

# ACADEMIC BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES SURVEY 2021-22

UNIVERSITY OF ST. KATHERINE

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PRESENTATION

*2/7/2022*

# The Survey

- The survey was taken at an all-school assembly on February 3. Graduate students did not take the survey.
- Survey responses were entirely anonymous.
- Students were instructed to respond based on last semester's experience.
- The survey form had its first edits in several years, for clarity, conciseness, and applicability to current pedagogical and management topics of discussion.

# THE STUDENTS

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# Demographics of Respondents

There were 174 respondents\*, nearly 80% of the Spring 2022 undergraduate enrollment.

Respondents were representative of the USK student body.

- 55% came as Freshmen and 45% as Transfers
- 17% to 34% of each of the four undergraduate years
- 57% male, 43% female
- 52% have no parent with a bachelor's degree, i.e., are First Generation

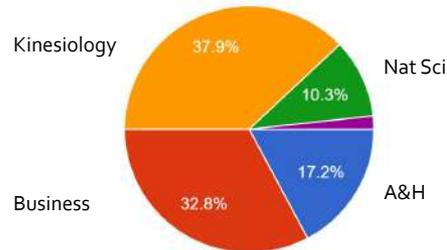
\*There were 175 responses. The sole graduate student response was deleted.

# Academic Direction

As in previous years, the distribution by degree program was representative of the USK student body, and the majority of respondents indicated that they expect to continue their studies beyond a bachelor's degree.

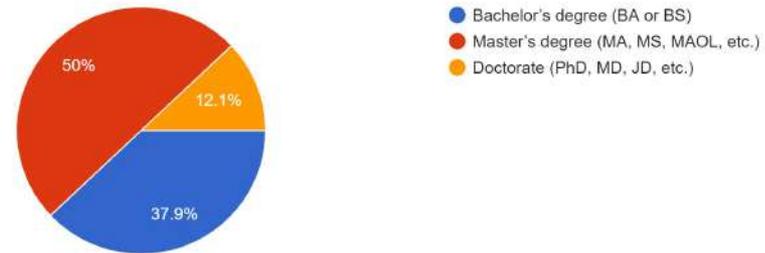
## 4. What is your degree program?

174 responses



## 6. What is the highest degree you intend to obtain?

174 responses

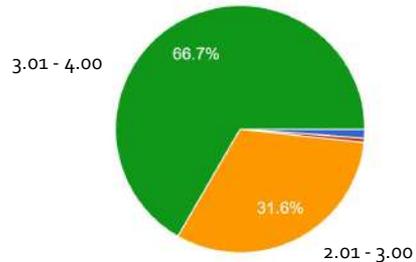


# Academic Performance

Self-reported GPAs declined from last year. The percentage of respondents describing exams as at least 8/10 in difficulty is stable at about 50%.

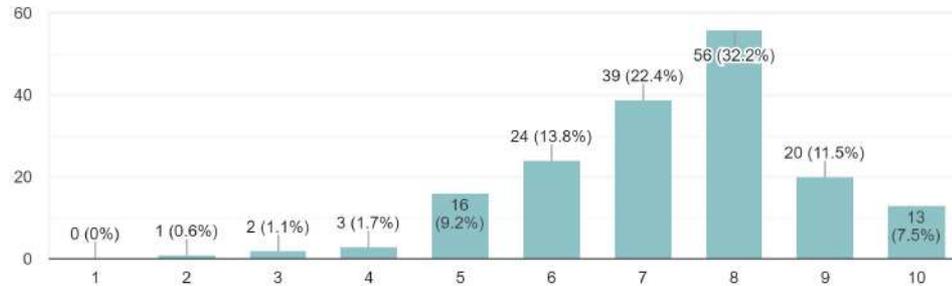
13) What is your cumulative GPA so far?

171 responses



9) On a scale of one to ten, with one being extremely easy and 10 being extremely challenging, how would you describe your exams at the University of Saint Katherine?

174 responses

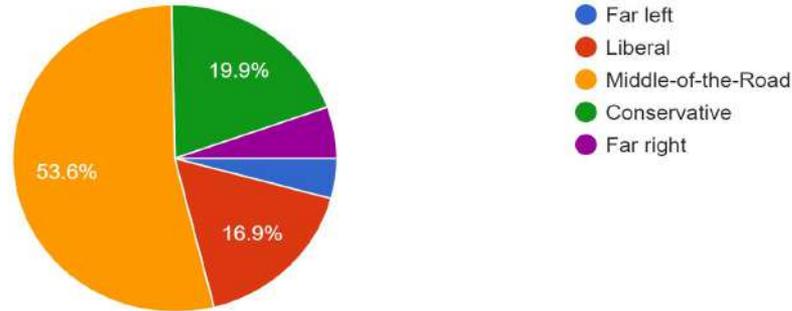


# Political Views

540% of respondents described themselves as politically middle-of-the-road, and the rest were roughly split between liberals/leftists and conservatives/far right. For context, until 2020 about 60% called themselves middle-of-the-road, then in 2020 that figure declined to 40%, likely a result of the polarizing political environment nationally in 2020.

