

ACADEMIC BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES SURVEY 2020

UNIVERSITY OF ST. KATHERINE

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Monday Memo (Faculty & Staff) 12/14/20

President's Cabinet 12/16/2020

Changes to Survey Method

- The survey was administered remotely for the first time in 2020. Previously, students completed paper forms in class. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and use of online instruction, the survey was transcribed to Google Forms and the link was shared.
- In order to encourage participation, the survey was rolled out in place of a regular Chapel service the week of November 16th. Some students completed the survey in the following ten days.
- USK's first graduate students were included in the survey population
- Although students were told that their email addresses would be used only to give them credit for attending Chapel, it is possible that some students took a possible lack of anonymity into account in their responses. There were more nonresponders to various questions than in the past.
- Because of these different circumstances, differences in responses between this year and previous years may be an artifact of the context rather than a sign of a new trend.

THE STUDENTS

Demographics of Respondents

There were 169 respondents, continuing the upward trend in number of participants. Respondent demographics including age, sex, citizenship, and race/ethnicity were representative of the USK student body.

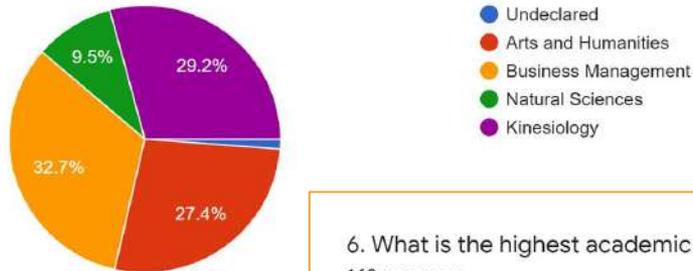
- 51% Male, 48% Female
- 88% Age 18-22
- 93% U.S. Citizen
- Race/ethnicity: Some students reported multiple races, so figures sum to > 100%.
 - 42% White & Middle Eastern
 - 42% Latino
 - 13% Black or African American
 - 7% Asian
 - 7% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - 4% American Indian/Alaska Native

Academic Direction

The distribution by degree program was also representative of the USK student body. The majority of respondents indicated that they expect to continue their studies beyond a bachelor's degree.

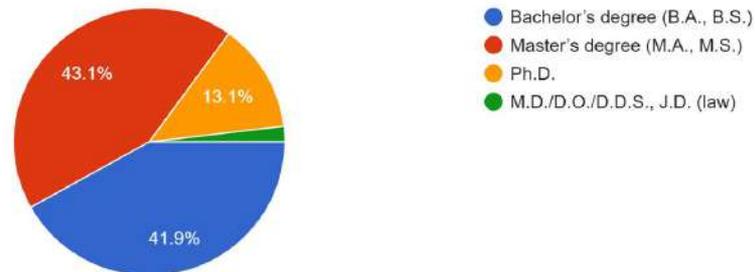
5. What is your overarching degree program of study?

168 responses



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

160 responses

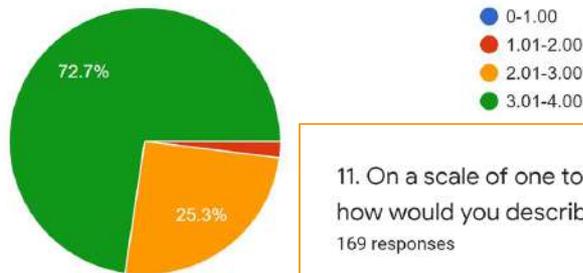


Academic Performance

Self-reported GPAs have continued to rise. The percentage of respondents describing exams as at least 8/10 in difficulty increased markedly since 2019, returning to the rate last seen in 2016.

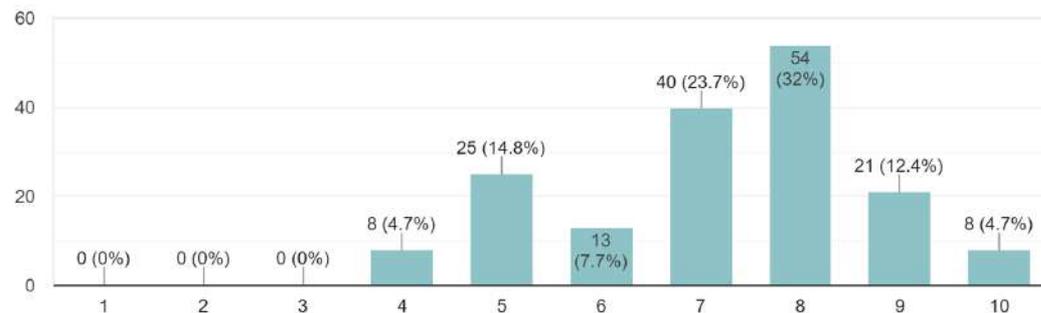
17. What is your overall grade point average at the University of Saint Katherine?

