



The Importance of Mentors and Peers in the Undergraduate Experience

Survey of College Graduates

July 30th – July 31st, 2018

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Survey Overview

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of Bachelor degree holders in the United States. The purpose of this survey was to study the extent of mentor and peer relationships during ungraduated education and the impact of those relationships on educational outcomes.

This survey was conducted in collaboration with the [Center for Engaged Learning](#) at Elon University. The Center for Engaged Learning brings together international leaders in higher education to develop and synthesize rigorous research on central questions about student learning.

For an overview and analysis of key findings of this survey, please see the following Creative Commons article in the Conversation. [“Mentors play critical role in quality of college experience, new poll suggests” https://theconversation.com/mentors-play-critical-role-in-quality-of-college-experience-new-poll-suggests-101861](https://theconversation.com/mentors-play-critical-role-in-quality-of-college-experience-new-poll-suggests-101861)

The project is one part of the research for a book by Peter Felten, Executive Director of the Center for Engaged Learning, and [Leo Lambert](#), President Emeritus, at Elon University. The working title of this new volume is *Mentors in College: Focusing on the Power of Relationships in Undergraduate Education*. The book is scheduled to be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in early 2020.



Topline Results

[Question order as presented]

Overall intro

This is a voluntary and anonymous survey from the Elon University Poll.

We are hoping to understand what aspects of the college experience matter most for student learning. In particular, we are interested in learning about social relationships and college success.

Are you 18 or older and willing to participate in this survey?

[If no – terminate]

Screener

What is the highest level of education which you have completed?

Bachelor's Only	2488.....	62%
Graduate Degree	1518.....	38%
N=	4006.....	100%

[Survey terminated if less than Bachelor’s degree]

Mentor Questionnaire

Faculty Staff Mentor Count

Think about all the people you got to know worked at your college when you were an undergraduate student. This could include professors, office staff, people who worked in student life, groundskeepers, Deans and many others.

About how many people were particularly influential in your college experience?

[Numeric Entry]

Zero	137.....	7%
1 to 2	508.....	26%
3 to 6	847.....	43%
7 to 10	237.....	12%
More than 10	230.....	12%
N=	1959.....	100%

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Facstaff initials

Thinking of those people who worked at your college who made a positive impact on your life, who would you say made the biggest impact?

Enter that person's initials below:

Facstaff Role

What role did [Initials] have at your college?

Faculty1215..... 67%
(Someone who is primarily responsible for teaching classes)

Student Life.....157..... 9%
(Someone whose primary role is to work with students in non-class activities in residence halls, student groups, sports, etc.)

Administrator104..... 6%
(Someone like a provost or vice president whose primary job is to manage some aspect of the college)

Professional staff215..... 12%
(Someone who works in other roles at the college such as an advisor, a librarian, a secretary, a custodian, etc.)

Other128..... 7%
N=1818..... 100%

Facstaff overall

Thinking about your overall college experience, how important was your relationship with [initial]?

Extremely important631..... 35%
Very important779..... 43%
Moderately important.....347..... 19%
Slightly important49..... 3%
Not at all important9..... 1%
N=1815..... 100%

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Facstaff Agree / Disagree

{initials} was a mentor to me.

Agree.....	1514.....	84%
Disagree	296.....	16%
N=	1810.....	100%

{initials} inspired me.

Agree.....	1724.....	95%
Disagree	82.....	5%
N=	1806.....	100%

Facstaff Demographics

What race was [Initials]:

White.....	1412.....	78%
Black	133.....	7%
Hispanic	74.....	4%
Asian	144.....	8%
Other	51.....	3%
N=	1814.....	100%

What gender was [Initials]:

Male	1142.....	63%
Female.....	670.....	37%
Other	3.....	0%
N=	1816.....	100%

How old was [Initials] when you were in college:

Under 40.....	539.....	30%
40 to 60	1135.....	63%
Over 60.....	142.....	8%
N=	1816.....	100%

Facstaff origin

How did you get to know [initial]?



