

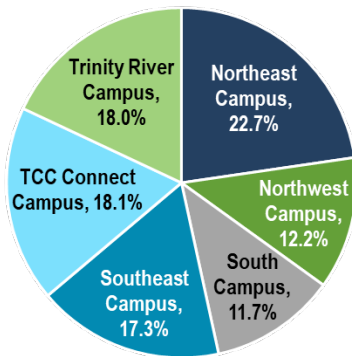
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2021FL STUDENTS' PREFERENCES ON THE SCHEDULE

In the on-going effort towards a student-centered schedule, the Scheduling and Facilities Utilization (SFU) Panel administered its standard operational survey to all 2021FL students to gain further insights about students' preferences regarding the schedule. Results from that survey are presented in this report.

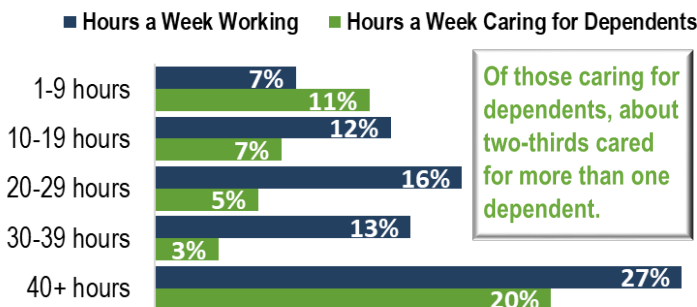
Respondent Demographics

Out of the approximately 42,000 students who received the survey, about 2,200 (≈ 5%) responded.*

- About **43%** full-time
- About **42%** FTIC
- About **65%** have completed more than 15 hours, and about **48%** have completed more than 30 hours



About one in four reported no hours working, and about one in two reported no hours caring for dependents.



A small percentage reported a lack of resources.



About **95%** had reliable transportation to campus



About **98%** had a reliable device (computer, laptop, tablet, etc.)



About **98%** had reliable internet connection outside of TCC

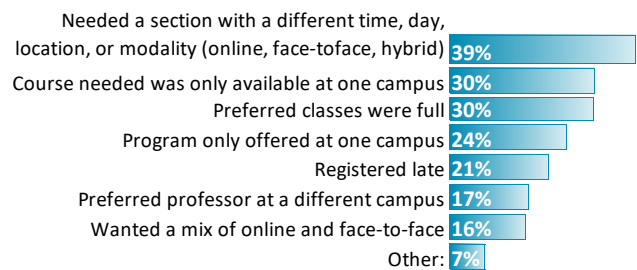
↑ Of those who stated they did not have reliable transportation, about 58% were not aware of TCC's Easy Ride program for free bus transportation.

Multiple Campuses

About **22%** of respondents indicated taking classes on **multiple campuses**.



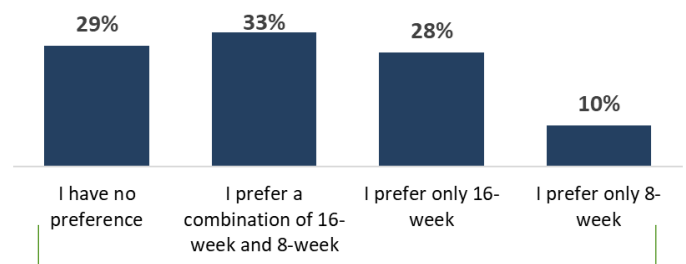
Those attending multiple campuses selected "Needing a section with a different time, day, location, or modality" as the top reason (39%).**



Other (N = 33): Roughly one-third of those who provided "Other" comments spoke to modality.

Term Length

About one in three students preferred a combination of 16-week and 8-week courses.



About 32% of part-time respondents stated they would attend full-time if an 8-week schedule were available.