150 responses



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

169 responses

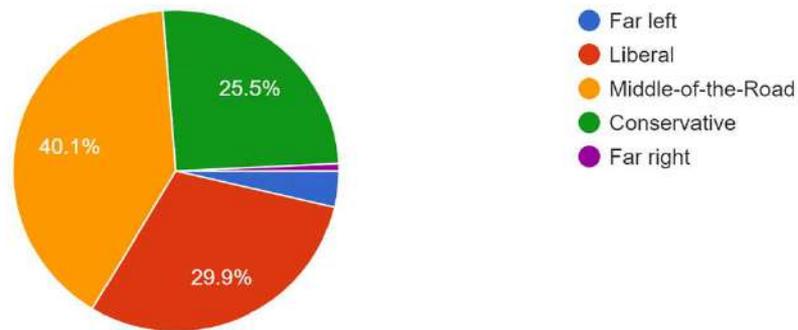


Political Views

40% of respondents described themselves as politically middle-of-the-road, a marked decrease from the 60% figure seen in previous years. This may be a result of the polarizing political environment nationally in 2020. Slightly more students self-identify as liberal than conservative.

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

137 responses



ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR

Class Selection

Students report that they take courses they believe they need to. Faculty reputation and friends' opinions are significantly less important.

8. When choosing classes in which to enroll, please indicate how frequently you do any of the following when you register for the term. (Percent is those who replied “always” or “often.”)

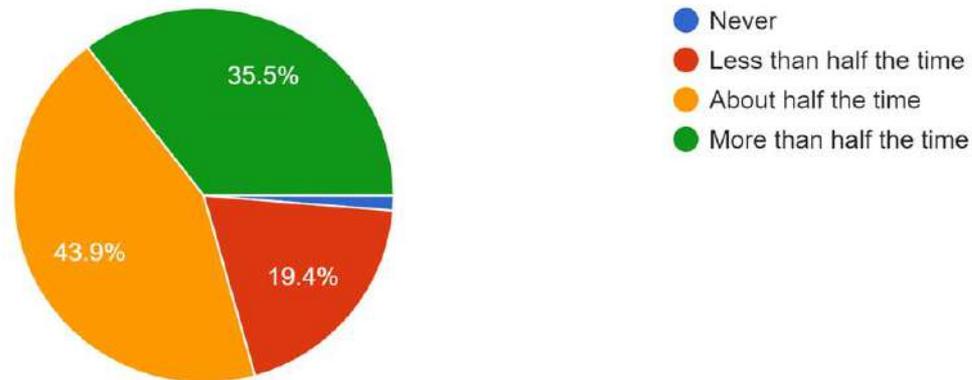
- 8a) Select a class schedule that is based upon the requirements to meet educational goals or program requirements: **91%**
- 8b) Make an appointment with a student services person to discuss appropriate classes in which to enroll: **68%**
- 8c) Use online sources (such as RateMyProfessor.com) to help inform class registration decisions: **29%**
- 8d) Try to enroll in the same classes friends are taking: **22%**
- 8e) Select classes based upon knowledge about the instructor: **51%**
- 8f) Discuss the classes you are thinking about taking with your friends: **60%**

Class Participation

Students report that they participate actively in class. The figures are about the same as last year despite the transition to online instruction.

9a) Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions.

155 responses

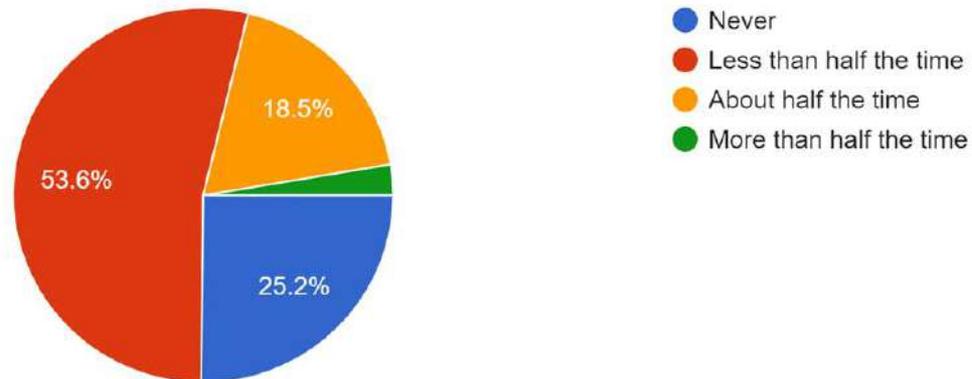


Preparation for Class -- Reading

Fewer respondents than in previous years report coming to class unprepared. This is notable given the temptations that online instruction may have offered.

9e) Come to class without completing readings or assignments.

151 responses

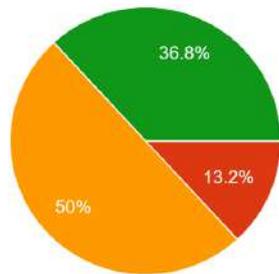


Preparation for Class -- Research

Students report integrating ideas or information from multiple sources, and using the internet to work on assignments is the norm.

9d) Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources.

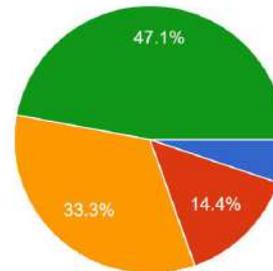
152 responses



- Never
- Less than half the time
- About half the time
- More than half the time

9h) Used the internet to work on a course-related assignment.