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Within a class setting	719.....	40%
As part of a club [not a Greek Organization].	44.....	2%
As part of a Greek Organization	13.....	1%
As my advisor or tutor	379.....	21%
In a campus job setting	131.....	7%
Through a sports team.....	52.....	3%
In a residential setting	83.....	5%
While conducting undergraduate research.....	105.....	6%
While doing community service	43.....	2%
During a study abroad experience.....	29.....	2%
As part of an internship experience	65.....	4%
Other	154.....	9%
N=	1816.....	100%

Intentionality of Relationship

[if agree “was mentor to me”]

Did you intentionally seek out a mentor relationship with [initial] or did it develop on its own?

Intentionally sought out	229.....	15%
Developed on its own.....	1271.....	85%
N=	1500.....	100%

Facstaff origin2

When did you get to know [initial] during your time in college?

First term or first semester	652.....	36%
Second term or second semester	439.....	24%
Middle of time in college.....	529.....	29%
Late in college.....	195.....	11%
N=	1814.....	100%

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Facstaff importance

When you were in college, did [Initial] do anything to help you in these aspects of your life?

Dealing with emotional struggles

A Lot	332.....	23%
Somewhat.....	626.....	43%
Not at All.....	507.....	35%
N=	1465.....	100%

Helping with academic learning

A Lot	1010.....	58%
Somewhat.....	607.....	35%
Not at All.....	134.....	8%
N=	1750.....	100%

Making social connections

A Lot	408.....	26%
Somewhat.....	601.....	38%
Not at All.....	570.....	36%
N=	1578.....	100%

Planning for life after college

A Lot	631.....	38%
Somewhat.....	710.....	43%
Not at All.....	325.....	20%
N=	1665.....	100%

Finding your purpose

A Lot	782.....	46%
Somewhat.....	753.....	44%
Not at All.....	184.....	11%
N=	1719.....	100%

Facstaff Persistence

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Did you stay in touch with [initial] after you graduated?

Yes	992.....	55%
No.....	825.....	45%
N=	1817.....	100%

Facstaff Persistence Benefits

[if yes to above]

Did staying in touch with [initial] help:

- your career after graduation?

Very helpful	426.....	47%
Somewhat helpful	367.....	40%
Not at all helpful	69.....	8%
(Not applicable)	49.....	5%
N=	911.....	100%

- you stay connected to your university?

Very helpful	319.....	35%
Somewhat helpful	383.....	42%
Not at all helpful	129.....	14%
(Not applicable)	78.....	9%
N=	909.....	100%

- you deal with life's challenges after graduation?

Very helpful	341.....	37%
Somewhat helpful	362.....	40%
Not at all helpful	112.....	12%
(Not applicable)	95.....	11%
N=	910.....	100%

Facstaff open-ended

What advice would you give to new college students about making connections with people like [initial]?

Facstaff open-ended2

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What advice would you give to college employees like [initial] about how to best help students like you?

Peer Questionnaire

[Random 1/2 of survey respondents]

Peer Count

Think about all the friends you met while in college who also attended your college.

About how many friends were particularly influential in your college experience?

[Numeric Entry]

Zero	206.....	10%
1 to 2	500.....	24%
3 to 6	862.....	42%
7 to 10	279.....	14%
More than 10	201.....	10%
N=	2047.....	100%

Friend initials

Thinking of those fellow students at your college who made a positive impact on your life, who would you say made the biggest impact?

Enter that person's initials below:

Friend overall

Thinking about your overall college experience, how important was your relationship with [initial]?

Extremely important	838.....	46%
Very important	745.....	41%
Moderately important.....	209.....	11%
Slightly important	36.....	2%
Not at all important	11.....	1%
N=	1838.....	100%

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Friend Agree / Disagree

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree:

{initials} was a mentor to me.

Agree.....	961.....	53%
Disagree	867.....	48%
N=	1828.....	100%

{initials} inspired me.

