

Who Are Our Students

2024-2025

What we did.....

- Examined student accommodations
- Explored differences between Gen X, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha
- Developed a survey to learn more about undergraduate students at UMBC
- Implemented classroom practices based on what we learned from our survey

Lessons from SDS

- Accommodations are more negotiable than we thought
- You can login to Accommodate through SDS to view accommodations and see test bookings
- Faculty resource links available at the bottom of student accommodation letter
 - Faculty blackboard page
 - Multiple links for faculty on Office of Student Disabilities Services site including guidelines and FAQ

Generational Cohorts

Gen- X (1965 - 1980)

Millennials or Gen-Y (1981 - 1996)

Gen-Z (1997 - 2012)

Gen Alphas (2013 - present)

Gen-Z (1997 - 2012)

**first generation to never know the world without the internet*

- Open to change & self enhancement
- Value diversity
- Highly collaborative
- Values flexibility
- Value self care

Who Are Our Students?

Survey Overview

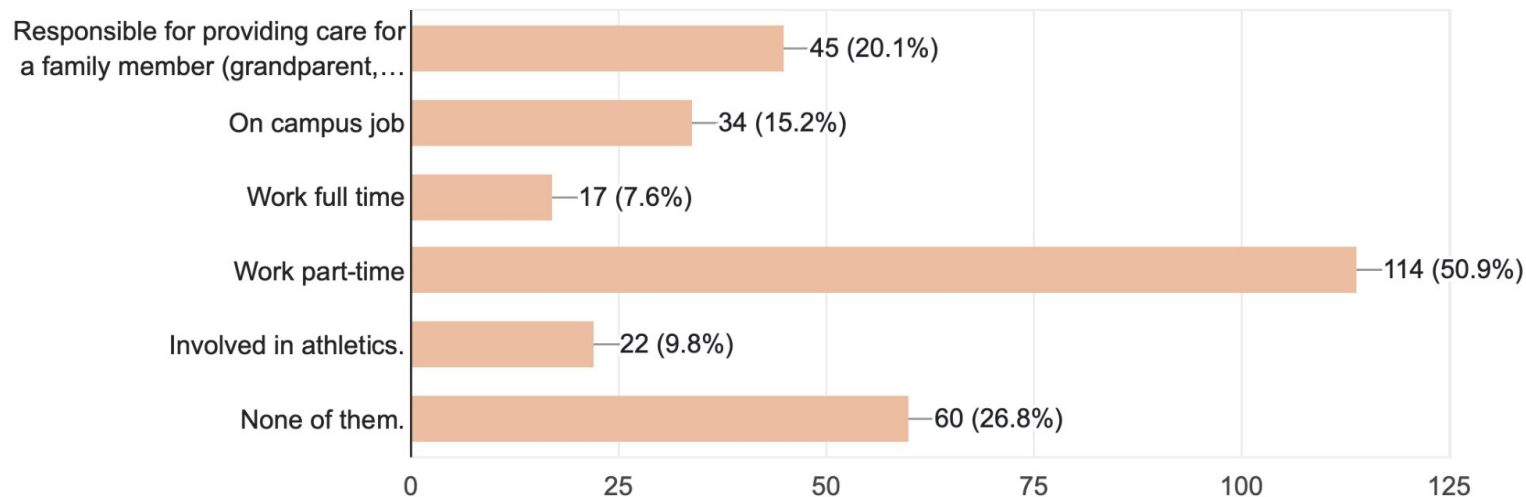
231 students in several classes completed our survey from several disciplines

- Aging Studies
- Computer Engineering
- History
- Math
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Spanish

Our Students have family responsibilities

In addition to coming to UMBC, do you / are you (select all that apply)