153 responses



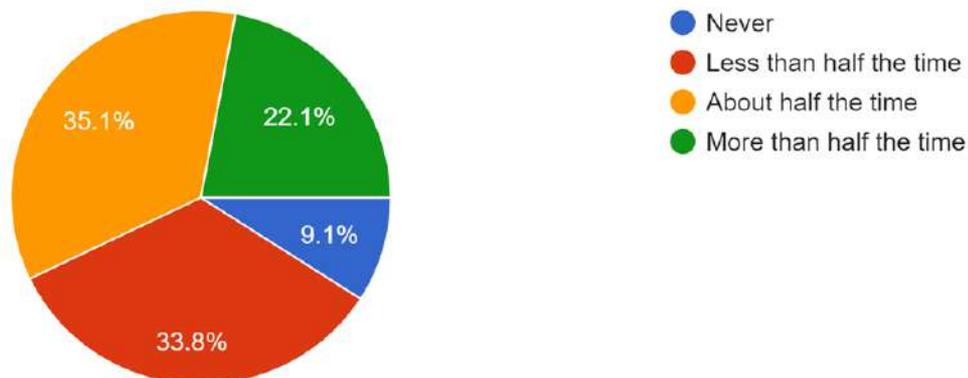
- Never
- Less than half the time
- About half the time
- More than half the time

Preparation for Class -- Writing

Responses vary on the practice of writing multiple drafts of a paper. Since computer-based research and writing have changed how even many experienced academics write papers, this question could be replaced before next year's survey, e.g., Do students write outlines? When they draft a paragraph, do they read and revise it? When they finish a paper, do they read it all the way through and make final revisions?

9c) Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in.

154 responses

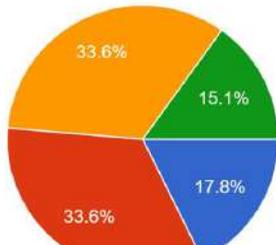


Interactions Relating to Coursework

Reported frequency of working with classmates has declined compared to last year, potentially due to the impacts of the pandemic. The response options relating to discussing ideas from coursework are difficult to interpret.

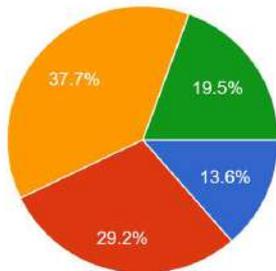
9g) Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments.

152 responses



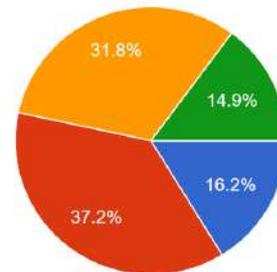
9f) Worked with other students on a group project.

154 responses



9p) Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

148 responses

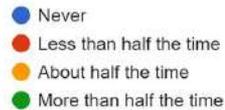
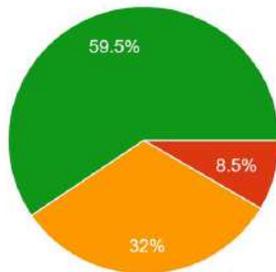


- Never
- Less than half the time
- About half the time
- More than half the time

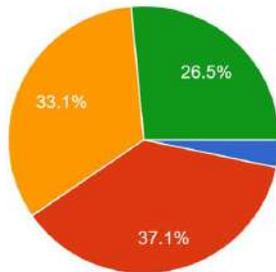
Faculty Interaction -- Coursework

Students and faculty do communicate. Students seem to want feedback more quickly than it often arrives. Future surveys could define “prompt.”

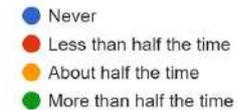
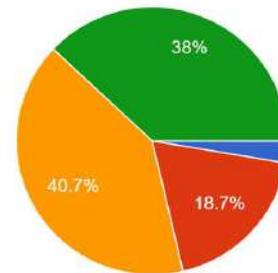
9i) Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor.
153 responses



9j) Discussed grades or an assignment with an instructor.
151 responses



9m) Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors.
150 responses

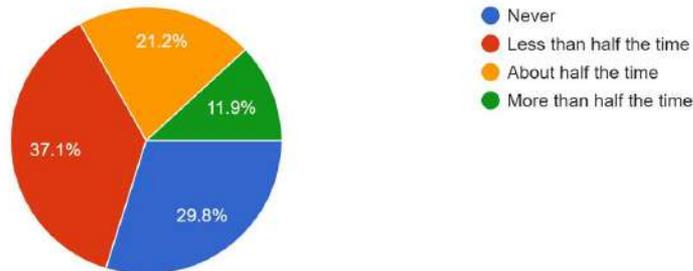


Faculty Interaction -- Other

Student-faculty interaction beyond class-specific issues is less common, and may have declined slightly. The reply options should be more clear next time.

