving: Designing, evaluating, and implementing a strategy to answer questions or achieve a goal.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Civic engagement: Promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and nonpolitical processes.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intercultural knowledge and competence: Information, skills, and commitments that support effective and appropriate interactions in a variety of cultural contexts.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ethical reasoning: Recognizing ethical issues, examining different ethical perspectives, and considering the ramifications of alternative actions.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Integrative thinking: The habit of connecting ideas and experiences, and the ability to transfer learning to novel situations.	☐	☐	☐	☐

The activities in Q7 are shown in randomized order.

7. How frequently have you participated in the following activities while at this institution?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Student or campus government	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intercollegiate athletics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intramural or club sports	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student publications	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Performing arts/music	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Political organizations or clubs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community service	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sorority/fraternity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Religious groups	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internships (paid or unpaid)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service organizations (on or off campus)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multicultural student groups	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working with faculty on research	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Study abroad	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
On-campus employment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Off-campus employment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Independent study	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Activities from Q7 that students skipped or reported "Never" participating in are not shown in Q8. The activities in Q8 are shown in randomized order.

8. To what extent has your experience with each of the following at this institution contributed to your learning and personal development?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Student or campus government	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intercollegiate athletics	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intramural or club sports	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student publications	☐	☐	☐	☐
Performing arts/music	☐	☐	☐	☐
Political organizations or clubs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community service	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sorority/fraternity	☐	☐	☐	☐
Religious groups	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internships (paid or unpaid)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service organizations (on or off campus)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multicultural student groups	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working with faculty on research	☐	☐	☐	☐
Study abroad	☐	☐	☐	☐
On-campus employment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Off-campus employment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Independent study	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q9 only appears to students who selected an option other than "Never" for "Community service" or "Service organizations (on or off campus)" in Q7.

9. Please take a moment to describe your involvement in community service or service organizations.

10. Overall, to what extent have your experiences at this institution prepared you for the following activities?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Graduate or professional school	☐	☐	☐	☐
Career path	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social and civic involvement	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interpersonal relationships and family living	☐	☐	☐	☐
Responsibilities of post-undergraduate life (e.g., managing finances, maintaining health, creating a home)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Continued learning on my own or outside of a degree program (e.g., learning a new language, professional certification, learning a craft)	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. When do you expect to graduate from this institution?
- ☐ At the end of the current term
- ☐ This summer
- ☐ During the next academic year
- ☐ After the next academic year
- ☐ I'm not sure

12. Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education at this institution?
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied

13. If you had it to do all over again, would you choose to attend this institution?
- ☐ Definitely
- ☐ Probably
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not

Response options in Q14 are shown in randomized order.

14. What are the most important qualities of your first job after graduation? (Choose up to 3)

- ☐ Relates to my undergraduate major
- ☐ Requires me to use skills I gained as an undergraduate
- ☐ Is related to my desired career path
- ☐ Is work I find meaningful
- ☐ Allows me to continue to grow and learn
- ☐ Pays enough to support my desired lifestyle
- ☐ Pays health insurance benefits
- ☐ Has opportunity for upward mobility
- ☐ Is likely to continue until I wish to leave
- ☐ Is in a desirable location

15. Please indicate the ONE activity that you consider your PRIMARY plan after you graduate.

- ☐ Employment or internship, full-time paid
- ☐ Employment or internship, part-time paid
- ☐ Graduate or professional school, full-time
- ☐ Graduate or professional school, part-time
- ☐ Additional undergraduate course work
- ☐ Military service
- ☐ Volunteer or national service (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America, etc.)
- ☐ Starting or raising a family
- ☐ Traveling
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Other activity: _____

16. Please indicate ALL OTHER activities that you plan to be doing after you graduate.

- ☐ Employment or internship, full-time paid
- ☐ Employment or internship, part-time paid
- ☐ Graduate or professional school, full-time
- ☐ Graduate or professional school, part-time
- ☐ Additional undergraduate course work
- ☐ Military service (National Guard, Reserves, etc.)
- ☐ Volunteer or national service (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America, etc.)
- ☐ Starting or raising a family
- ☐ Traveling
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Other activity: _____

Q17 only appears to students who selected "Employment or internship, full-time or part-time" in Q15.

17. Which of the following BEST describes the current state of your employment plans? Exclude search for summer-only employment.