Agree.....	1581.....	87%
Disagree	245.....	13%
N=	1826.....	100%

Friend demographics

What race was [Initials]?

White.....	1269.....	69%
Black	168.....	9%
Hispanic	131.....	7%
Asian	211.....	12%
Other	60.....	3%
N=	1839.....	100%

What gender was [Initials]?

Male	936.....	51%
Female.....	901.....	49%
Other	2.....	0%
N=	1839.....	100%

When Meet Friend?

Did [initials] start at your college before you, after you, or at the same time?

Before.....	475.....	26%
At Same Time	1170.....	64%



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After192..... 11%
 N=1837..... 100%

Friend origin how

How did you get to know [initial]?

Within a class setting546..... 30%
 As part of a club [not a Greek Organization].78..... 4%
 As part of a Greek Organization86..... 5%
 As my advisor or tutor49..... 3%
 In a campus job setting62..... 3%
 Through a sports team.....84..... 5%
 In a residential setting493..... 27%
 While conducting undergraduate research52..... 3%
 While doing community service54..... 3%
 During a study abroad experience.....36..... 2%
 As part of an internship experience40..... 2%
 Other258..... 14%
 N=1838..... 100%

Friend origin time

When did you get to know [initial] during your time in college?

First term or first semester1110..... 61%
 Second term or second semester335..... 18%
 Middle of time in college297..... 16%
 Late in college89..... 5%
 N=1832..... 100%

Friend Importance

When you were in college, did [Initial] do anything to help you in these aspects of your life?

Dealing with emotional struggles

A Lot765..... 44%
 Somewhat.....775..... 45%
 Not at All.....184..... 11%
 N=1724..... 100%

Helping with academic learning

A Lot538..... 31%
 Somewhat.....841..... 48%
 Not at All.....376..... 21%

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N=1754..... 100%

Making social connections

A Lot861..... 48%
Somewhat.....736..... 41%
Not at All.....191..... 11%
N=1788..... 100%

Planning for life after college

A Lot596..... 34%
Somewhat.....731..... 42%
Not at All.....418..... 24%
N=1745..... 100%

Finding your purpose

A Lot621..... 36%
Somewhat.....812..... 47%
Not at All.....308..... 18%
N=1741..... 100%

Friend persistence

Did you stay in touch with [initial] after you graduated?

Yes1588..... 86%
No.....250..... 14%
N=1838..... 100%

Friend Persistence Benefits

Did staying in touch with [initial] help:

- your career after graduation?

Very helpful	486.....	33%
Somewhat helpful	545.....	37%
Not at all helpful	316.....	22%
(Not applicable)	126.....	9%
N=	1473.....	100%

- you stay connected to your university?

Very helpful	341.....	23%
Somewhat helpful	567.....	39%
Not at all helpful	406.....	28%
(Not applicable)	157.....	11%
N=	1471.....	100%

- you deal with life's challenges after graduation?

Very helpful	659.....	45%
Somewhat helpful	555.....	38%
Not at all helpful	183.....	12%
(Not applicable)	75.....	5%
N=	1472.....	100%

friend open-ended

What advice would you give to new college students about making connections with people like your friend [initial]?

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College Experience Evaluation

[all respondents]

Overall College Experience

Overall, how would you rate your college experience?

Very rewarding	2345.....	59%
Somewhat rewarding	1328.....	33%
Slightly rewarding.....	269.....	7%
Not at all rewarding	60.....	2%
N=	4002.....	100%

Worth it

Considering both the costs and benefits of your college experience, was attending college “worth it” for you personally?

Definitely yes	2608.....	65%
Probably yes.....	1074.....	27%
Probably not	244.....	6%
Definitely not	73.....	2%
N=	3999.....	100

Respondent Demographics

[all respondents]

We have a few final demographic questions about you.