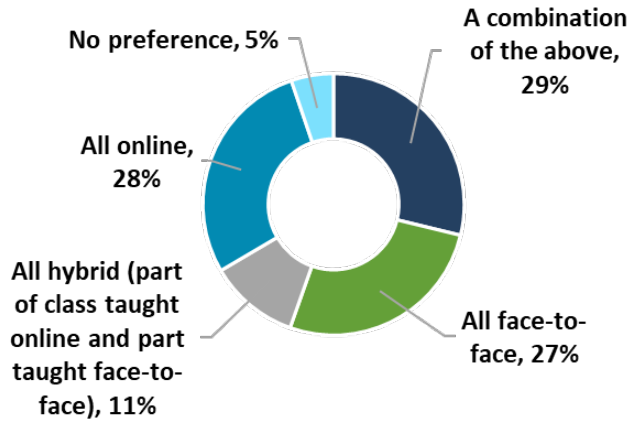
- Respondents who worked 40 or more hours per week, those who cared for dependents 30 to 39 hours per week, and those who care for dependents 40 or more hours per week were more likely to prefer a combination of 16-week and 8-week with 39%, 48%, and 39% selecting that preference, respectively.

* Not all respondents answered every question; the analysis of each question is based on the total number of students who responded to that question.

** Respondents could select more than one reason for attending multiple campuses.

Modality

About 28% of respondents indicated a preference for all online while about 27% indicated a preference for all face-to-face courses.

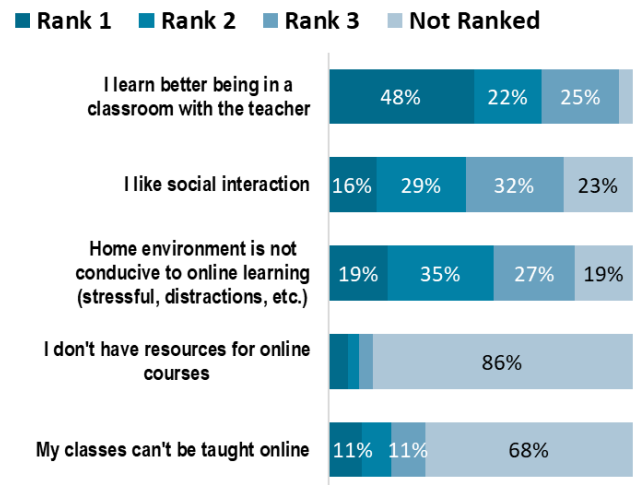


About 62% reported that their choice was related to the subject of the course.

- Respondents who were not FTIC were 1.5 times more likely to choose all online than respondents who were FTIC.
- Respondents who completed more than 45 hours were 1.7 times more likely to choose all online than respondents who had not completed any hours.
- Respondents who worked 40 or more hours per week were 2.1 times more likely to choose all online than respondents who did not work/were solely students.
- Respondents who cared for dependents 40 or more hours per week were 1.6 times more likely to choose all online than respondents who did not care for dependents.
- Respondents who had reliable transportation were 1.5 times more likely to choose all online than respondents without reliable transportation.
- Respondents who had a reliable device (computer, laptop, tablet, etc.) were 1.1 times more likely to choose all online than respondents without a reliable device.
- Respondents who had a reliable internet connection outside of TCC's campuses were 1.9 times more likely to choose all online than respondents without a reliable connection.

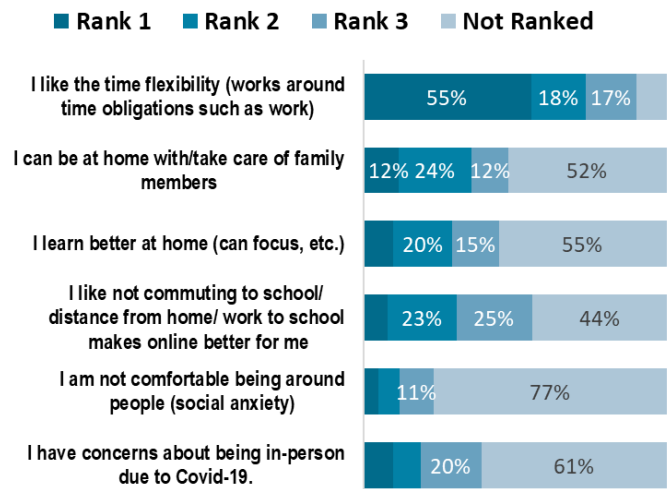
Choosing Face-to-Face

For students who preferred all face-to-face, "I learn better being in a classroom with the teacher", was the highest ranked choice with 96% ranking it among their top three reasons and 48% ranking it their top reason.