7. How would you characterize your political views (mark one):

166 responses



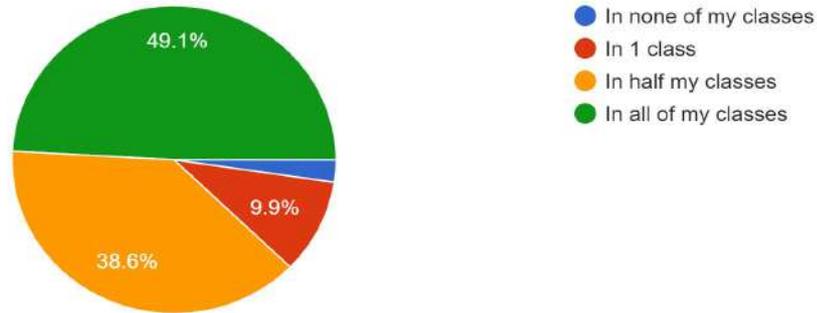
# ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR

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# Meeting the Academic Challenge

Nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of respondents report working harder than they thought they could to meet the bar set by the instructor in all of their classes. Most of the rest ascribed this characteristic to half of their classes. Data have not yet been disaggregated by year in school or degree program.

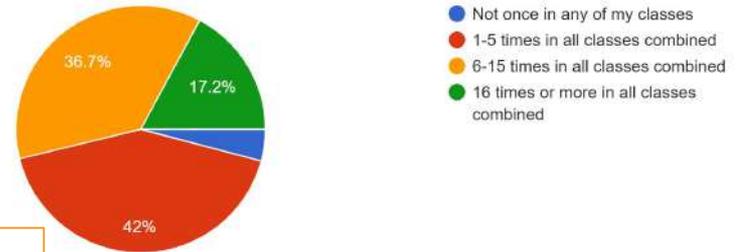
8g) I worked harder than I thought I could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.  
171 responses



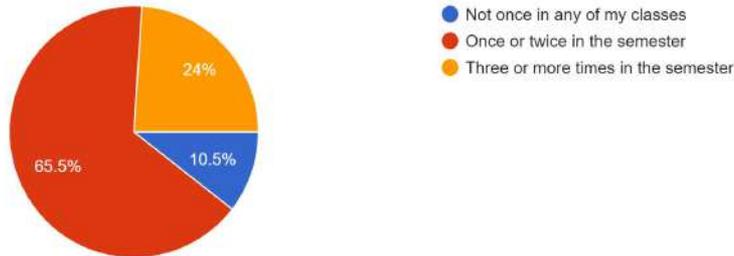
# Class Participation

Class participation answer choices were made more specific this year than in previous years. As expected, the frequency of oral participation varies among students.

8a) During live class sessions (on campus or on Zoom), I asked questions or made comments:  
169 responses

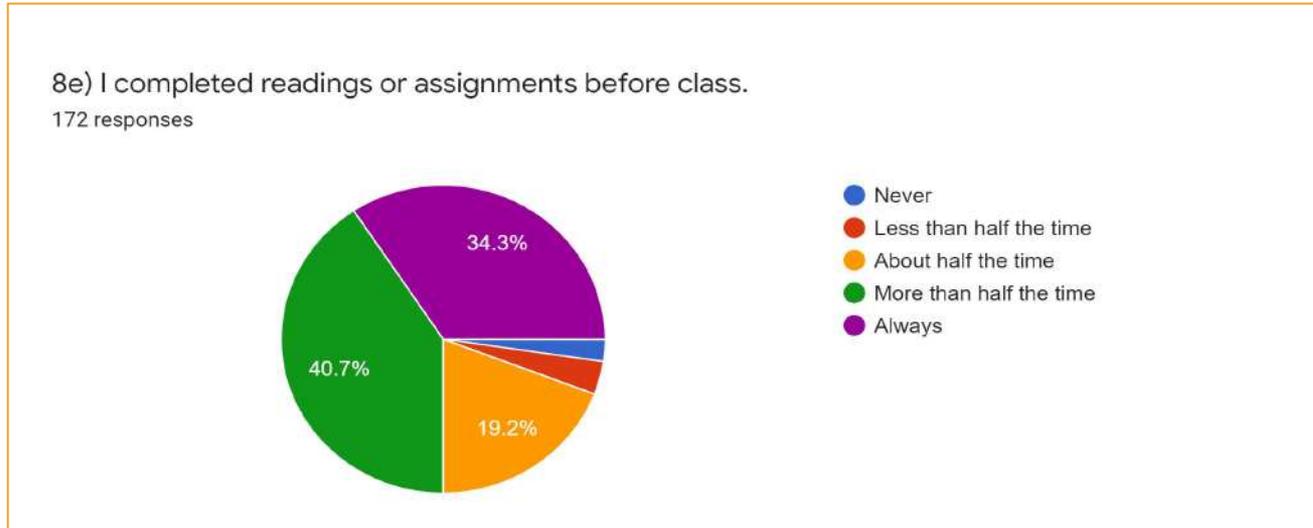


8b) During live class sessions (on campus or on Zoom), I gave a presentation.  
171 responses



# Preparation for Class

About  $\frac{1}{3}$  of respondents report always coming to class prepared, up from  $\frac{1}{4}$  last year. Most of the rest selected “more than half the time.” More study is needed about student vs. instructor perceptions of what it means to be prepared.