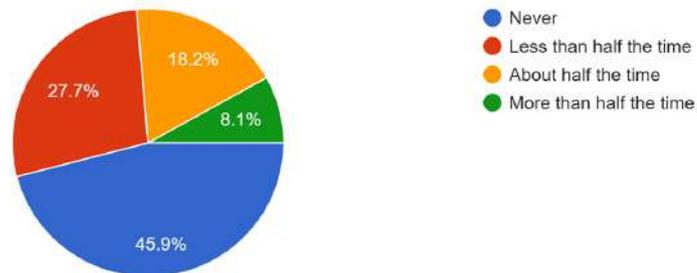
9i) Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class.

151 responses



9o) Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework.

148 responses

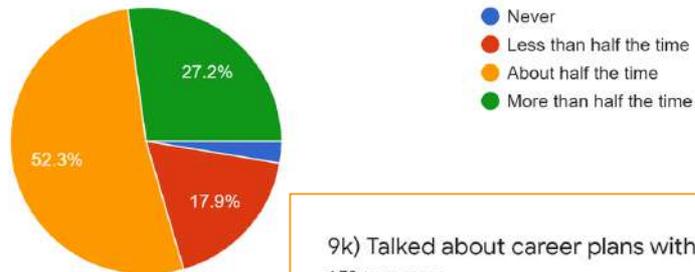


Faculty Interaction -- Motivational

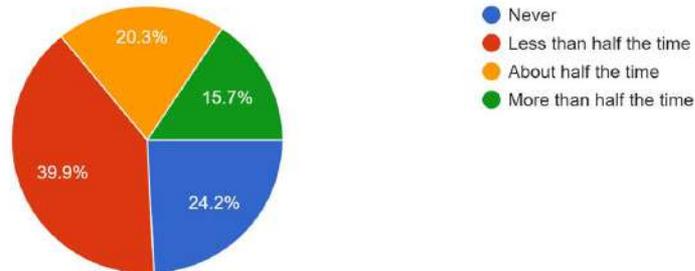
Nearly 80% of respondents report working harder than they thought they could to meet the bar set by the instructor half of the time or more.

Discussing career plans, another type of challenge, is much less common.

9n) Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.
151 responses



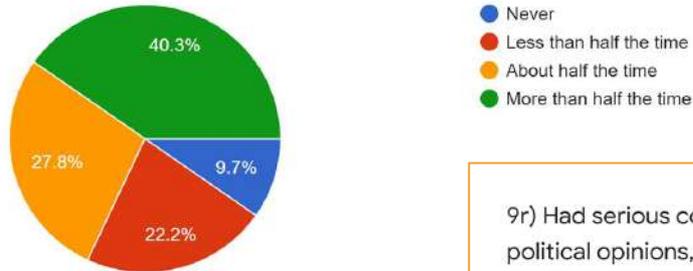
9k) Talked about career plans with an instructor or advisor.
153 responses



Interaction with Diverse People

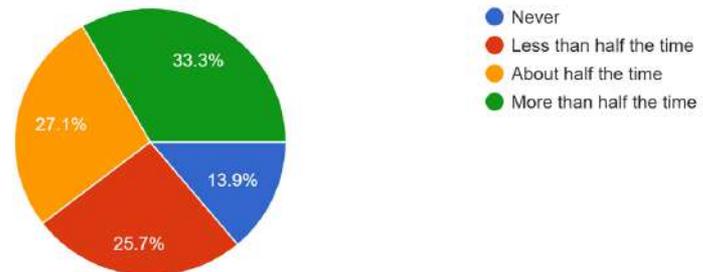
Students report having serious conversations with people who differ from them in significant ways, including race/ethnicity and views/values. This is notable given how much has been written recently about “bubbles,” self-censorship, etc. in American life and college campuses in particular.

9q) Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity other than your own.
144 responses



9r) Had serious conversations with people who differ from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values.

144 responses



Learning Strategies

No single learning strategy is reported to dominate a USK education, and responses were similar across all six strategies. A cursory analysis showed that students with a self-reported GPA >3.0 reported using all the strategies more frequently than students with lower self-reported GPAs.

10. During the current term, how much of the time would you say you have engaged in the following activities related to your coursework at the University of Saint Katherine?	>1/2 the time	About 1/2 the time	<1/2 the time
10a) Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form.	32%	43%	26%
10b) Analyzing basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory.	39%	44%	17%
10c) Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences in new ways.	31%	50%	18%
10d) Making judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments, or methods.	38%	45%	17%
10e) Applying theories or concepts to practice problems or in new situations.	37%	45%	19%
10f) Using information you have read or heard to perform a new skill.	39%	39%	23%

ELEMENTS OF SUPPORT

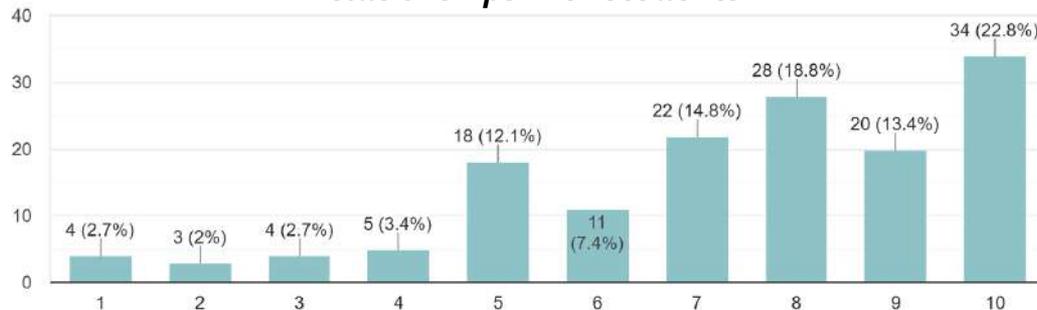
Relationships

55% of students report strongly positive relationships with other students (a score of at least 8/10), a small decrease from last year. 47% report strongly positive relationships with faculty members, a marked and concerning decrease from last year. Dependence on online classes probably explains it.