Race

Please select your race or ethnic background:

White.....	2724.....	68%
Black	304.....	8%
Hispanic	276.....	7%
Other	701.....	18%
N=	4006.....	100%

Gender

Please select your gender:

Male	1947.....	49%
Female.....	2059.....	51%
N=	4006.....	100%

Political Party in college

When you were in college, did you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, independent or something else?

Democratic.....	1747.....	44%
Republican	1120.....	28%
Neither.....	1130.....	28%
N=	3997.....	100%

Political Party now

How about now? Do you currently consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, independent or something else?

Democrat.....	1568.....	39%
Republican	1154.....	29%
Independent.....	1050.....	26%
Something else	225.....	6%
N=	3998.....	100%

 **ELON** POLLCollege Year

In what year did you graduate from college?

2009-2018	1005.....	25%
1997-2008	1043.....	26%
1987-1996	666.....	17%
1977-1986	599.....	15%
Before 1977.....	678.....	17%
N=	3991.....	100%

Age

What is your current age?

18-34	1053.....	26%
35-44	797.....	20%
45-64	1423.....	36%
65+	733.....	18%
N=	4006.....	100%

1st Generation

Did at least one of your parents or legal guardians complete college before you?

Yes	1961.....	49%
No.....	2026.....	51%
N=	3987.....	100%

Current Income

What is your annual household income?

Less than \$20,000	236.....	6%
\$20,000 - \$49,999	887.....	22%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	1571.....	39%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	817.....	20%
More than \$150,000	489.....	12%
N=	3999.....	100%

 **ELON** POLLMajor

In which of these broad areas did you major in college?

Social Sciences.....	683.....	17%
Arts or Humanities	773.....	19%
Natural Sciences.....	276.....	7%
Business	932.....	23%
Technical or Applied Sciences.....	525.....	13%
Health Sciences.....	376.....	9%
Other	423.....	11%
N=	3988.....	100%

Debt

About how much did you take out in student loans to finance your undergraduate education?

None.....	1716.....	44%
Less than \$10,000	584.....	15%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	492.....	13%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	629.....	16%
More than \$40,000	450.....	12%
N=	3871.....	100%

Residential

Did you live on campus for at least a year while in college?

Yes	2332.....	59%
No.....	1639.....	41%
N=	3971.....	100%

Type of College [1]

What types of degrees were offered at your undergraduate institution when you attended?

Bachelor Degrees Only	1173.....	29%
Bachelor and Master Degrees	1133.....	28%
Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral Degrees.....	1679.....	42%
N=	3986.....	100%



Type of College [2]

In terms of number of undergraduates, was your college small, medium or large?

Small (<3,000 undergraduate students)	834.....	21%
Medium (3,000-10,000 undergraduate students)	1726.....	43%
Large (>10,000 undergraduate students)	1421.....	36%
N=	3982.....	100%

Type of College [3]

Did you take most of your undergraduate classes online or in-person?

Online.....	246.....	6%
In-person	3737.....	94%
N=	3983.....	100%

Type of College [4]

[if not online]

Did most students live on or near campus at your college or did most commute to campus?

Most lived on or near campus	2679.....	67%
Most commuted to campus	1311.....	33%
N=	3990.....	100%

Cross-Tabulations – Number of Faculty/Staff Relationships

Overall, how would you rate your college experience?

	Very rewarding %	Somewhat rewarding %	Slightly rewarding %	Not at all rewarding %	Total %
<i>Zero</i>	23	45	22	10	100
<i>1 to 2</i>	46	42	10	2	100
<i>3 to 6</i>	63	33	4	0	100
<i>7 to 10</i>	75	23	2	0	100
<i>More than 10</i>	77	18	4	0	100
<i>Total</i>	59	33	7	1	100

Considering both the costs and benefits of your college experience, was attending college “worth it” for you personally?