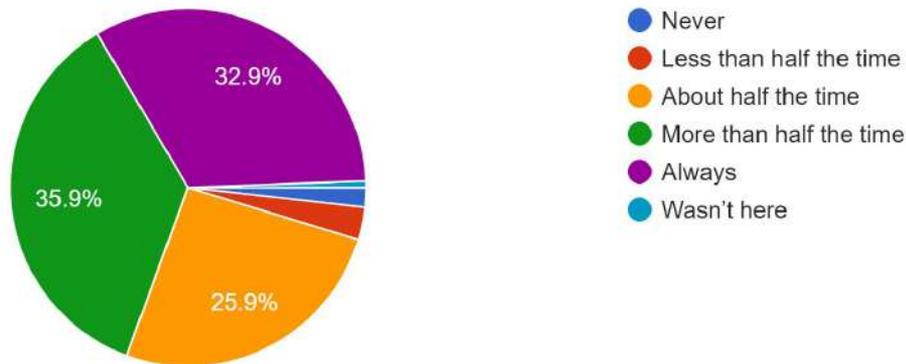


# Integration of Ideas and Information

$\frac{2}{3}$  of students report integrating ideas or information from multiple sources always or more than half the time when completing a major assignment.

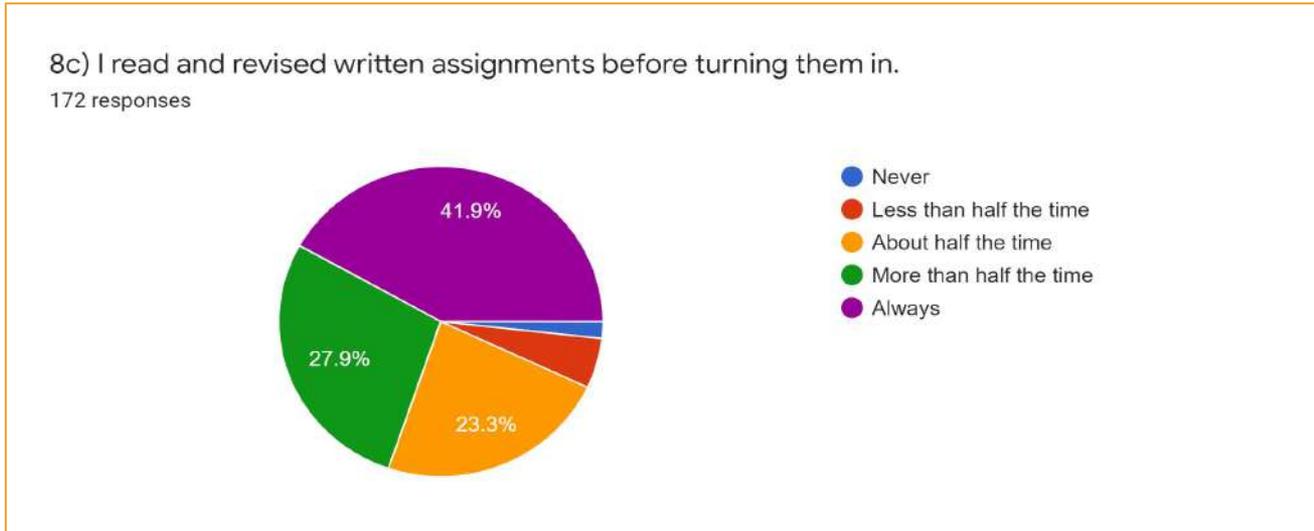
8f) I integrated ideas or information from various sources when completing a major assignment.

170 responses



# Revision of Written Work

42% of respondents report “always” reading and revising written assignments before turning them in. Another 28% responded “more than half the time.” Students who added an explanation for inconsistent editing practices listed lack of time, poor time management, and satisfaction with their first draft.

