

# President's Cabinet Retreat

Fall 2021

## Agenda

1. Welcome (Dr. Luster)
2. Pathways SOAA - (MPC)
3. Trends in the Research: [Ongoing Impacts of COVID](#) (PIEC)
4. Mesa Graduate Survey Data Dashboard Exploration (IE Office- Anda McComb)
5. Breakouts: Meaning Making & What next? (IE Office- Anda McComb)
6. Closing (Dr. Luster)

## Resources

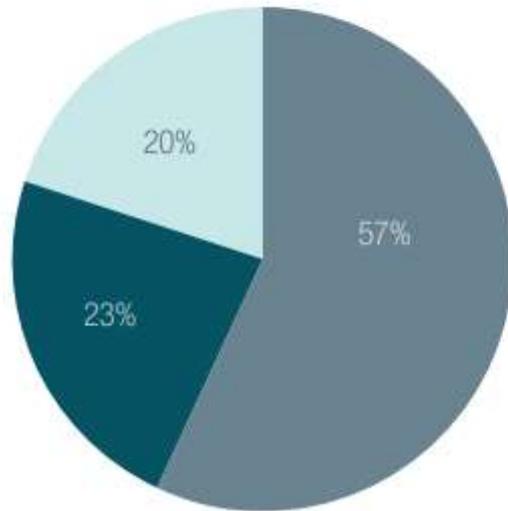


1. [CCCSE: The Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Community College Students](#)
2. [#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic](#)
3. [Students Speak: Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Their Transfer Journey](#)
4. [Be a Transfer Advocate: How Faculty Can Strengthen Students' Transfer Success](#)
5. [2021 Mesa College Graduate Survey](#)

# CCCSE: The Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Community College Students

Are you struggling to pay for college?

(N=105,043)



No

Yes, I am struggling to pay for college as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Yes, I am struggling to pay for college, but it is *not* a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

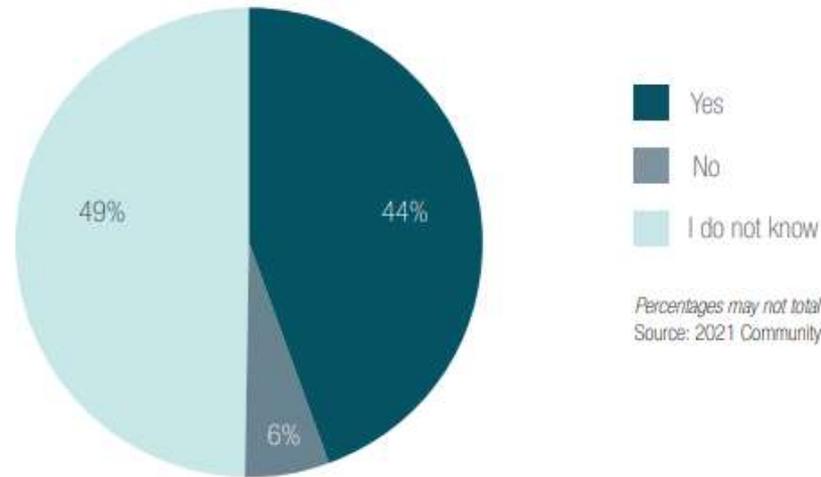
*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.*

Source: 2021 Community College Survey of Student Engagement data

# CCCSE: The Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Community College Students

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Does this college have support services to help students cope with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic?  
(N=105,838)



*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.*  
Source: 2021 Community College Survey of Student Engagement data.

# CCCSE: The Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Community College Students

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## Key Takeaways

- Stresses the importance and impact on students regarding safety, the college/district has done great work in this area but may be time for a reassessment.
- Financial impact of COVID is huge and has changed over time.
- Financial impacts influenced loss of students and students taking fewer classes
- The preparation levels and needs of students are extremely varied.
- There is a lot of uncertainty on behalf of our students regarding their own skill sets and preparation.
- Students feel like they are starting over.

## #RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic

### OVERVIEW

Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to 21,087 students from San Diego Mesa College and 3,697 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 17.5%.

#### Students at San Diego Mesa College told us that...

- 68% experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity, including
  - 43% who experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days,
  - 59% who experienced housing insecurity in the previous year, and
  - 17% who experienced homelessness in the previous year.