- ☐ Accepted a position
- ☐ Offered a position and refused; still searching for preferred position
- ☐ Considering one or more specific offers
- ☐ Currently searching for a position or waiting for an offer
- ☐ Will begin searching for a position after graduation

Q18 only appears to students who selected "Graduate or professional school, full-time or part-time" in Q15 or Q16.

18. Please indicate the one degree or certificate you plan to start working towards this fall in graduate or professional school.

- ☐ Second Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Master's Degree in Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS, MFA)
- ☐ Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- ☐ Other Master's Degree (e.g., MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)
- ☐ Law Degree (JD or LLB)
- ☐ Medical Degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM, PharmD)
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Other Doctoral Degree (e.g., EdD, PsyD, DBA)
- ☐ Certificate: _____
- ☐ Other Degree: _____

Q19 only appears to students who DID NOT select "Graduate or professional school, full-time or part-time" in Q15 or Q16.

19. If you are planning to attend graduate or professional school at any point in the future, which of the following BEST describes your educational plans?

- ☐ Accepted and deferring enrollment until later
- ☐ Will be applying this coming fall
- ☐ Not applying this fall, but might apply at a future date
- ☐ No plans to apply to school now or in the future

Q20 only appears to students who DID NOT select "No plans to apply to school now or in the future" in Q19.

20. Which of the following graduate or professional degrees or certificates do you plan/hope to pursue at some point in the future? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Second Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Master's Degree in Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS, MFA)
- ☐ Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- ☐ Other Master's Degree (e.g., MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)
- ☐ Law Degree (JD or LLB)
- ☐ Medical Degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM, PharmD)
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Other Doctoral Degree (e.g., EdD, PsyD, DBA)
- ☐ Certificate: _____
- ☐ Other Degree: _____

21. What career did you plan/hope to pursue when you entered college? (Choose one)

Art, Design, and Entertainment
- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Artist
- ☐ Entertainer
- ☐ Gallery worker
- ☐ Graphic designer
- ☐ Interior designer
- ☐ Museum curator
- ☐ Music/film industry
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Other Art, Design, and Entertainment

Communications and Media
- ☐ Broadcasting
- ☐ Editor
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Media production
- ☐ Public relations
- ☐ Publisher
- ☐ Writer
- ☐ Other Communications and Media

Community and Social Service
- ☐ Clergy
- ☐ Community organizer
- ☐ Philanthropy or nonprofit worker
- ☐ Social activist
- ☐ Social work
- ☐ Other Community and Social Service

Education and Library
- ☐ Librarian or archivist
- ☐ Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary administration
- ☐ Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary teacher
- ☐ Postsecondary administration/staff
- ☐ Postsecondary teacher or researcher
- ☐ School counselor
- ☐ Other Education and Library

Health Care
- ☐ Clinical psychology/psychiatry
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Dietician
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Optometrist
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Physical/occupational/speech therapy
- ☐ Physician
- ☐ Veterinarian
- ☐ Other Health Care

Law and Government
- ☐ Diplomat
- ☐ Foreign service
- ☐ Government worker
- ☐ International relations
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Other legal services
- ☐ Politics
- ☐ Public policy
- ☐ Other Law and Government

Management, Business, and Financial
- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Actuary
- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Executive
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Human resources
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Management
- ☐ Real estate
- ☐ Recruiting
- ☐ Retail services
- ☐ Sales
- ☐ Other Management, Business, and Financial

Natural Resources
- ☐ Agricultural worker
- ☐ Conservationist
- ☐ Environmental scientist
- ☐ Other Natural Resources

Protection Services
- ☐ Law enforcement officer
- ☐ Military occupations
- ☐ Other Protection Services

Science, Technology, and Engineering
- ☐ Computer programmer/analyst
- ☐ Engineer
- ☐ Information systems
- ☐ Lab technician
- ☐ Scientific researcher
- ☐ Other Science, Technology, and Engineering

Service and Recreational
- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Food service industry
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Sports and recreation
- ☐ Travel/tourism
- ☐ Other Service and Recreational

Other
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Other: _____

22. What is the first job you are pursuing directly upon graduation? (Choose one)

Art, Design, and Entertainment
- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Artist
- ☐ Entertainer
- ☐ Gallery worker
- ☐ Graphic designer
- ☐ Interior designer
- ☐ Museum curator
- ☐ Music/film industry
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Other Art, Design, and Entertainment

Communications and Media
- ☐ Broadcasting
- ☐ Editor
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Media production
- ☐ Public relations
- ☐ Publisher
- ☐ Writer
- ☐ Other Communications and Media