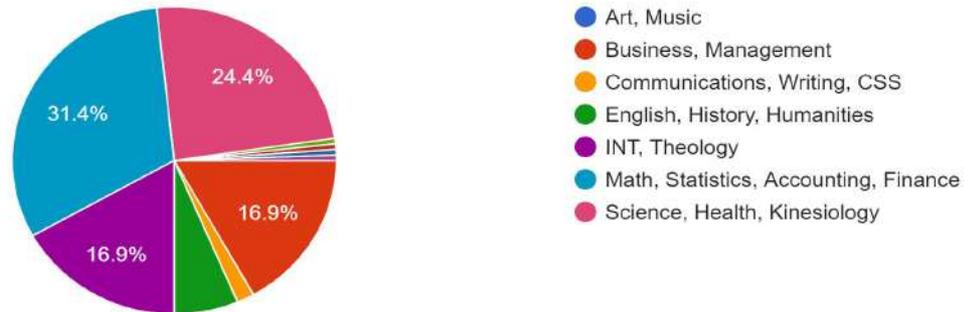


# Course Content and Studying

This was a new question this year. Each respondent was allowed to choose just one type of class as hardest to know how to do the work for. Quantitative subjects “won.” In an oversight, foreign language classes were not included though a few respondents gave them a write-in vote. Data have not yet been disaggregated by respondent degree program..

15) What type of class was the hardest to know how to study or do assignments for?

172 responses

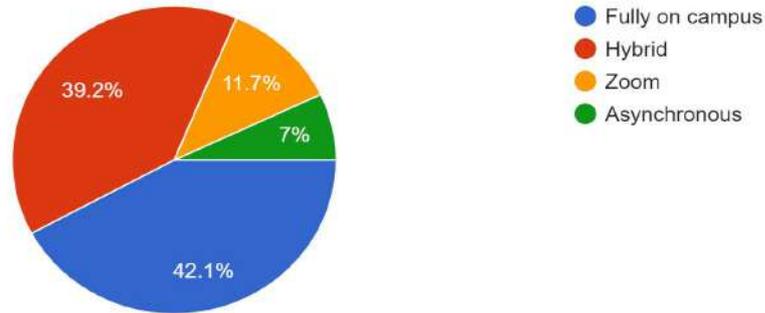


# Course Delivery Methods

As a learning modality, fully on campus and hybrid courses (that all had half of instructional hours on campus) were strongly preferred over Zoom and Asynchronous course delivery methods. It should be noted that this is distinct from whether a particular course delivery method makes other aspects of life easier.

14) What course delivery method has helped you learn best?

171 responses

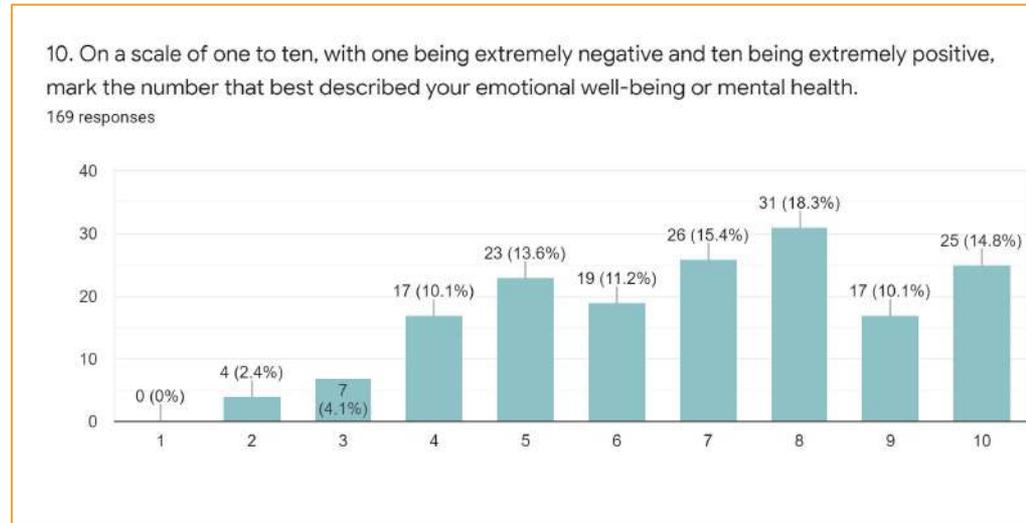


# ELEMENTS OF SUPPORT

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# Mental Health

Last year several students suggested adding a question about mental health. The broad distribution of responses, with a minority in the 8-10 range, suggests that this may be more of an issue than is evidenced by fairly modest use of University-advertised counseling options. On the other hand, the University community recently experienced a traumatic event which may have colored responses. More study is warranted.

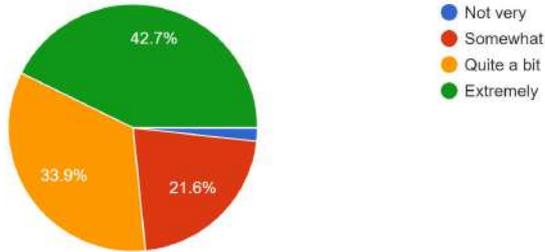


# Support for Attending USK

As in previous years, students report stronger support from family than friends for attending the University.