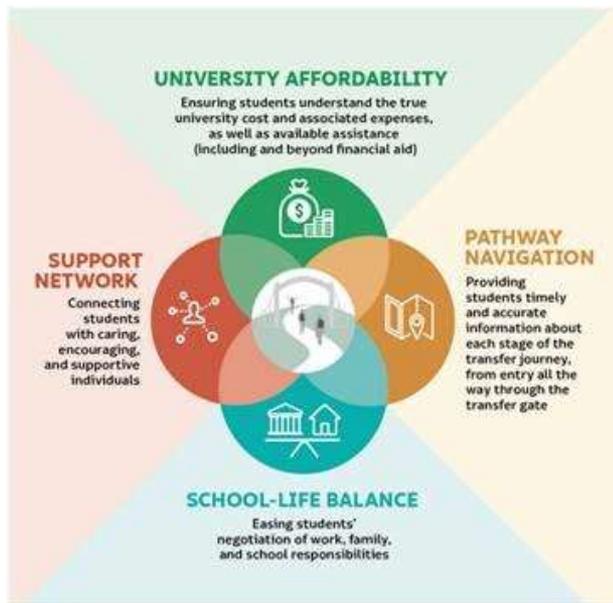
#### We also learned that...

- 44% had a close friend or family member who was sick with COVID-19, while 7% were sick with COVID-19 themselves.
- 41% of students exhibited at least moderate anxiety.
- 13% of students who experienced basic needs insecurity used emergency aid, but 42% had not heard of emergency aid programs on campus.
- 55% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for campus supports because they did not know how.
- 54% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity received some form of public assistance.

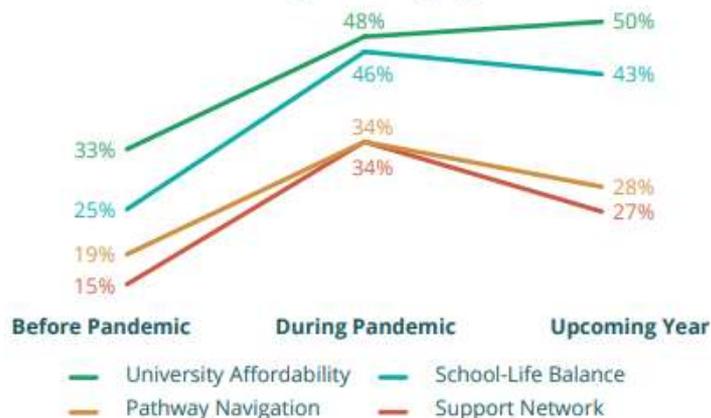
### Key Takeaways

- Number of students who were unaware of resources available to them.
- Students who are aware but don't access services because of shame or embarrassment or because they think they are "taking" that assistance from someone else.
- Major Barriers: Housing Insecurity, Lack of Access to Childcare, Loss of employment/employment hours

# Students Speak: Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Their Transfer Journey



Percentage of students finding each factor "very challenging"



## Students Speak: Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Their Transfer Journey

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### Key Takeaways

- Students found it difficult to connect with counselors while being in a remote world.
- We overload students with too much information
- Students are eager for University level work and students are worried that they are not prepared for University level due to the remote learning vs the in person learning
- Concern from students that online learning is not as robust as in person

# Be a Transfer Advocate: How Faculty Can Strengthen Students' Transfer Success

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## COVID-19 Created New Challenges Impacting Transfer Student Success

Community college transfer leaders observed that the pandemic generated new obstacles for transfer students, community colleges, and universities alike in an environment already fraught with systemic barriers and unacceptable outcomes for different student groups. Themes included...



**Students required greater empathy and support from transfer personnel.** Students needed more time to complete steps in the transfer process, increased "hand-holding," and extra connection. Heightened mental health needs also presented new issues, at times revealing the college's limited capacity for supporting students' emotional wellness.



**Colleges struggled in the move to remote delivery of all services and supports,** including mobilizing personnel and rapidly shifting systems, processes, and practices to ensure student access, engagement, and success in a fully online environment.



**Students and universities had reduced connection,** despite university efforts to reach out to community colleges and their students. Students experienced diminished contact with prospective transfer destinations due to the lack of campus visits by university representatives and on-site university tours for community college students due to COVID-19 restrictions.



**Students faced additional issues accessing the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.** These transfer leaders noted that pre-pandemic, students experienced challenges getting in to high-demand CSU and UC institutions and programs. Some interviewees reported these difficulties only intensified during the pandemic.

New perceived barriers included the increased number of overall applications to the CSU and UC systems (for both transfer and non-transfer students) - creating more competition. And some highly qualified students were rejected by CSUs and UCs due to small errors on their applications - sometimes hard to catch in the remote setting (despite stepped up support).