Community and Social Service
- ☐ Clergy
- ☐ Community organizer
- ☐ Philanthropy or nonprofit worker
- ☐ Social activist
- ☐ Social work
- ☐ Other Community and Social Service

Education and Library
- ☐ Librarian or archivist
- ☐ Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary administration
- ☐ Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary teacher
- ☐ Postsecondary administration/staff
- ☐ Postsecondary teacher or researcher
- ☐ School counselor
- ☐ Other Education and Library

Health Care
- ☐ Clinical psychology/psychiatry
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Dietician
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Optometrist
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Physical/occupational/speech therapy
- ☐ Physician
- ☐ Veterinarian
- ☐ Other Health Care

Law and Government
- ☐ Diplomat
- ☐ Foreign service
- ☐ Government worker
- ☐ International relations
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Other legal services
- ☐ Politics
- ☐ Public policy
- ☐ Other Law and Government

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- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Actuary
- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Executive
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Human resources
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Management
- ☐ Real estate
- ☐ Recruiting
- ☐ Retail services
- ☐ Sales
- ☐ Other Management, Business, and Financial

Natural Resources
- ☐ Agricultural worker
- ☐ Conservationist
- ☐ Environmental scientist
- ☐ Other Natural Resources

Protection Services
- ☐ Law enforcement officer
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- ☐ Engineer
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- ☐ Other Science, Technology, and Engineering

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- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Food service industry
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Sports and recreation
- ☐ Travel/tourism
- ☐ Other Service and Recreational

Other
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Other: _____

23. What is the long-term career you have in mind? (Choose one)

Art, Design, and Entertainment
- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Artist
- ☐ Entertainer
- ☐ Gallery worker
- ☐ Graphic designer
- ☐ Interior designer
- ☐ Museum curator
- ☐ Music/film industry
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Other Art, Design, and Entertainment

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- ☐ Postsecondary teacher or researcher
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- ☐ Engineer
- ☐ Information systems
- ☐ Lab technician
- ☐ Scientific researcher
- ☐ Other Science, Technology, and Engineering

Service and Recreational
- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Food service industry
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Sports and recreation
- ☐ Travel/tourism
- ☐ Other Service and Recreational

Other
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Other: _____

24. What is the total amount that you and/or your family have borrowed to finance your undergraduate education?

- ☐ No loans
- ☐ Less than $5,000
- ☐ $5,000–$9,999
- ☐ $10,000–$14,999
- ☐ $15,000–$19,999
- ☐ $20,000–$29,999
- ☐ $30,000–$39,999
- ☐ $40,000–$49,999
- ☐ $50,000–$59,999
- ☐ $60,000–$69,999
- ☐ $70,000–$79,999
- ☐ $80,000–$89,999
- ☐ $90,000–$99,999
- ☐ $100,000 or more
- ☐ Borrowed money, but don't know the amount

Students who selected "No loans" in Q24 skip to Q26.

25. Approximately what proportion of your total loan amount are you personally responsible for paying?

- ☐ All
- ☐ Most
- ☐ About half
- ☐ Some, but less than half
- ☐ None
- ☐ Unsure

26. What is the field of study of your undergraduate major(s)? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Biological Sciences (e.g., Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Neuroscience/Biopsychology)
- ☐ Business and Management (e.g., Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Marketing)
- ☐ Communications (e.g., Journalism, Mass Communication, Speech, Speech Pathology)
- ☐ Education (e.g., Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education)
- ☐ Engineering (e.g., Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering)
- ☐ Fine and Performing Arts (e.g., Architecture, Art, Dance, Music, Theatre)
- ☐ Health Sciences (e.g., Exercise Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health)
- ☐ Humanities (e.g., Classics, English, Modern Languages & Literature, Philosophy)
- ☐ Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science (e.g., Astronomy, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Physics)
- ☐ Social Sciences (e.g., Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- ☐ Other: _____

27. What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents or the person/people who raised you?

- ☐ Did not complete high school
- ☐ High school diploma
- ☐ Postsecondary school other than college
- ☐ Some college or associate's degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate school
- ☐ Do not know

28. What is your gender?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Nonbinary, please specify: _____

29. Are you transgender?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

30. What is your citizenship status?

- ☐ U.S. citizen
- ☐ U.S. permanent resident but not a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

31. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

32. Please indicate the race or races with which you identify. (Choose one or more)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White