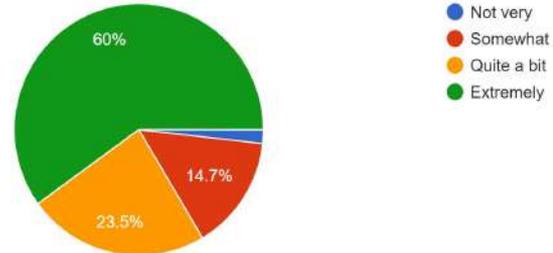
18a) How supportive are your friends of your attending USK?

171 responses



18b) How supportive is your immediate family of your attending USK?

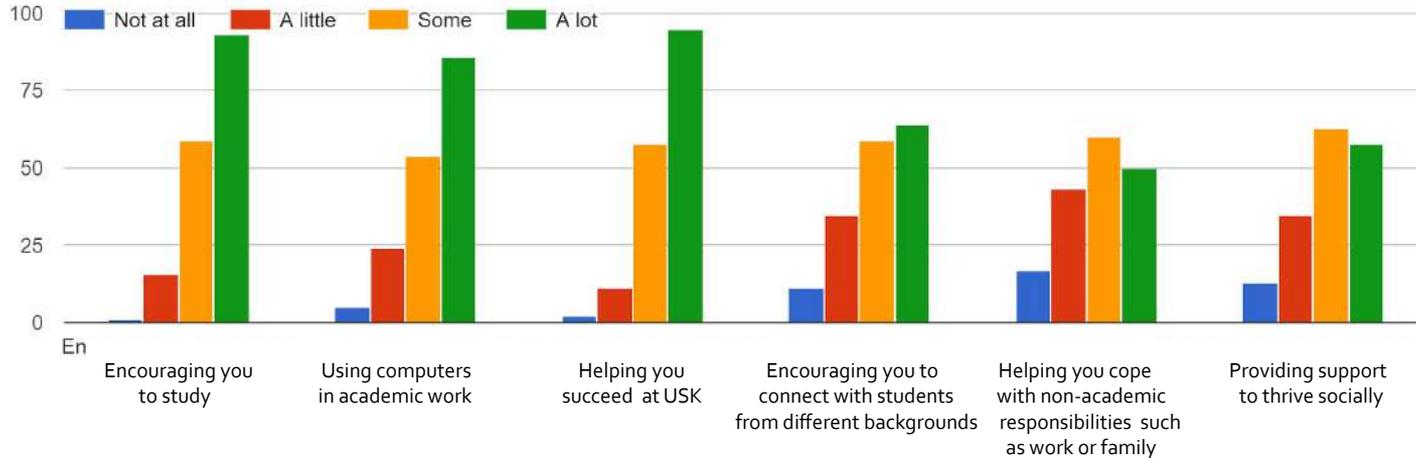
170 responses



# Support from USK

Academic support is perceived to be very strong, and significantly stronger than support in other areas of life.

12) How much did USK support the following?

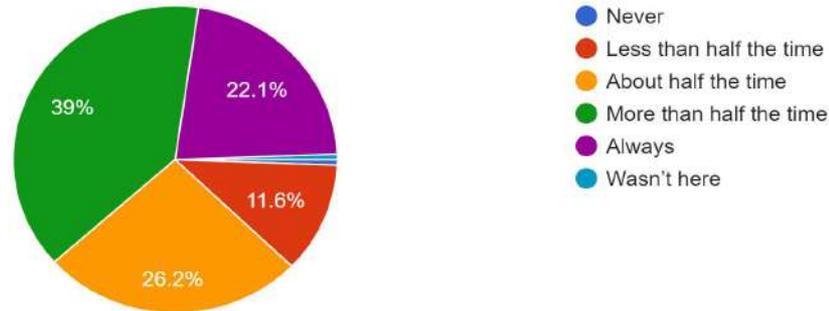


# Instructor E-mail Timeliness

The University standard is for instructors to respond within 24 hours. The answer choices were made more specific this year in an attempt to share actionable feedback with faculty leaders. Data have not yet been disaggregated by year in school and degree program.

8k) I received an instructor's response to my email within 24 hours.