## A Strong Student-Centered Foundation Helped Community Colleges Adapt

### Key Takeaways

- Developing a shared responsibility for transfer across the institution.
- Student Success Teams structure can include a focus on this.
- Make the transfer of community college students seamless and welcoming.
- Improve transfer capital.
- Build relationships with universities.
- Maximize our use of technology (website, emails, virtual workshops, mapping software, career assessment) as a way to deliver simple, yet robust, transfer/career information for students.

# Break

Returning at ##:## P.M.

Some agreements for learning together today:

- 1) Embrace the mindset that we are all learners in this space.
- 2) If you are having tech problems, please reach out for support in the chat.
- 3) Listen actively.
- 4) Create a safe/brave space to ask questions and express our perspectives.
- 5) Allow for silences and pauses.
- 6) Watch your own air-time—both in terms of how often you speak, and how much you say when you speak.
- 7) It's okay to make mistakes. Be patient with everyone.
- 8) It is ok to ask for a pause to process. Online takes more processing.
- 9) Hold each other accountable for being present - try to minimize multi-tasking.
- 10) Actively look for ways to contribute to the conversation (and stay engaged).
- 11) Create a collaborative cohort experience.
- 12) Allow time for reflection.

# Graduate Survey Activity

## Part I

### Warm up questions

[Graduate Survey Dashboard Link](#)



# 1. Basic Needs

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they have struggled with basic needs insecurity?**

- A. 10%
- B. 51%
- C. 80%

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they have struggled with basic needs insecurity?**

- A. 10%
- B. 51%**
- C. 80%



# 2. Mental Health

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they have struggled with mental health challenges?**

- A. 20%
- B. 48%
- C. 80%

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they have struggled with mental health challenges?**

- A. 20%
- B. 48%
- C. 80%**

All Responses for Mental Health



# 3. Employment

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they are employed in a field directly related to their area of study?**

- A. 26%
- B. 58%
- C. 70%

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say they are employed in a field directly related to their area of study?**

- A. 26%**
- B. 58%**
- C. 70%**

Are any of your current paid jobs related to your field of education/training/major?



# 4.Transfer

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students agree and strongly agree that their education at Mesa prepared them for transfer?**

- A. 16%
- B. 38%
- C. 73%

**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students agree and strongly agree that their education at Mesa prepared them for transfer?**

- A. 16%
- B. 38%
- C. 73%**

Do you feel that your education at Mesa has prepared you for transfer?



# 5.Completion

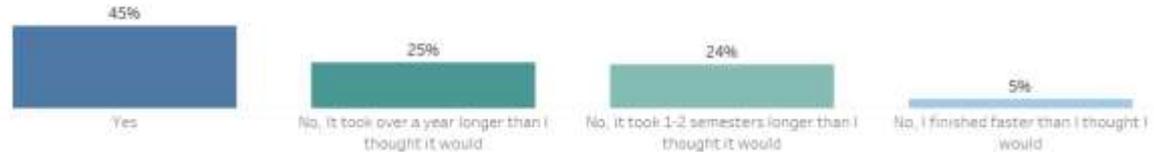
**What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say that they completed their degree/certificate in the amount of time they expected?**

- A. 45%
- B. 18%
- C. 93%

## What percentage of our 2021 graduate students say that they completed their degree/certificate in the amount of time they expected?

- A. 45%
- B. 18%
- C. 93%

Did you complete this degree/certificate in the amount of time you expected?





## Discussion

What thoughts are coming up and what questions are arising?

# Graduate Survey Activity

## Part II

**Let's Learn More!**

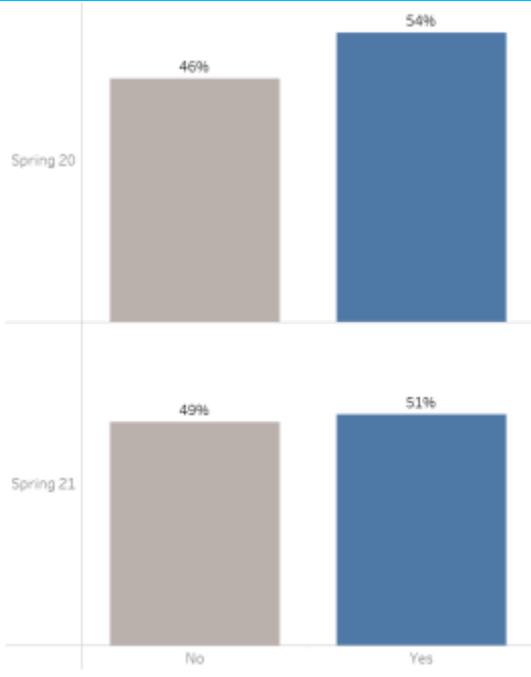
[Graduate Survey Dashboard Link](#)