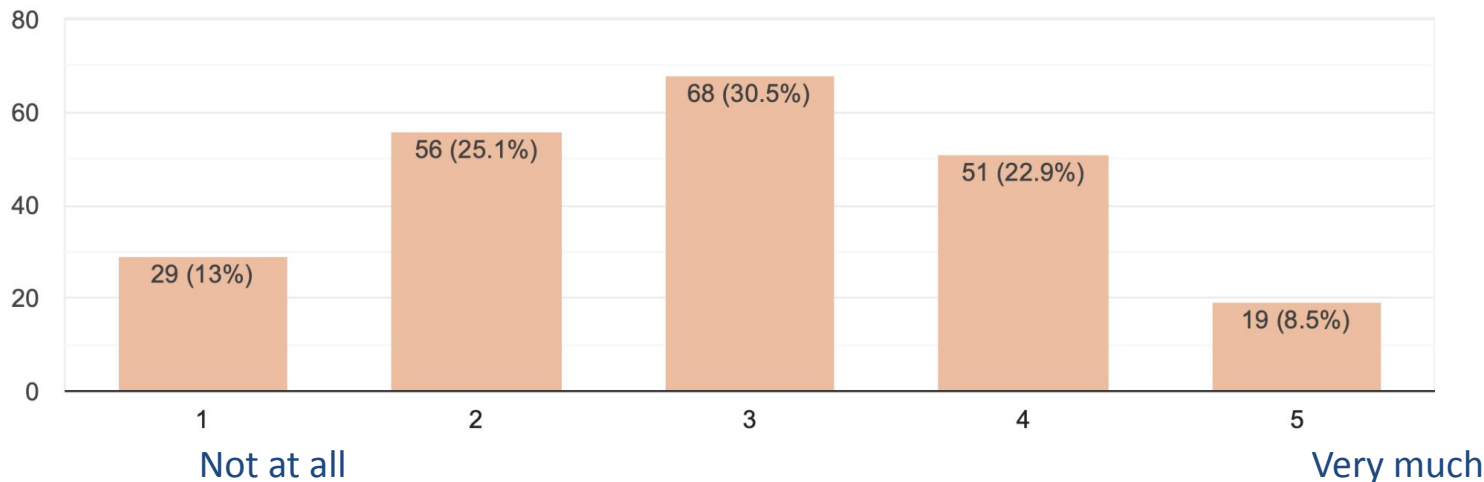
224 responses



Our students believe their outside responsibilities impact their success

To what extent do you feel your outside responsibilities/activities might impact your ability succeed in your classes?

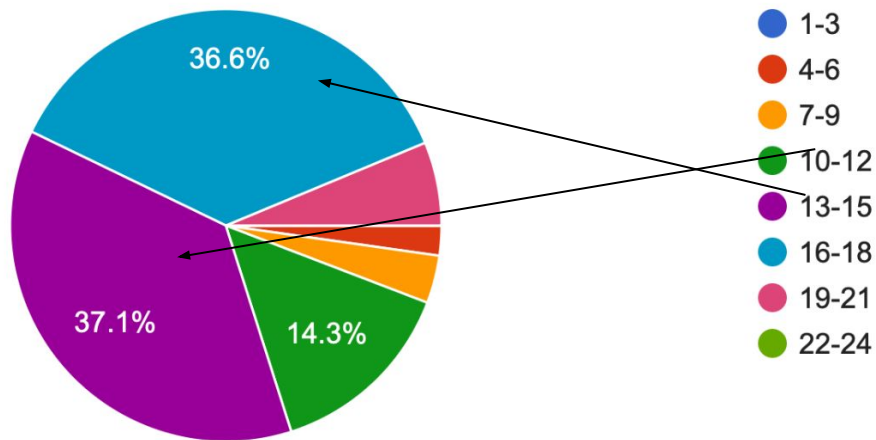
223 responses



Our Students Take A lot of Credits

How many credit-hours are you taking this semester?