Choosing Online

For students who preferred all online, "I like the time flexibility (works around time obligations such as work)", was the highest ranked choice with 90% ranking it among their top three reasons and 55% ranking it their top reason.



Face-to-Face/Hybrid

Time of Day

Respondents who selected “all face-to-face” or “all hybrid” rated “Mornings” highest among the time choices with about 39% ranking it number 1. “Afternoons” was rated second highest, but it tended to be ranked 2 or 3 among the choices.

Rank	1	2	3	4	5
Early mornings (6:30 AM - 7:59 AM)	21%	11%	17%	15%	36%
Mornings (8:00 AM - 11:59 AM)	39%	23%	7%	19%	11%
Afternoons (12:00 PM - 4:59 PM)	17%	33%	28%	10%	12%
Early evenings (5:00 PM - 5:59 PM)	6%	20%	35%	34%	5%
Evenings (6:00 PM - 8:59 PM)	16%	12%	12%	22%	37%



Of those with a preference for all face-to-face or all hybrid, about one in four respondents stated that they were not able to select their preferred time this past semester.

Of these respondents (N ≈ 150):

40% - No sections with my preferred time were offered

60% - Sections with my preferred time were full

The time-of-day choices for respondents who worked 40 or more hours per week and selected all face-to-face or all hybrid (N ≈ 120) were rated more evenly than compared to all respondents. The percentage who ranked “early evenings” as 1 or 2 (41%) and the percentage who ranked “evenings” as 1 or 2 (43%) increased in this subgroup.

The overall rating pattern for time-of-day preferences for respondents who cared for dependents 40 or more hours per week and selected all face-to-face or all hybrid (N ≈ 90) was similar to that of all respondents. “Mornings” was ranked number 1 by 45% of this subgroup.

Day of Week

Among respondents who selected “all face-to-face” or “all hybrid”, about two-thirds ranked “Monday and Wednesday” and “Tuesday and Thursday” as their top two choices.

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monday and Wednesday	55%	17%	2%	1%	2%	6%	17%
Tuesday and Thursday	19%	53%	2%	2%	1%	15%	7%
Friday only	5%	4%	54%	10%	19%	4%	3%
Saturday only	3%	7%	7%	48%	15%	13%	7%
Sunday only	6%	5%	13%	8%	34%	14%	21%
Friday and Saturday	2%	9%	14%	19%	19%	32%	4%
Saturday and Sunday	10%	4%	8%	12%	11%	15%	41%



Of those with a preference for all face-to-face or all hybrid, about 20% of respondents stated that they were not able to select their preferred day of week this past semester.

Of these respondents (N ≈ 120):

48% - No sections with my preferred day of week were offered

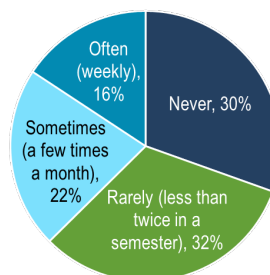
52% - Sections with my preferred day of week were full

The overall rating pattern for day-of-week preferences for respondents who worked 40 or more hours per week and selected all face-to-face or all hybrid (N ≈ 120) was similar to that of all respondents, but there was a slight shift away from Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday.

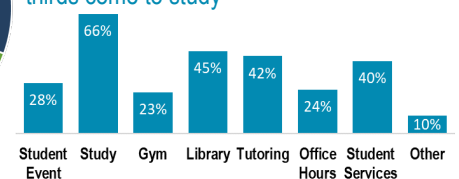
The overall rating pattern for day-of-week preferences for respondents who cared for dependents 40 or more hours per week and selected all face-to-face or all hybrid (N ≈ 90) was similar to that of all respondents, but there was a slight shift towards Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday.

Coming to Campus on a Day Without Classes

About 37% of respondents who selected “all face-to-face” or “all hybrid” indicated that they would come to a TCC campus or center on a day that they did not have class “sometimes” or “often”.