	<u>Definitely</u> <u>yes</u> %	<u>Probably yes</u> %	<u>Probably not</u> %	<u>Definitely</u> <u>not</u> %	<u>Total</u> %
<i>Zero</i>	48	28	17	8	100
<i>1 to 2</i>	59	32	7	3	100
<i>3 to 6</i>	67	27	6	1	100
<i>7 to 10</i>	72	24	4	0	100
<i>More than 10</i>	75	21	2	2	100
<i>Total</i>	65	27	6	2	100



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Overall, how would you rate your college experience?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very rewarding	3	20	46	15	15	100
Somewhat rewarding	10	33	43	8	7	100
Slightly rewarding	24	40	25	4	8	100
Not at all rewarding	47	37	11	2	3	100

College Worth it?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely yes	5	23	44	13	14	100
Probably yes	7	30	43	11	9	100
Probably not	19	29	39	8	4	100
Definitely not	29	39	23	0	10	100

In what year did you graduate from college?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2009-2018	4	20	45	16	15	100
1997-2008	5	24	46	11	14	100
1987-1996	10	30	40	11	9	100
1977-1986	10	31	39	12	8	100
Before 1977	9	30	43	9	9	100

Did at least one of your parents or legal guardians complete college before you?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	5	23	44	14	14	100
No	9	29	42	11	9	100

Age

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-34	4	19	45	16	17	100
35-44	5	24	46	12	12	100
45-64	9	31	40	11	9	100
65+	9	29	44	9	9	100



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Sex	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	8	26	41	13	12	100
Female	6	26	45	11	12	100
Race	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	8	25	44	13	11	100
Black	2	22	46	15	14	100
Hispanic	4	33	44	5	13	100
Other	7	28	39	12	14	100
Final Degree	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bachelor's Only	8	26	43	11	12	100
Graduate Degree	5	26	43	14	12	100
What types of degrees were offered at your undergraduate institution when you attended?	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bachelor Degrees Only	9	28	42	10	11	100
Bachelor and Master Degrees	6	22	45	15	13	100
Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral Degrees	6	27	43	12	12	100



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In terms of number of undergraduates, was your college small, medium or large?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Small (<3,000 undergraduate students)	6	25	46	13	10	100
Medium (3,000-10,000 undergraduate students)	7	26	42	12	14	100
Large (>10,000 undergraduate students)	8	27	42	12	11	100

Did you take most of your undergraduate classes online or in-person?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online	9	26	32	10	23	100
In-person	7	26	44	12	11	100

Did most students at your college live on campus (or in student housing near campus)?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Most lived on or near campus	6	23	44	14	13	100
Most commuted to campus	9	32	41	9	9	100

Did you live on campus for at least a year while in college?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	6	25	43	14	13	100
No	8	28	44	10	10	100



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Major	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Social Sciences	6	29	47	10	9	100
Arts or Humanities	6	22	44	14	14	100
Natural Sciences	5	21	49	11	14	100
Business	10	25	41	12	12	100
Technical or Applied Sciences	9	28	35	14	14	100
Health Sciences	3	26	50	12	9	100
Other	7	34	39	10	9	100

About how much did you take out in student loans to finance your undergraduate education?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	8	30	42	11	10	100
Less than \$10,000	9	28	42	10	11	100
\$10,000 to \$19,999	9	22	45	12	12	100
\$20,000 to \$40,000	4	20	46	16	14	100
More than \$40,000	3	25	43	13	16	100

What is your annual household income?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than \$20,000	12	20	42	14	12	100
\$20,000 - \$49,999	7	25	43	12	13	100
\$50,000 - \$99,999	6	26	45	11	12	100
\$100,000 - \$149,999	7	28	42	12	11	100
More than \$150,000	9	27	41	13	11	100



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Cross Tabulations – Number of Close Friends

Overall, how would you rate your college experience?

	Very rewarding %	Somewhat rewarding %	Slightly rewarding %	Not at all rewarding %	Total %
Zero	26	43	22	9	100
1 to 2	49	41	8	2	100
3 to 6	63	32	5	0	100
7 to 10	73	23	4	0	100
More than 10	75	23	1	0	100
Total	58	33	7	2	100

Considering both the costs and benefits of your college experience, was attending college “worth it” for you personally?