13. 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...ts this term at the University of Saint Katherine.

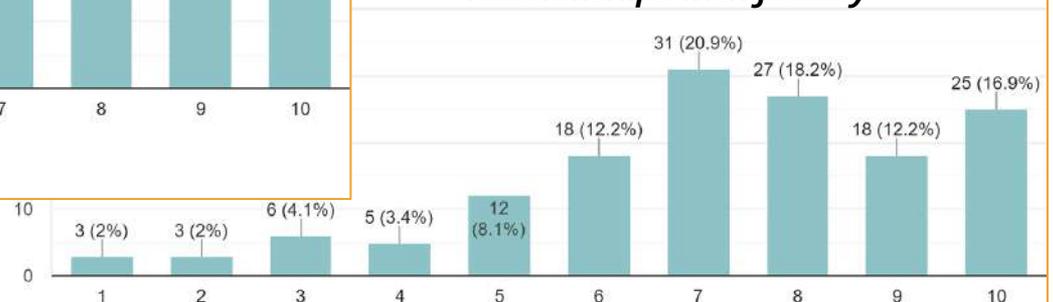
149 responses

relationships with students



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...rs this term at the University of Saint Katherine.

relationships with faculty

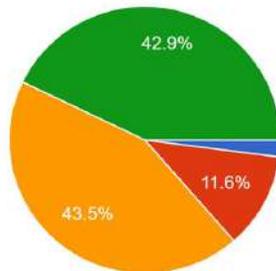


Support from USK -- Academics

All questions begin, "How much does USK support the following?" The responses are about as strong or stronger than last year.

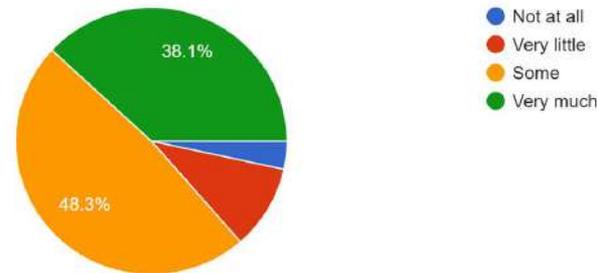
12a) Encouraging you to spend significant amounts of time studying.

147 responses



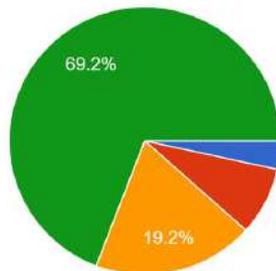
12b) Providing the support you need to help you succeed at this University.

147 responses



12f) Using computers in academic work.

146 responses

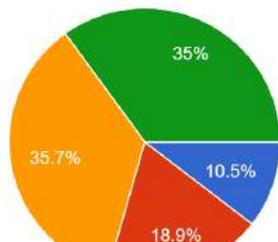


Support from USK -- Other

Support for social life and non-USK responsibilities is considered somewhat less robust than for academics, and declined from last year. To say it has been an atypical year is an understatement.

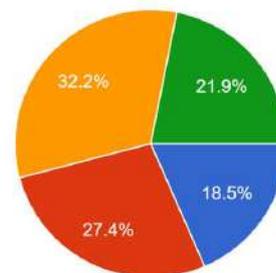
12c) Encouraging contacts among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds

143 responses



12d) Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)

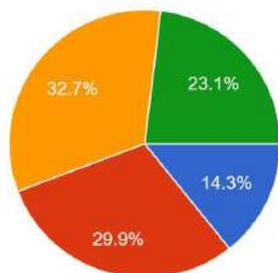
146 responses



● Not at all
● Very little
● Some
● Very much

12e) Providing the support you need to thrive socially.

147 responses



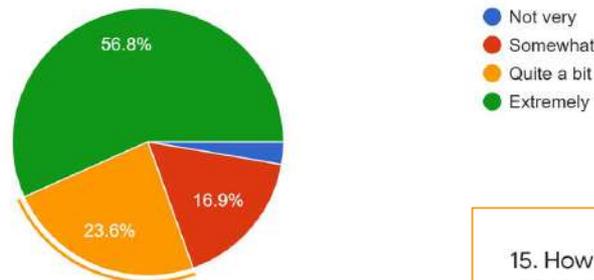
● Not at all
● Very little
● Some
● Very much

Support for Attending USK

57% of students report that their family is “extremely” supportive of them attending USK. 46% report the same level of support from their friends. Both figures are higher than last year.