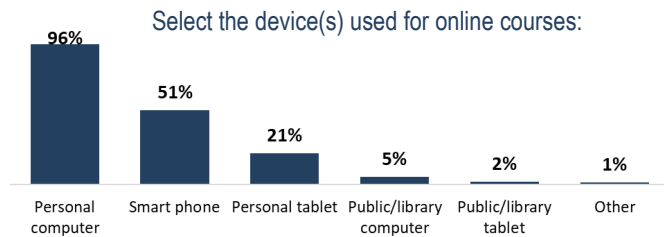
Of those with a preference for all face-to-face or all hybrid who selected sometimes or often for how often they come to campus when they do not have class (N ≈ 225), two thirds come to study



Online

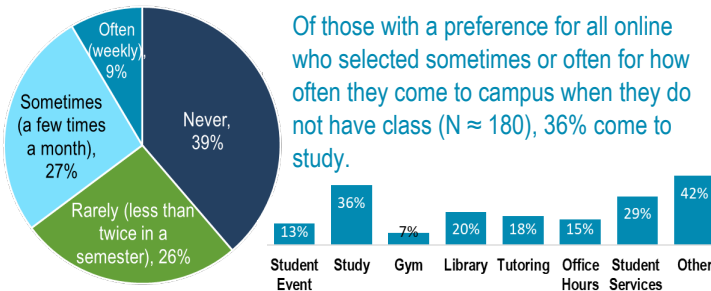
Device Used

Overwhelmingly, respondents who selected “all online” indicated using a personal computer with 97% selecting this device used for online classes and 92% selecting it as their primary device. However, about one in two indicated using their smart phone as a device and about one in five indicated using a personal tablet as a device.



Coming to Campus on a Day Without Classes

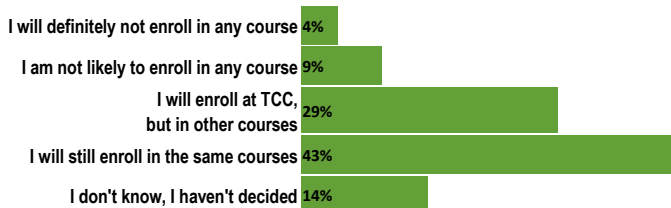
About 35% of respondents who selected “all online” indicated that they would come to a TCC campus or center on a day that they did not have class “sometimes” or “often”.



Other (N=75): responses included coming for a class that’s not online (about 90%) and working at TCC (about 5%)

Enrollment at TCC

If a student’s preferred method of teaching was not offered, about 13% reported that they would definitely not or not likely enroll in any course, and 29% reported that they would enroll at TCC in other courses taught in their preferred method.



Serving Students Better

Students concluded the survey by providing additional comments related to the survey questions (N ≈ 465). One clear theme emerged – **modality**.

Modality

Roughly 40% commented on online, face-to-face, or hybrid as course options. Of these comments, there were about two comments advocating for online courses for every one comment advocating face-to-face course, hybrid options, or flexibility for modality in general. Some students who wanted flexibility specifically mentioned that their modality choice was dependent on subject.

Roughly 10% of comments were related to options for the time of course, campus locations, or term length. Note that almost one-third of comments were neutral with no additional context (“No”, “N/A”, etc.).

Conclusion

Converging with past research, results suggested that students continue to expect a schedule with a wide variety of modality choices that appropriately align with demand. Those with a preference for online indicated a desire for flexibility which seemed to be related to additional obligations such as work or caring for dependents. While there seems to be a growing preference for online or hybrid options, there is still a sizable group who want face-to-face options with traditional options for day of week (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) and time of day (mornings and afternoons) having a higher preference.

New Considerations:

Consider subject in the distribution of online vs face-to-face

With over 60% of respondents reporting that their modality choice was related to the subject of the course and some reiterating this in the additional comments, further research is needed to better determine which subject areas have a higher demand for online sections and which ones have a higher demand for face-to-face.

Determine the subpopulation sizes for schedule

Research suggests students may fit into one of three broad categories in terms of scheduling needs – all online, non-traditional face-to-face (want evening/weekend options), and traditional face-to-face (want M/W or T/Th during the day). Gauging these group sizes and number of course enrollments may help better align the course schedule with student demand.