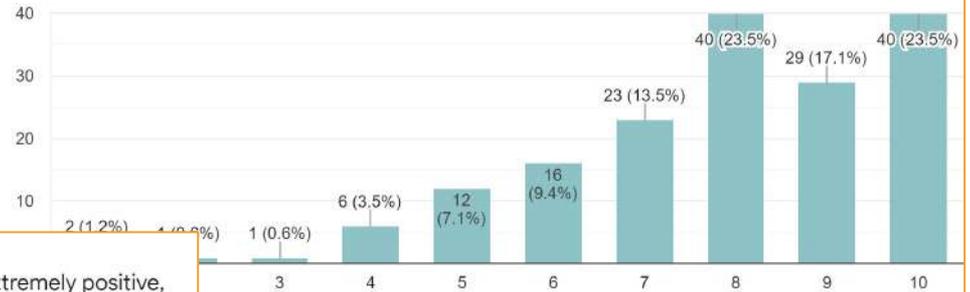
172 responses



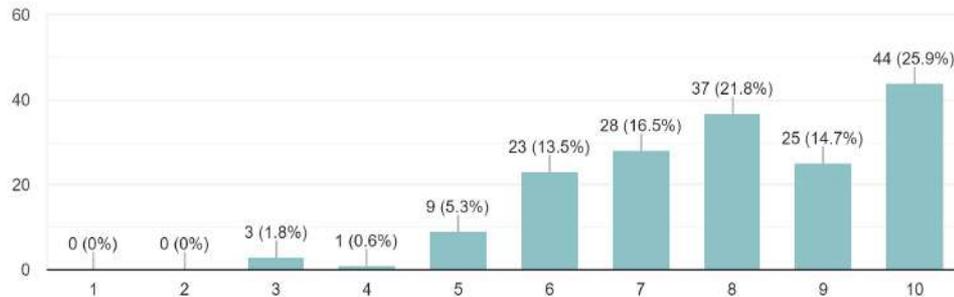
# Relationships

64% of students report strongly positive relationships with other students (a score of at least 8/10), a large increase from last year.

16) On a scale of one to ten, with one being extremely negative and ten being extremely positive, mark the number that best describes your relationships with other USK students.  
170 responses



17) On a scale of one to ten, with one being extremely negative and ten being extremely positive, mark the number that best describes your relationships with USK instructors.  
170 responses

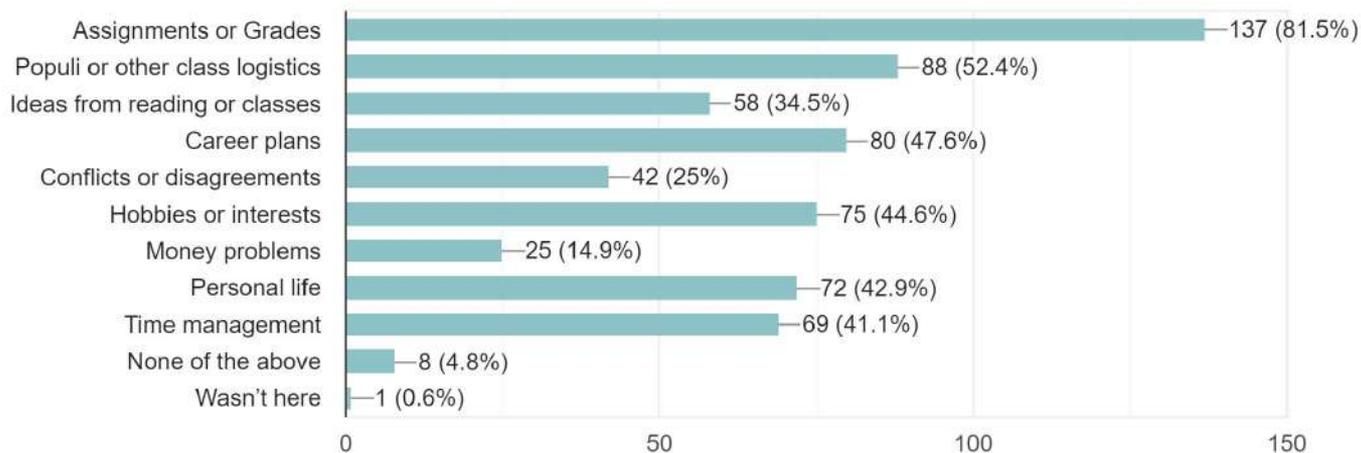


62% of respondents report strongly positive relationships with faculty members, an even more substantial increase from last year. Last year we had noted declines from the previous year.

# Connections with Faculty and Staff

11a) Check all that apply. I discussed the following with at least one instructor or administrator (not a coach) during office hours or otherwise outside of class:

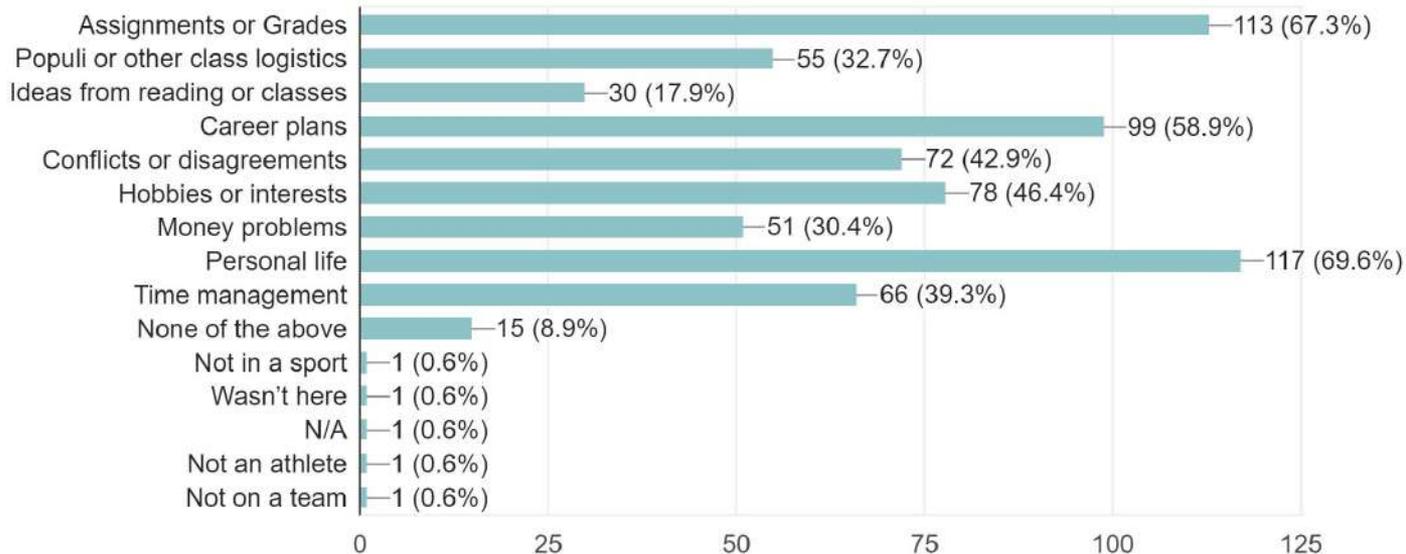
168 responses



# Connections with Coaches

11b) Check all that apply. I discussed the following with at least one coach outside of practice or organized activities:

168 responses



# BEING INTELLECTUAL

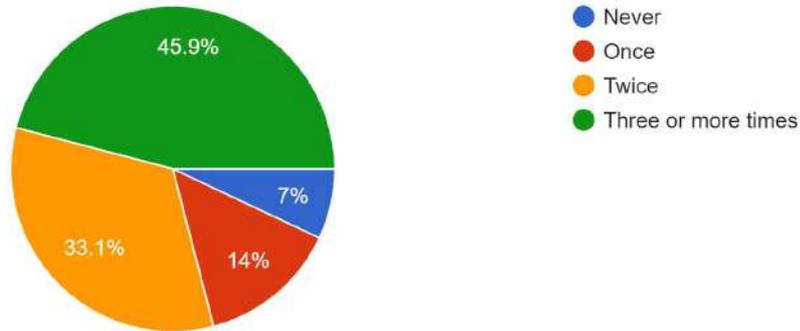
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# Engaging with The World of Ideas

Nearly half the respondents reported discussing ideas from readings or classes with other students, family members, co-workers, etc. outside of class 3 or more times last semester.

8h) I discussed ideas from my readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

172 responses

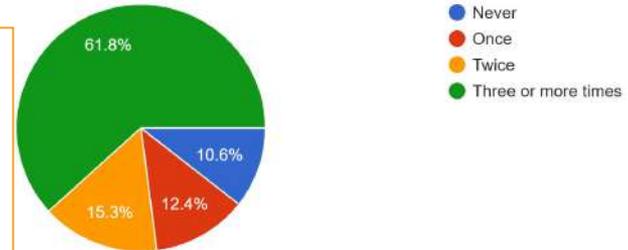


# Serious Conversations and Diversity

Most respondents reported having serious conversations with people who differ from them in significant ways, including race/ethnicity and views/values at least twice during the past semester, with race/ethnicity apparently being less of a barrier than views/values.

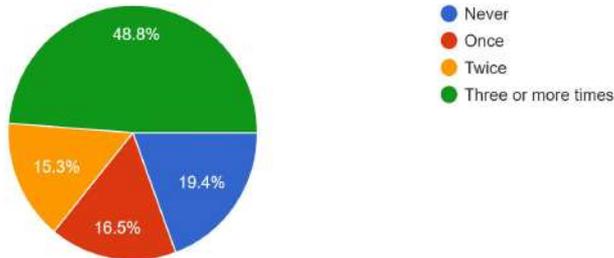
8i) I had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity other than my own.

170 responses



8j) I had serious conversations with students who differ from me in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values.

170 responses



# Free-Text Themes

19. Please share one to three things that the University of Saint Katherine can do to better support your learning experience.

Common themes included making classes easier, accepting late work, better communication, and more interaction in some classes. In this and the subsequent question, students shared widely varying opinions about on campus vs. online learning.

20. Please share one to three things that the University of Saint Katherine is doing well to support your learning experience.

Common themes included great teaching, supportive faculty and staff, the expanded student affairs center, a sense of community, and encouragement to succeed.

# Quotes from Free-Text Responses

“Great professors, campus, and people”

“They make it easy for students to learn.”

“Everyone and everything. I love the school.”

“The sense of community is nice to be a part of.”

“Giving details that apply to my life not just reading from the textbook.”

“USK staff taking time out of their day to talk to me about my personal life”

“USK continues to encourage us to study and stay committed to our academic success.”