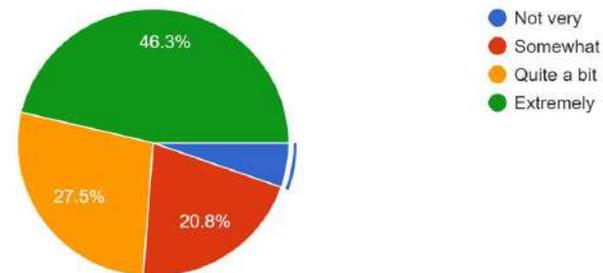
16. How supportive is your immediate family of your attending this University?

148 responses



15. How supportive are your friends of your attending this University?

149 responses



SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Activities

The majority of respondents report engaging in self-reflection and/or prayer at least weekly. Meditation is less common, and reading religious texts even less so.

23. How often do you engage in the following activities?	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	< Monthly	Not at All
23a) Self-reflection	48%	31%	11%	9%	2%
23b) Prayer	32%	24%	15%	13%	15%
23c) Meditation	11%	21%	14%	18%	36%
23d) Reading sacred texts	7%	14%	11%	28%	40%
23e) Other reading on religion/spirituality	9%	20%	12%	22%	38%

Goals and Purposes -- Priorities

Respondent priorities include attaining wisdom, with 94% listing it as essential or very important. Least prioritized among the eight goals listed was seeking to follow religious teachings in everyday life.

20. Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following:	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
20a) Reducing pain and suffering in the world	43%	45%	11%	1%
20b) Attaining inner harmony	42%	40%	14%	3%
20c) Attaining wisdom	49%	45%	6%	0%
20d) Seeking out opportunities to help me grow spiritually	44%	26%	26%	4%
20e) Seeking beauty in my life.	45%	35%	20%	1%
20f) Becoming a more loving person	54%	32%	12%	1%
20g) Seeking to follow religious teachings in my everyday life	28%	24%	32%	16%
20h) Improving the human condition	49%	37%	14%	1%

Goals and Purposes -- Prayer

Over 80% of respondents report that they pray. They give many reasons, most often to pray for loved ones.

21. Do you pray?	Percent	22. If you answered yes or sometimes, to what extent do the following describe why do you pray?	Frequently	Occasionally	Not at All
Yes	42%	22a) For help in solving problems	38%	53%	9%
Sometimes	42%	22b) To be in communion with God	45%	43%	12%
No	17%	22c) To express gratitude	53%	38%	9%
		22d) For emotional strength	52%	38%	10%
		22e) For forgiveness	43%	46%	12%
		22f) To relieve the suffering of others	48%	43%	9%
		22g) For loved ones	63%	30%	7%
		22h) For wisdom	40%	48%	12%
		22i) To praise God	49%	36%	15%

Goals and Purposes -- Spiritual

Spiritual goals vary but above all, they seek to become better people.

24. To what extent are the following your ultimate spiritual goals?	6 Very Much	5	4	3	2	1 Not at All
24a) To discover who I really am	41%	26%	16%	9%	5%	4%
24b) To follow God's plan for me	40%	16%	15%	13%	5%	11%
24c) To become a better person	64%	20%	10%	6%	0%	1%
24d) To know my purpose in life	58%	19%	11%	8%	2%	2%
24e) To make the world a better place	52%	23%	15%	8%	1%	1%
24f) To know God	43%	18%	18%	7%	6%	9%

FREE-TEXT RESPONSES

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

84 responses (slide 1/4)

- Personally, I learn better in-person, so I am willing to do anything that is necessary for the hybrid proposed schedule to workout for this next semester. That is the only support that I feel I could use from the university.
- Maybe involve more class interaction or discussions rather than homework. I feel that it is hard over zoom, but assigning homework can be too easy and I think we get more out when we orally use our findings that we prepared coming in to the class beforehand!
- Allow a few late passes on assignments especially for working student athletes.
- Better communicate with students.
- Make professors answer their emails
- Purchase the math lab or chem lab software for us. It's an expense that many students can't afford right now.
- Having zoom for classes such as physics as opposed to asynchronous, faster responses from some professors, tutors that can help throughout the whole class
- I'm not sure all my teachers have been supportive
- 1) Get rid of the No Late Work Policy to allow students with technical issues, hectic schedules, and other non-school related issues to achieve success during these stressful times. 2) We need available tutors in every class
- N/A, the negatives of my experience right now are due to COVID
- more engagement from online instructors.
- - professors being reachable
- Having more social events for students to interact or creating pages where different grade levels can interact
- Saint Katherine can provide better instructions for assignments because a lot of the times I forget what they say on zoom and I need it written down.
- I commute for about 2 hours to USK, and it would be extremely helpful to offer more classes to be taken online.
- More studying resources such as an English center of someone checking essays and better instruction of signing up for tutoring.
- Allow us to text chat privately in zoom, apply God more
- Some of the teachers do not understand technology and zoom very well. Maybe assigning a TA or giving them training on how to properly use Populi, zoom, and connect would defiantly help.
- Allow for more group related activities and help integrate study groups with students.
- More staff