	Definitely yes %	Probably yes %	Probably not %	Definitely not %	Total %
Zero	40	38	14	8	100
1 to 2	64	26	8	2	100
3 to 6	68	26	5	1	100
7 to 10	73	23	4	0	100
More than 10	74	23	3	0	100
Total	66	27	6	2	100



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Overall, how would you rate your college experience?

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 6</u>	<u>7 to 10</u>	<u>More than 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very rewarding	4	21	45	17	13	100
Somewhat rewarding	13	30	41	10	7	100
Slightly rewarding	32	29	29	8	2	100
Not at all rewarding	56	30	11	0	3	100

College Worth it?

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 6</u>	<u>7 to 10</u>	<u>More than 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely yes	6	24	44	15	11	100
Probably yes	14	24	42	12	8	100
Probably not	23	32	33	8	4	100
Definitely not	49	27	18	3	3	100

In what year did you graduate from college?

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 6</u>	<u>7 to 10</u>	<u>More than 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2009-2018	10	20	43	16	10	100
1997-2008	7	25	44	14	11	100
1987-1996	11	21	41	18	9	100
1977-1986	14	26	43	10	7	100
Before 1977	10	32	39	9	11	100

Did at least one of your parents or legal guardians complete college before you?

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 6</u>	<u>7 to 10</u>	<u>More than 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	5	22	43	17	12	100
No	15	26	41	10	7	100

Age

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 6</u>	<u>7 to 10</u>	<u>More than 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-34	7	20	44	17	12	100
35-44	7	23	45	15	10	100
45-64	13	26	41	12	8	100
65+	13	30	38	9	10	100



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Sex	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	11	23	42	13	11	100
Female	9	26	42	14	9	100

Race	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	10	24	42	14	10	100
Black	5	21	48	17	8	100
Hispanic	9	25	47	13	6	100
Other	12	26	39	13	10	100

Final Degree	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bachelor's Only	11	25	42	13	9	100
Graduate Degree	9	23	42	14	12	100

What types of degrees were offered at your undergraduate institution when you attended?	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bachelor Degrees Only	12	26	40	13	9	100
Bachelor and Master Degrees	9	24	43	14	10	100
Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral Degrees	10	24	43	14	10	100



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In terms of number of undergraduates, was your college small, medium or large?

	Zero %	1 to 2 %	3 to 6 %	7 to 10 %	More than 10 %	Total %
Small (<3,000 undergraduate students)	10	27	36	15	11	100
Medium (3,000-10,000 undergraduate students)	11	24	42	14	9	100
Large (>10,000 undergraduate students)	9	23	45	13	10	100

Did you take most of your undergraduate classes online or in-person?

	Zero %	1 to 2 %	3 to 6 %	7 to 10 %	More than 10 %	Total %
Online	17	32	33	6	12	100
In-person	10	24	43	14	9	100

Did most students at your college live on campus (or in student housing near campus)?

	Zero %	1 to 2 %	3 to 6 %	7 to 10 %	More than 10 %	Total %
Most lived on or near campus	7	22	46	15	10	100
Most commuted to campus	16	30	35	12	8	100

Did you live on campus for at least a year while in college?

	Zero %	1 to 2 %	3 to 6 %	7 to 10 %	More than 10 %	Total %
Yes	5	20	46	17	12	100
No	17	31	37	9	6	100



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Major	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Social Sciences	8	24	44	13	11	100
Arts or Humanities	7	22	45	19	9	100
Natural Sciences	8	25	42	18	7	100
Business	12	25	39	15	10	100
Technical or Applied Sciences	10	26	42	9	13	100
Health Sciences	9	27	43	12	8	100
Other	16	25	41	10	9	100

About how much did you take out in student loans to finance your undergraduate education?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	13	27	39	13	8	100
Less than \$10,000	10	26	43	12	9	100
\$10,000 to \$19,999	8	20	47	15	11	100
\$20,000 to \$40,000	5	21	44	17	13	100
More than \$40,000	11	24	41	14	11	100

What is your annual household income?