# Trends in Basic Needs

## BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY TREND

32



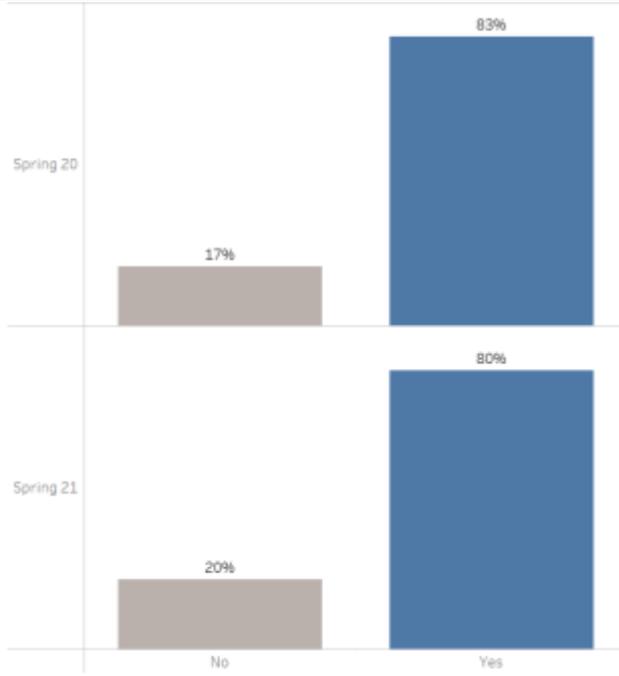
### Explore on your own:

- » How does this differ by demographics?
- » Which type of basic need insecurity is more prevalent among our graduate students?

# Trends in Mental Health

## MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES TREND

34



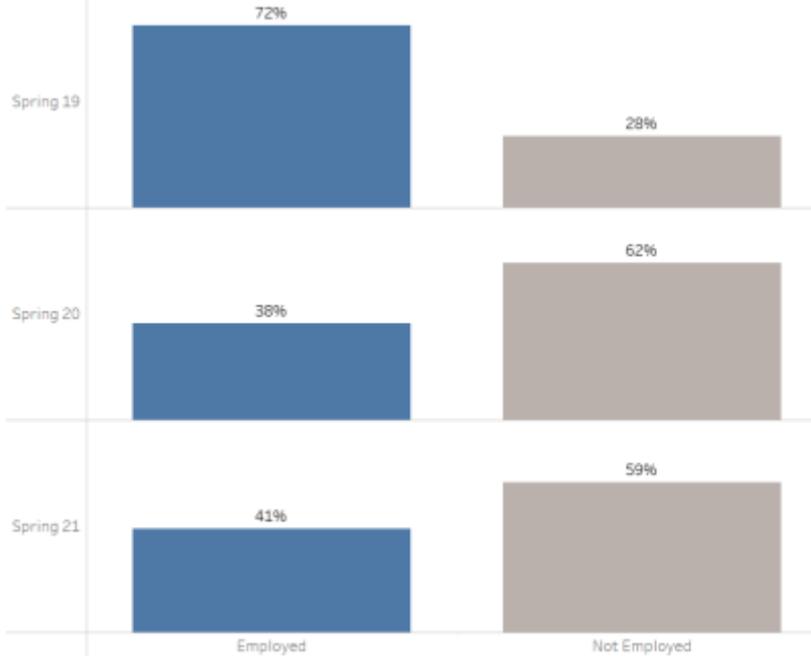
### Explore on your own:

- » How does this differ by demographics?
- » What are the top three challenges most experienced by our graduate students?