18. Please share one to three things that the University of Saint Katherine can do to better support your learning experience. *84 responses (slide 2/4)*

- improve instructors, less assignments
- get rid of the no late work policy being counted as a 0, possibly implement points being taken off for late work like most other colleges (at least while classes are online) because it is unfair times for everyone and I have an F and have never had one before and it makes me want to cry every time I check my grades <3
- makes classes easier since we are online. Everyone is struggling. Teachers and students. As much online classes as we are in we are having such a hard time. Get rid of late policy. Less work for students.
- quicker responses from some professors.
- 1. Get better instructors that are willing to help students and can teach. 2. Get rid of the "late work" policy. It's COVID! The entire world is using internet classes! ZOOM DOESNT ALWAYS WORK, WIFI'S SHUT DOWN 3. Administration people need to work on being polite, understanding and CLEAR about financial issues
- Encourage interaction between the entire student population, and prioritize academics above all else.
- updated grades, more options for courses online, better overlapping schedules w professors
- 1. Make Physics have an actual zoom time slot. Asynchronous does not work
- Offer more scholarship opportunities for Masters Program, offer better research platforms for MAOL because Ebsco Host sucks, and have clearer course expectations
- Its perfect
- Less tests, less homework, and less dead lines.
- Push for critical thinking/encourage student to use or develop intuition
- Provide more one on one time with professor and student
- focus more on individual work than group work
- More group works
- Having better communication between professors and students.
- I have no complaints
- more time
- More resources
- Study guides
- Quite frankly I feel as though I cannot speak on this since I have only attended this school when Covid regulations were in action.
- Give us more time on quizzes and tests.
- More Availability with professors s
- Hire better professors
- Give us a break! Every professor is hitting us with constant homework during a pandemic when we are really focusing on how to survive right now.

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

84 responses (slide 3/4)

- I think if we had scheduled individual meetings with professor once a month or so that would certainly help everyone out.
- More resources on every subject.
- The populi app doesn't include assignments reminder function whereas I used canvas app in previous school which reminded me all my assignments when it's due.
- Make curriculum less about self teaching and implement practicality into practices to show purpose of study in field. Doing homework barely makes a difference in grading and incentivizes less so the importance of actually practicing the material and more so about focuses solely on quizzes. Outline of classes are robotic on zoom, Chapter 1 hw, chapter 1 quiz, week 2, chapter 2 hw, chapter 2 quiz, and so on. Make participation more important on zoom.
- Honestly you guys are great. Love the free coffee !
- Offer more business professors
- Have the professors be a little more involved with students to receive help and more advice on working after college and opportunities.
- Hire professor that actually want to teach. They cancel have the class. And doesn't even care to teach.... we're not learning. We're just meeting deadlines... and that's sad... This semester was horrible and you guys handled horrible as well. This is the first year I didn't feel like the school had the best interest for the students at all. Your Christian faith was not shown this semester at all.
- Giving more time to upload work, do more integration activities
- Bringing in new professors so that the students aren't have the same one five times. It is nice to learn differently from different professors.
- Grow the campus size so we don't have an ice machine in a class
- More time
- Nothing
- Be connected, care more, more resources

18. Please share one to three things that the University of Saint Katherine can do to better support your learning experience. *84 responses (slide 4/4)*

- 1. Each instructor should give clearer explanations of what they expect in every assignment not always referring to the syllabus which is so generic, and can we spend more time on subjects we move on too quickly.
- 2. Give students a study guide to allow students to study what will be on the test so we can perform much better. I only have two instructors who has done that and I appreciate those instructors,
- 3. Give more time on reading assignments. When you are carrying 12 or more hours and have multiple reading assignments from every class due at the same time is impossible on top of studying for tests or having written assignments to complete has made this learning experience here awful.
- nothing
- More courses outside the direct framework for a degree
- Everything is good. COVID made it difficult for USK to share in person support
- I think having the professors actually answer questions when a student emails them. I asked one of my professors but she just told me to look at my notes even though I did.
- Professors being up to date on assignments and responding in a timely manner
- Giving us more time to understand things in class because some times they gave us the material too fast
- Better communication
- Get rid of requiring chemistry for psychology majors. Get rid of language requirements for bilingual students. (Absurd)
- With online classes, not everything need to be to do assignment or HW , but to truly understand the topics.
- More office hours
- Stay in contact with students, Provide more resources Implement debates in classes
- WiFi on campus
- Help students with study habits
- on campus
- Not be online

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

80 responses (slide 1/3)