“In class discussions, assigning thoughtful reading assignments, providing advice and feedback”

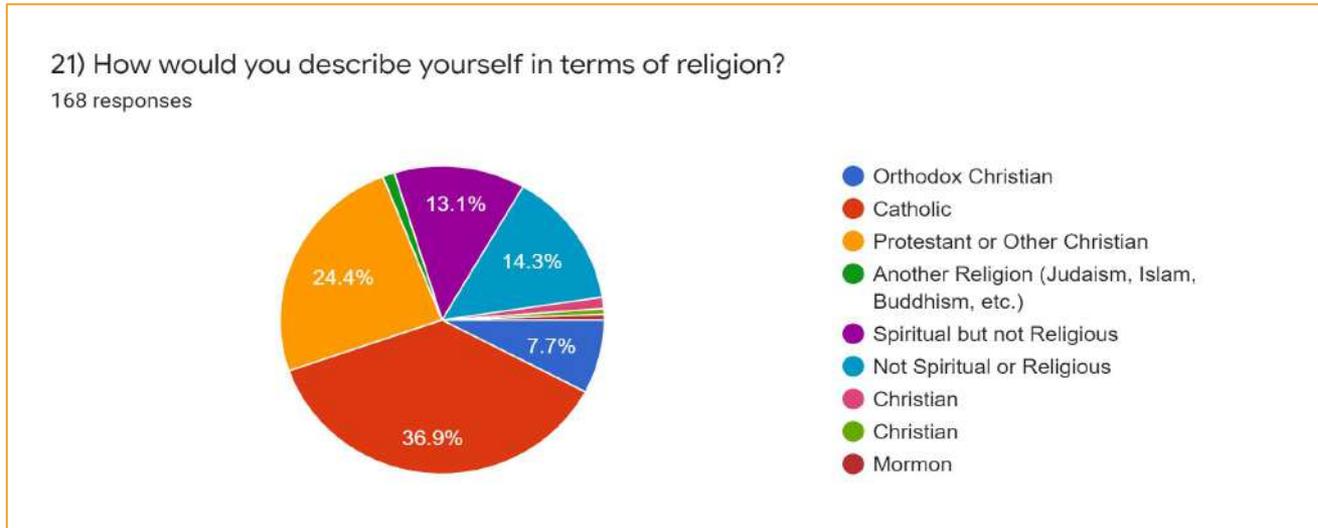
“The teachers and staff are such a caring and supportive group of people, they are always there for the students making sure that we have everything we need and more.”

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

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# Religious Affiliation

7.7% of respondents identified as Orthodox Christian. 70% identified as Christian, more often Catholic than Protestant. "Spiritual but not Religious" and "Not Spiritual or Religious" evenly split most of the remaining responses.

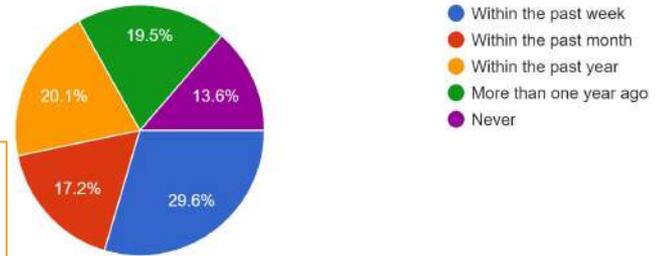


# Scripture and Prayer

Religious practice varies widely among students.

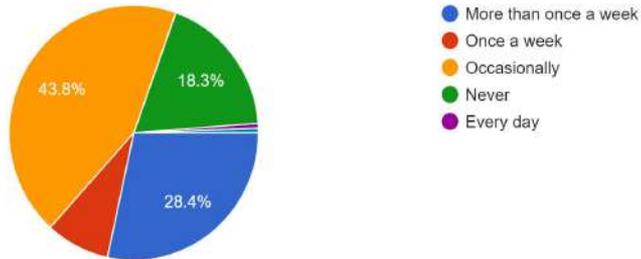
22) When was the last time you read or listened to a passage from the Bible, outside of University-directed activities and assignments?

169 responses



23) How often do you pray, whether to a Christian conception of God or from any other religious viewpoint?

169 responses



# Free-Text Responses

24) If you do pray, what are 3 things you have prayed for recently?

Common themes included family, friends, health, personal issues, success in school, gratitude.

25) What is something that USK does that supports you spiritually?

Common themes included Chapel, prayer, academics, perspective, community, support, freedom, and encouragement.

“Keeps me grounded”

“Gives me an environment to be myself and learn what I love”

“Offers different perspectives on philosophy and how to view the world”

“USK honors each person and their contribution in the classroom, court, and as a person.”

“Allows us to gain a different perspective on our life and how our behavior affects our choices.”

“The teachers and staff are supportive whether it’s reaching out in person or via email, they always make sure that I’m doing okay and that’s really helped me spiritually.”