	Zero	1 to 2	3 to 6	7 to 10	More than 10	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than \$20,000	18	34	24	16	8	100
\$20,000 - \$49,999	14	23	43	11	9	100
\$50,000 - \$99,999	8	26	43	14	9	100
\$100,000 - \$149,999	7	24	43	14	12	100
More than \$150,000	8	19	44	15	14	100



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Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	Adult residents of United States with a Bachelor Degree or Higher
Dates in the field:	July 30-July 31, 2018
Sample Size:	Total (4,006) {Peer (2,047) Faculty/Staff (1,959)}
Weighting Variables:	Race, Gender, Age, Education, Income
Credibility Intervals	Peer – 2.1% ; Faculty/Staff – 2.2%

		Census Value	Unweighted Value	Weighted Value
<u>Sex</u>	<i>Male</i>	48.6%	48.1%	48.6%
	<i>Female</i>	51.4%	51.9%	51.4%
<u>Census Region</u> <i>*Coded from ZIP code</i>	<i>Northeast</i>	20.9%	21.2%	20.9%
	<i>Midwest</i>	20.3%	21.3%	20.3%
	<i>South</i>	34.7%	36.7%	34.7%
	<i>West</i>	24.0%	20.8%	24.0%
<u>Education</u>	<i>Bachelor only</i>	62.1%	68.8%	62.1%
	<i>Graduate Degree</i>	37.9%	31.2%	37.9%
<u>Race</u>	<i>White</i>	68.0%	74.2%	68.0%
	<i>African American</i>	7.6%	7.1%	7.6%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	6.9%	5.1%	6.9%
	<i>Other</i>	17.5%	13.7%	17.5%
	<i>Age</i>			
<u>Age</u>	<i>18-34</i>	26.3%	28.1%	26.3%
	<i>35-44</i>	19.9%	18.1%	19.9%
	<i>45-64</i>	35.5%	36.0%	35.5%
	<i>65+</i>	18.3%	17.8%	18.3%

ELON POLL

Procedure

For this survey, the Elon University Poll used an online opt-in sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace. Respondents received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions.

For the administration of the survey, the Elon University Poll used Qualtrics. We only included interviews in the final data if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview. A survey was considered complete only if a respondent progressed through the entire survey.

Respondents randomly received only one of two batteries: the peer relationship battery or the faculty staff relationship battery. Quotas on race, sex and age were applied prior to survey commencement. Cases were deleted if respondent completed the survey in less than 2 minute, more than 20 minutes, or with open-ended answers that clearly implied interviews were illegitimate.

Weighting

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. We typically weight results from the Elon University Poll on multiple demographic characteristics. In the case of this survey, weight variables were calculated based on American Community Survey (U.S. Census) parameters for age, race, sex, education, and region.

Credibility Interval

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online opt-in surveys do not have traditional margin of errors because they do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide credibility intervals. More information about this technique [can be found here](#). The credibility intervals were calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by design effects. For the faculty/staff survey this means $(1.025 * 2.21 = 2.3)$. For the peer survey this means: $(1.038 * 2.17) = 2.2$.

Support for Transparency

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the [American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative](#), which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we released to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. Because of this generous support, the Elon University poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, an iterative proportional fitting algorithm generated weights based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data.

4. What did respondents know about the survey before agreeing to take the survey?

During survey recruitment, respondents saw a title that the survey was about higher education. In the introductory screen, respondents read, “We are hoping to understand what aspects of the college experience matter most for life outcomes.”

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online opt-in surveys over traditional random-digital dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have an advantage over online surveys in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. However, our opinion is that declining telephone response rates and the growth in online sample pool sizes has narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of a specialized population survey as large as this one, a telephone survey would have been logistically and financially infeasible.



The Elon University Poll Team



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For more information on the Elon University Poll visit elon.edu/elonpoll or contact:

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