- small classes, good instructors, many possibilities in taking different classes
- The teachers that I have had are extremely involved in the learning experience and prompting us as students to discover our own styles of writing and comprehension. I am very grateful for the teachers. My advisor has also been very helpful with scheduling new classes and helping me continue to stick to the teachers I like while staying on track to graduate.
- Assigning work or readings before coming in to class really helps set the tone and prepares the class so we are along the same page.
- Supporting staff.
- helping students feel that they have resources and that they are welcomed
- Professors are doing a great job of doing their best to teach the class as if it were in person and coaches/other are doing a lot to keep us playing our sport safely
- The professors have always been very helpful and supportive especially Mrs. Lee
- Offering help
- Great communication with professors and students even with the whole online classes
- N/A, the negatives of my experience right now are due to COVID
- Instructors communicating through emails.
- - providing outside resources for help
- Providing educational help such as tutoring
- Saint Katherine reaches out to me to help me on any missing assignments to keep me on track.
- Communication with professors despite the distance learning, has been very successful and helpful.
- supporting for student needs
- most emails have been met promptly
- I love how encouraging the teachers are and how some of them pray before class starts. It is a nice reminder of our bigger purpose.
- Allowing me to challenge myself and work on my own.
- More staff
- none
- professors are very organized, student newsletters and emails from faculty are still helping me to feel involved

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

80 responses (slide 2/3)

- some professors are very on top of responding quickly
- Mr. Massis and Jessica are the only positive things about the school academic wise
- USK is constantly sending out emails and newsletters with very helpful information for the students such as tutoring and counseling.
- Managing classes to work with local government protocol.
- Two of my professors are good at talking and working with me
- utilizing zoom,
- 1. Massis is a great advisor for internship. Only reason I'm still in school
- Offering a masters program, Dr Getman is supportive.. honestly this is hard to answer.. and that's sad.
- Online classes
- Time for late work, reviewing, practice worksheet for exams.
- Giving us the best possible situation
- Staying consistent in lessons and overall teaching material well
- instructors not taking late work
- Interacting with students
- Providing support via tutoring.
- Being there if I need questions, zoom meetings outside of class, study hall
- Helping and caring
- Teachers are helpful
- Class participation
- Daniel Stange is doing a great job of making study hall mandatory which is not only keeping myself of track, but my teammates as well.
- Holding me accountable to do my work and study material
- Trying to achieve better standards through asking students
- keeping sports in mind when scheduling events
- They have tutoring
- They have made it very easy to communicate with staff with issues.
- Teachers offer extra credit or other opportunities for tutoring if I am struggling.
- Ordinary experience.

19. Please share one to three things that the University of Saint Katherine is doing well to support your learning experience. *80 responses (slide 3/3)*

- Everything ! I mean that.
- Enrolling me into the right classes to graduate next year.
- They faculty is creating interesting lessons
- N/a
- Nothing. Classes are horrible. You guys could've handled it better
- Personalized attention, tutoring
- plenty
- Offering ample services such as tutoring
- Professors are easy to contact
- Clear assignments
- Communication, replying to emails, having zoom meetings
- There are great instructors who appear caring and want to see each student succeed, Great student body who are supportive and most of all the instructors and staff has made this unusual learning environment great and working online for me has been wonderful.
- nothing
- Zoom classes
- Being patient about this pandemic and remaining open
- The support of coaches to me is making me do well in school.
- Instructors are always asking how we are doing in and out of classes
- Offering time in and outside of class for questions about homework or classes in general.
- The teaching staff does an incredible job at being supportive of academic experience.
- Offering different ways to help, like tutors.
- reminder emails
- Share opinions Ask questions
- Communication between the counselors and professors to the students is excellent.
- Being patient and understanding
- Most professors are available to answer questions
- I believe Usk is doing the best they can
- professors know how difficult online learning can be
- Teachers are always available

25. If we cut back parts of this survey next year, what new topics do you think we ought to add, to better understand and serve students? *51 responses (slide 1/2)*

- How many hours do you work a week?
- Maybe add questions about students mental health
- Ask if people have grown in spirituality due to USK attendance.
- NA
- how sports effect are study and school time
- The diversity of the school.
- asking more about online schooling and how it may be effecting students
- More resources for student social life
- What areas do students need help more academically?
- 24g is a confusing question(double negative) atleast simplify that one.
- Our goals in life.
- Personal opinion of religion
- Some ideas on activities that can be done at th school
- no change
- How students are feeling and what they think of themselves.
- giving the benefit of the doubt about learning on zoom
- 1. Ask them what's going on in their lives. People's lives are being thrown upside down and no one knows. Ask them if they feel stressed, anxiety, overwhelmed, sad, mad, hungry...etc. Less on religion and more on what students are having to deal with every single day
- Mental is important
- Student athlete questions
- New topics on gender.
- mental health
- Not sure
- I don't know off the top of my head
- not sure
- How the students feel about professors
- Maybe you could ask about the workload and see how much we have to do for all of our classes.
- I don't have any
- Relationships with staff and advisors
- I feel that it covers important stuff

25. If we cut back parts of this survey next year, what new topics do you think we ought to add, to better understand and serve students?
51 responses (slide 2/2)

- this was very long
- Whether the schedule is attainable because tuition isn't free a lot of people have to work and do their sport
- No
- How do you feel with outside problems affecting yourself at USK
- Questions on our mental health. We have things going on in our personal lives and bombarded with our classes, it would be nice if USK staff asked about our mental state.
- nothing
- Time management with sports
- Athletics questions as well.
- Their mental state, and how it's affecting them.
- Rating professors and commenting on what we think they can do better
- Questions about professor performance
- none
- Personal feelings and mental health consideration
- Everything was perfect.
- Mental health of student
- I thought the survey was the proper length.