# Trends in Employment

# EMPLOYMENT TREND

36



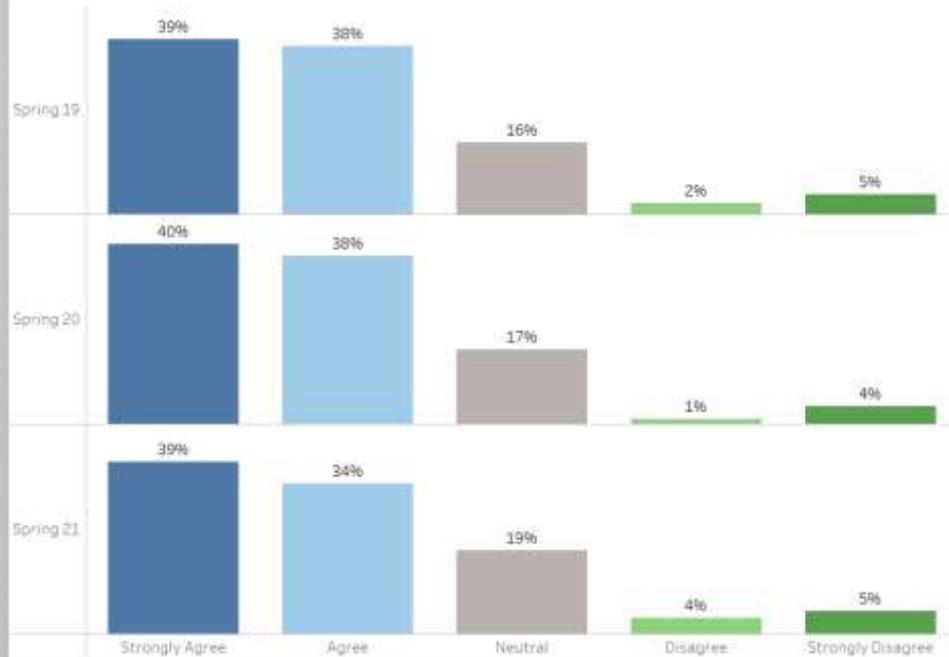
## Explore on your own:

- » How does this differ by demographics?
- » What do our graduate students say about their education at Mesa preparing them for employment?

# Trends in Transfer

# TRANSFER TREND

38



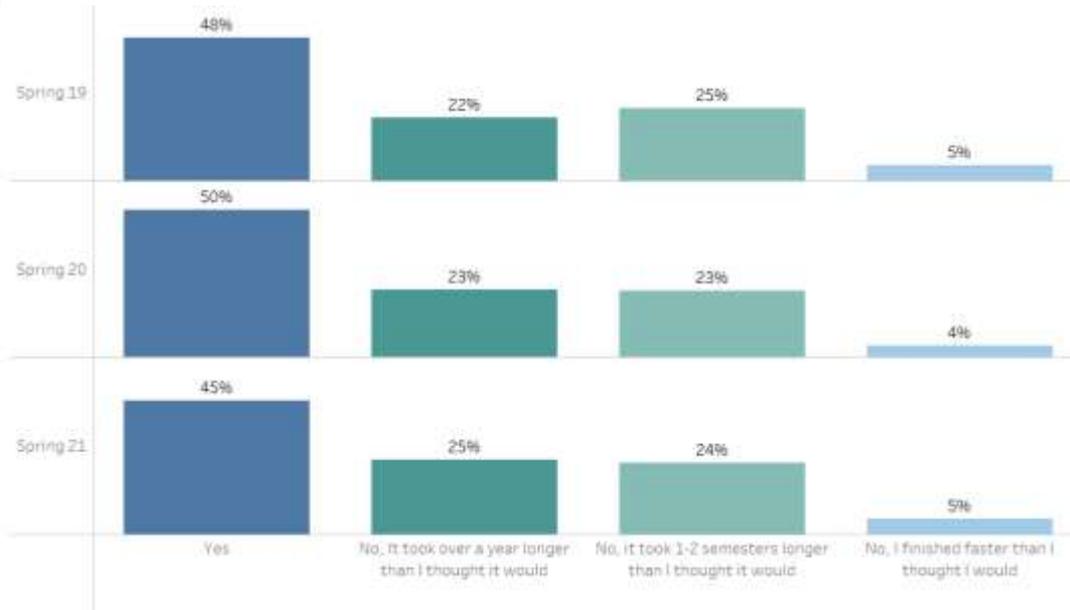
## Explore on your own:

- » How does this differ by demographics?
- » What percentage of our graduate students say that they are planning to transfer and have already been accepted to a 4 year institution?

# Trends in Completion

# COMPLETION TREND

40



## Explore on your own:

- » How does this differ by demographics?
- » What is the impact on major changes on the average semesters at Mesa?

# Graduate Survey Activity

**Reflection &  
Action  
Brainstorming!**



# Gallery Sit

42

**What resonates for you/what commonalities do you see?**

**What “a-ha moments,” ideas, and/or questions are emerging?**

**Thank you!**