224 responses

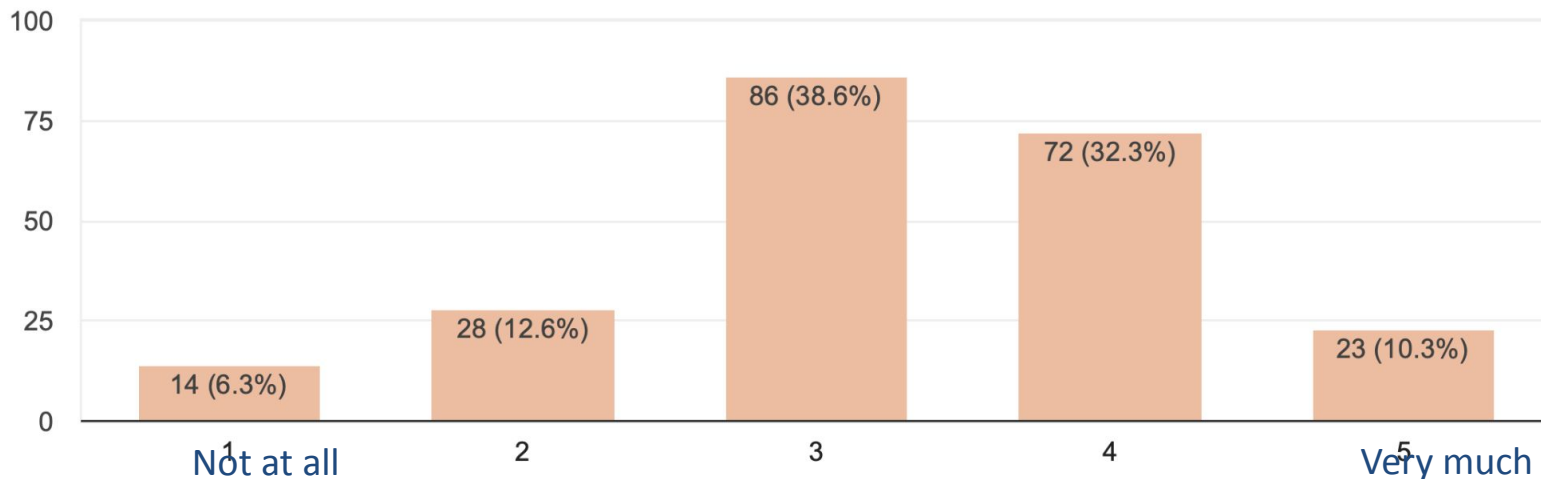


80% of students reported being enrolled in 13 or more credits; 42.9% reported being enrolled in 16 or more credits.

Our students see the value in working with each other

How much does working with other classmates contribute to your learning?

223 responses



Our students want us to know that....

They are facing a lot of demands but are trying to do their best. They come from different backgrounds and learn at their own pace.

Pedagogy verbatim

“Everyone learns differently so one type of approach won't benefit everyone. I think it's important to have a variety.”

“We are willing to do the hard work if we feel seen and heard”

Organization verbatim

“A solid outline of a course is very helpful”

“To announce assignments ahead of time or have a calendar because it's easier for students to have one spot to check for deadlines versus multiple emails or notifications about different deadlines.”

Relationships / Support verbatim

“There is not much of a social scene here so anything to increase morale in that department during class like promoting group work is good”

“Some students are adults transfer students with degrees and may not have taking classes just a few months prior. Approaching transfer students especially those returning to apply to healthcare programs would benefit having access to academic refresher resources prior to the semester”

“Students really appreciate patience when it comes to their learning and success.”

“The struggles they have not only academically but in life. Sometimes they only need to be heard.”

Relationships / Support verbatim

“UMBC is a Minority Serving Institution! Most of our students hold at least one minoritized identity, and that will greatly impact how they move throughout the world, let alone in class. Keep in mind the individuality of each student, while also remembering the larger community they're a part of outside of school.”

“We all come from different backgrounds, especially in terms of education and culture. Sometimes, it is hard to adapt to a new environment immediately”

Communication verbatim

“I think creating a space where students feel comfortable communicating with instructors is really important, especially when it comes to transfer students or first year students. Everyone has such different schedules depending on where in their academic journey they are, so giving students the space to be able to feel like they can ask for help is really critical.”

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We can help them by...

- Communicating with them frequently through email and office hours
- Having a clear organizational structure with deadlines posted in advance
- Structure class with opportunities for active learning through discussions, hands-on activities and working through examples
- Doing our best to understand them and where they come from

Findings, Ideas and Applications

- College work and expectations may be different than what students were exposure to in high school
- Providing strategies to students regarding how to study and prepare for class exams
 - Small group discussions for students to share how they study
- Learning names of students (if possible)
- Remind students about available UMBC resources
- Rename Office Hours→Student hours