

Fall 2021 HEDS Returning Student 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.

Students at [Institution Name] faced unique challenges last year because of the pandemic. As things return to normal, we'd like to take a moment to focus on an important subject—your long-term goals and how the experiences you've had so far in college are preparing you for life after college. To do this, we'd like you to complete this short survey about your long-term goals and the experiences at [Institution Name] that are helping you achieve those goals. We will use this information to see how we can help you get the most out of your time in college.

We designed this survey to give you an opportunity to have a conversation with someone at [Institution Name] about your goals and strategies for success. At the end of the survey, we'll ask whether you'd like us to forward your responses to specific people at [Institution Name] so you can talk to them about what you've written. Your hopes and dreams matter to us. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to have a conversation about your goals for college and the future.

The survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete. When you're done, you'll be able to see a summary of how other students at [Institution Name] responded to the survey.

Your survey results will be shared with a handful of people at [Institution Name] who work to help students succeed and improve teaching and learning. Anyone who has access to your responses is legally obligated to keep them confidential.

By clicking "Next," you indicate that you've agreed to participate in the survey. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. We appreciate it.

Students will see a "Next" button here.

1. For you, what are the most important reasons to stay in college and complete your degree? (Check all that apply)

- To get a job that provides financial security
- To get a job that helps me start a meaningful career
- To learn new things and expand my horizons
- To become a more thoughtful and better-informed citizen
- To make life-long friendships
- To prepare for post-graduate education
- To make my family proud
- To build a good life for my children and/or family
- To improve my ability to give back to my community
- To be better prepared to make a positive impact on the world
- Other: _____

2. How often do you worry about the following?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Never
Doing well academically in college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial concerns (e.g., finding ways to pay for college, questions about my financial aid or on-campus jobs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thinking about what I'm going to do immediately after college (employment, graduate school, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the right courses, internships, and experiences in college to set me up for my career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting into the graduate school I need to build my career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paying off my student loans after college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding a job that's meaningful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding a job that gives me the resources I need to be comfortable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Settling for a job I don't enjoy because it pays the bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National/global issues that impact society at large (e.g., climate change, the political environment, social inequality, COVID-19)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining my mental health and well-being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creating balance between work, family, friends, and my personal interests/hobbies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knowing how to do "life stuff" (e.g., managing my finances, finding a good place to live, getting the right kinds of insurance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What could [Institution Name] faculty and staff do this year to support you and help you be successful?**4. Imagine some point in the future, after you're done with school and you're leading a successful life. What does your life look like? What are you doing? How are you living? Don't be afraid to think big!**

Question 5 asks students to identify high-impact programs and/or experiences at their institution that have moved them toward their vision of a successful life. We've designed this question so that you can name up to nine high-impact programs/experiences at your institution. To help us create comparative reporting for this question, we'll ask you to map each of the institutional programs you designate for Question 5 to one of the following high-impact practices from the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the National Survey of Student Engagement:¹

- First-year seminar and/or experience
- Required set of common courses or experiences
- Learning community
- Research with faculty
- Service learning/community-based learning
- Courses and programs focusing on diversity
- Internship/field experience/practicum
- Study abroad/study away
- Culminating senior experience

You may also add institutional programs to Question 5 that do not map onto one of these nine categories. Our staff will work with you to customize response options for Question 5 and map your institutional programs to high-impact practices.

5. Which of the following experiences at [Institution Name] have most prepared you to accomplish your goals for living a successful life after college? (pick up to three)

- [High-Impact Program/Experience #1] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #2] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #3] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #4] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #5] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #6] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #7] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #8] (designated by institution)
- [High-Impact Program/Experience #9] (designated by institution)
- What I've learned in my major(s) and minor(s) (fixed response option, cannot be changed or deleted)
- Support from key faculty and staff at [Institution Name] (fixed response option, cannot be changed or deleted)
- Another experience at [Institution Name] that's helping me prepare for success: _____ (fixed response option, cannot be changed or deleted)

6. You said that [student's answers from Question 5] have helped you move toward your vision of success in life. What made those experiences so beneficial?

7. Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education at [Institution Name]?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

8. If you had it to do all over again, would you choose to attend [Institution Name]?

- Definitely
- Probably
- Not sure
- Probably not
- Definitely not

¹ See <https://www.aacu.org/node/4084> and <https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/survey-instruments/high-impact-practices.html>

Question 9 asks students whether they would like to share their survey responses with someone on campus for a follow-up conversation. We ask students to identify that individual in an open-ended response. When a student writes in a name, the survey liaison will receive an email with the student's survey responses and the name of the person to forward those responses to. The survey liaison will be responsible for forwarding the email to the appropriate person.

Institutions also have the option of listing up to three people or offices—such as a student's academic advisor, a class dean, staff in the advising office, a coach, staff in career services, the chaplain, student affairs staff, the chief diversity officer—that students can choose to forward their survey responses to. When institutions choose to list people or offices in Question 9, we will automatically forward students' survey responses to the individuals/offices that students select.

We suggest that institutions identify at least one person or office for Question 9. We've provided several examples below, but you can add in the names of any people or offices at your institution that you think students might benefit from talking to. You can provide the same list of people/offices to all of your students, and you can also link specific people/offices with particular students, e.g., academic advisors or coaches. If you include an office in Question 9, please provide a link to a website, or a Microsoft Word document, with a list of the people in that office. We want to make sure students know who will see their responses if they select an office.

9. Is there anyone at [Institution Name] that you'd like to have a conversation with about your responses to this survey or your plans for the future? Below we list a few options for people and/or offices at [Institution Name] that would be happy to have a conversation with you. You can also write in the name of anyone at [Institution Name] that you'd like to speak with. Please select as many options as you want. We will forward your survey responses to the people you indicate that you'd like to speak with and ask them to contact you to set up a conversation.

- Optional response option – Person/office that the institution identifies (e.g., Jane Smith, your official academic advisor)
- Optional response option – Person/office that the institution identifies (e.g., Staff in Career Services – click [here](#) to see a list of the people in this office)
- Optional response option – Person/office that the institution identifies (e.g., Mary Wright, Junior Class Dean)
- Write in the name and department or title of anyone at [Institution Name] that you'd like to have a conversation with: _____
- No, I don't want to have a follow-up conversation with anyone at this time.

If you'd like the default to be that students have a conversation with someone at your institution, please ask us to include the alternate version of Question 9 shown below in your survey instead of the question above. We can customize the alternate version of Question 9 so that the default is anyone at your institution – that is, it doesn't have to direct students to their academic advisor.

Alternate 9. One of the goals of this survey is to set up a conversation between you and [your academic advisor], [Academic Advisor's Name], where you can discuss your goals for college and life, your worries and concerns, and anything else that would help you get the most out of your time at [Institution Name]. To that end, we will forward your survey responses to [Academic Advisor's Name], and they will contact you to set up a meeting. If you don't want to have this conversation, please check the box below to opt out. Or if you'd like to talk to someone other than [your advisor], you can also note that below.

- I don't want to have a follow-up conversation with anyone at this time.
- I'd like to talk to someone else at [Institution Name]. Their name or title/office is: _____

[The following message appears after students click the “Submit” button.]

Thank you for taking the time to answer these survey questions. We will forward your responses to the person(s) that you’ve identified for a conversation, and they will contact you to schedule a time to talk. If you do not hear from them in the next few weeks, please feel free to reach out to them to initiate a conversation. We will email you a copy of your survey responses, so you can remember what you said and share it with others.

If you’d like to see how your answers compare to the responses of other students at [Institution Name], please click [here](#). These results will be updated as more students complete the survey. We’ll also include this link in the email with a summary of your survey results, so you can check back as more students respond.

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